



Missouri Native Plant Society

Hawthorn Chapter

Newsletter

Volume 36, Number 9

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

September 2021

Future Activities Calendar

Our traditional meeting time is second Mondays at 6:30. We will have an in-person meeting September 14th outdoors at [Grindstone Shelter](#). Virus protocols will be followed.

Bring a chair for distance. Come early, bring dinner, visit with friends. Starting at 6:30 we will have a short presentation from Kristin Balentine who is writing a children's book about native plants.

Before COVID took control, we traditionally had plant id for the September program; we hope this revival will be interesting. Becky will bring a tray of 18 plants from the nursery with number tags. Participants will get a piece of paper and pencil to write names of plants. The one with the most correct names gets the whole tray to keep or give away. A tie is broken by including scientific names and/or best habitat. If you have been in the field studying the last 2-3 years, you should have no problem as these are common species. Also – Please bring samples of plants you cannot name. Please – NO single leaves or dried up sticks. Pressed specimens work if you can't get a fresh cutting Monday. Maybe we can learn to use iNaturalist.

Be aware – when weather moderates we will announce a mosey but only a few days in advance. We can discuss this at the meeting. 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. Because we are workers, we get a meal ticket. You may arrive and leave at your convenience however we need at least 4 people morning and evening for carrying.

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.

Please identify yourself when communicating. I, Becky, occasionally get very short questions or photos for ID and there is NOTHING there to tell me whom it is from. A few times I have checked with our roster and the email address matches neither the phone number nor the email address on the roster. I am glad to respond to this type of inquiry but ONLY if the sender identifies him/herself. If I were to answer unidentified messages, I could walk into a hacker's ambush. Don't do this to me as my contact info is 'out there' in trust.



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.

Lea wants to [share this link](#) to an article about how [monarchs](#) do better on milkweed [with other insects](#) (that we might have thought of as pests).

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/>

MO River Relief invites you to their [20th Anniversary Celebration](#) 14 Sept at Cooper's Landing. All COVID protocol will be exercised.

Thanks to Karen, Elena, Emily, Lea, and Christi for newsletter submissions.
Thanks to Michelle for proofing this newsletter.
Welcome to new Members Sharon and Stephen!

MPF newsletter came by email 25 August packed with news from the Annual Dinner and Awards Celebration and links to future webinars and activities. If you didn't get it personally, you need to sign up <https://moprairie.org> . As Hawthorn pays for membership, you may receive MPF info for free. However if you are inspired to assist funding of their prairie maintenance, please donate.

I want to post this early in the text before you got tired of reading:

And You Thot Japanese Beetles were bad . . .

The spotted lantern fly is a gorgeous one-inch true bug = a smaller version of a cicada. It is even prettier than the Japanese beetle – and more adaptable, hungrier, and much messier. As the NYT article explains - it arrived in PA 2018 on a container from China. It has spread throughout most of the eastern seaboard and as far west as Ohio. And that's right in our front yard. It is extremely important for us to be educated about this bug = to kill it before it becomes a disgusting problem. [NJ Dept of Ag](#) has a good site which has photos of egg masses, immatures, and harmless native look-alikes. I also suggest you do further research.

Our Mosey to Sedalia Prairies

Combined inputs from Emily, Karen, Christi, Elena, and Becky

Sunday 15 August we had a break in the brutally hot weather. So five of our chapter members had a great mosey to the MPF's [Friendly Prairie](#) and Goodnight-Henry Prairie. We met at Friendly Prairie south of Sedalia and a bit west of Highway 65. It has a sign so it is easy to find.

Two things stood out for me at Friendly Prairie, both of which probably reflect that this is a prairie that was not plowed. One, I was very amazed to learn about the stands of Sumac over elevated [mima mounds](#) of dirt - large clumps that have been there for a long time. I saw my first mima mound and once I saw them, I couldn't unsee several more. Then, we found a very healthy population of insects and butterflies.



Friendly Pr KA photo

We ate lunch in the parking area and shared thoughts on what we had seen so far. Then caravanned to

Swale, Goodnight-Henry Pr EB photo



Goodnight-Henry Prairie at the crossroads of Coffey Road and State U. There was no signage but vegetation was obvious. Here is a [map](#).

At Goodnight-Henry, there was a swale with a bit of running water. We didn't expect to find wet spots in the prairie; the immediate difference in species community there was striking. We found a plant in this wetter habitat among many others that differed from the upland communities that was explained and described as 'cubes-on-a-stick' because the dried ovaries are absolutely cubical and dry on a hard, woody stem. It was finally remembered as the genus *Ludwigia* and has



Public Enemy #1



Asc hirtella
EB photo

since been narrowed it to *L. alternifolia* which can be found in most sunny wetlands in the eastern half of our continent.

We spotted many numbers of large-flowered gaura, *Gaura biennis*, tall green milkweed - *Asclepias hirtella*, three different *Desmodium*, Blue vervain - *Verbena hastata*, drifts of Rosinweed - *Silphium*



Verbena hastata
EB photo

integrifolium mixed with ashy sunflower - *Helianthus mollis*, which we studied to see



different field characters. Much big bluestem *Andropogon gerardii* grew along the fire line. Some of the fauna we did not see but heard, several Henslow's sparrows & katydids. Did manage to glimpse a few prairie cicadas, monarchs, swallowtails, skippers, and great spangled fritillary butterflies.

Come join us on the next mosey!

<<< *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*, *Liatris pycnostachya* and *Andropogon gerardii*
EB photo

I have killed three 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.

Both of these prairies are postage stamps of the millions of square miles of prairie that met settlers 300 years ago. These are the remnants MPF protects <https://moprairie.org/where-we-work/>



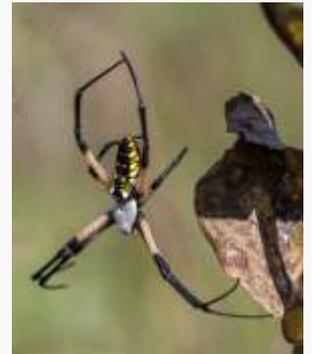
Euphorbia corollata, KA



Prairie cicada, EB



Hawk moth on *Vernonia arkansana*, EB



garden spider, EB

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*

News from various sources:

Smithsonian's The Plant Press - July-September 2021 - Vol. 24, No. 3

<https://nrmh.typepad.com/files/vol24no3.pdf>

http://nrmh.typepad.com/the_plant_press/

Intriguing articles and essays from newly identified plants, to artists, to black walnut liquor.

Oldest/longest-living Plant Excerpt from NYT 2Aug21 By opening this article you have access to several others about plants.

Approximately 86 million years ago, after a mistake in cell division, the entire *Welwitschia* genome doubled during a time of increased aridity and prolonged drought in the region — and possibly the formation of the Namib Desert itself, Tao Wan, the lead author said, “extreme stress” is often associated with such genome duplication events. Dr. Leitch, a co-author of the study, added that duplicated genes are also released from their original functions, potentially taking on new ones.

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.](#)



Essay by Margaret Renkl, NY Times, 26 February 2021

Link to full article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/26/opinion/winter-gardening-wildlife.html>

[Ecological Landscaping](#)

Margaret Roach; NYT, 11 Aug 2021

Darrel Morrison, the elder statesman of the ecological landscaping movement, offers some advice for gardening in a changing world. "A lot of people, when they hear a phrase like 'ecologically sound landscaping,' they think they are giving up something. But they are not — it only enhances the experience."

From his perspective, the real compromise would be focusing purely on the ornamental aspect of our landscape designs, large or small. It's in the boxwood-and-vinca world that we risk suffering from sensory deprivation, he asserts — not when we use native plants in designs inspired by wild plant communities . . . "

"...the psychological benefits to humans of green space are closely linked to the diversity of its plant life..." Jonah Lehrer

Insecticides Found in Milkweed Samples

Synopsis from Xerces Society Wings 43:2, Fall 2020, P30.



They collected and tested 225 samples of milkweed from California Central Valley [ag field edges, wild areas, plants from nurseries, suburbs] during June of 2019. Retail nurseries and ag field samples had more insecticides. They found 64 different chemicals. 32% of the samples contained levels of harmful insecticides known to harm butterflies. Five were contained in 80% of all samples. Two which were found in 90% of the 225 samples: chlorantraniliprole and methoxyfenozide.

[Ed. Note] PLEASE!!

Take this data into consideration when purchasing plants. If you don't get them from a reputable native plant dealer – please consider growing natives from local-sourced wild seed or *insitu* [seed in ground].

Monarch larva on Asclepias incarnata CA photo

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 .

- 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: _____

Telephone: _____

Home _____

Cell _____

E-mail: _____

Newsletters and messages will be sent by email