



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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October 2005

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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly.

To be included in future publications, please send your articles, art, calendar events, poems, photos and drawings to:

Newsletter Editor:

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Future Activities

October 16: Fall foliage hike to Painted Rock State Forest and lunch in Westphalia. Meet at 10:00 am in the MDC parking lot. *See article in this issue for more details.*

October 27: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! (Previously known as the Board Meeting), 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery, 816 Broadway. All are invited.

October 27: Newsletter items are due.

October 29: Third MO Chestnut Roast at the UMC-Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) in New Franklin. 10 am to 4 pm. Please plan to help with our booth.

November 14: Regular meeting 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Speaker to be announced.

December 3: State Board Meeting – Columbia.

December 4: Wreath making workshop at Nancy Brakhage's 1 to 4 pm. Start saving your dried materials.

December ?: Holiday party.

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

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Top conservationists amongst us!

At our September meeting, Jean Graebner brought an article from the Columbia Daily Tribune to our attention. "Top conservationists seek no glory" by Ken Midkiff was published Friday, September 2, 2005 and features a list of the top 10 conservationist in Boone County. Although they may not seek recognition, we were happy to see Jim and Joanne Whitley on the list of top conservationist in Boone County. To see the article you can search the archives at:

<http://www.showmenews.com/>. –Judy Ward

Field Trip to Painted Rock State Forest: October 16

Come join us for one of our favorite hikes to view the spectacular fall foliage of Painted Rock State Forest. We will hike the Osage Bluff Scenic Trail, which overlooks the Osage River Valley. Painted Rock State Forest is just seven miles south of Westphalia on Highway 133. The group will stop for lunch at the Westphalia Inn after the hike.

We will leave Columbia from the parking lot of the Missouri Department of Conservation Research Center, 1110 S. College, just North of Stadium at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 16. For more information contact Paula at 474-4225.

–Paula Peters

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So what happened at our September 12th meeting?

President Nadia Navarrete-Tindall called the regular chapter meeting to order at 7 o'clock Monday evening, September 12, 2005 at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Opportunity to participate in development of flora for 3 local preserves:

Nadia called on Bill Clark, president of the Columbia Audubon Society to present a proposal. Bill requested that our members assist Audubon in an inventory of the native plants in the three natural areas that Audubon owns in Boone County: Wild Haven in Northern Boone County south of Hallsville, about 100 acres with Hinkson Creek flowing through it; Albert Area off of Route E near Murry, about 30 acres of reclaimed mining site; and the Russell Tract, about 25 acres in Western Columbia. Nadia planned to talk to Bill about possible approaches to the proposal and then bring it up for discussion at the regular Board meeting on Thursday, September 29, at the Uprise Bakery in downtown Columbia.

Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!

A motion to change the name of the "Board Meeting" to a more inclusive name was raised by Sandra Kubal and passed without dissent. So join us October 27th for the "Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!"

President's note: this meeting will still be a business meeting in a relaxed atmosphere where NPS members and guests can attend and be part of the discussions.

History of Audubon Nature Center reflects Volunteer legacy and creativity

Jean Graebner, co-chair of the program committee, then introduced Dolores Clark who had agreed to present a history of the Audubon Nature Museum, which occupies a small brick building overlooking the MKT Trail parking lot off of Stadium Boulevard near the Martin Luther King Memorial. It has been proposed that our chapter might be interested in contributing to the programs at the Center and in maintaining a showcase garden of native wildflowers there.

Dolores told a story of ingenuity and cooperation as she related the inception of the Museum and then the hard work of making it a reality. Local Auduboners, Jim Wallace, a languages professor at MU, and Tim Barksdale, a world-class birder and videographer, noticed that the building was no longer being used by the city and made a bargain with officials to create a nature museum and provide docents in return for the city paying utilities and upkeep. Many chapter members responded with contributions and time. The first directors were Bill Elder, ornithology professor at MU, and Charles Laun, Chairman of the Natural History Section at Stephens College.

The Trailside Museum opened September 3, 1988. It had a number of years of active service to the community but in recent years had suffered for lack of participation. Then this summer, Denny Donnell, the immediate past president of Columbia Audubon, began a campaign to rejuvenate the Museum. A number of new exhibits, more state of the art programs and regular hours on weekends have given a second life to the brick building, including a new name: Trailside Nature Center.

Opportunity for Demonstration Garden

Sandra Kubal, Hawthorn Chapter Treasurer and member of Columbia Audubon, then discussed an opportunity for the NPS to become more involved in the Nature Center's future through a demonstration garden. The initial effort would be drawing up a garden plan and applying for an "adopt a spot". She concluded that, the two conservationist groups could benefit from joint effort.

Meeting was adjourned. --Jean Graebner

MONPS Quarterly State Board Meeting Field Trips September 16-18, 2005; Lamar, Missouri

Prairie State Park outside of Lamar was the site for our main field trip for this quarter. Have you ever been there? How much do you know about it? Well, I knew almost nothing before I got there. But, now, I have some good information to share. Prairie State Park consists of almost 4,000 acres of sandy and silt loam soils and some hardpan clay. As the largest tallgrass prairie left in the state, it includes five major natural areas. The Regal Prairie Natural Area is 240 acres and was named for the regal fritillary butterfly. We saw many butterflies while we were there, but I'm not sure any of them were fritillary. The Tzi-Sho Prairie Natural Area is 240 acres. Tzi-Sho means "Sky People," which is one of the grand divisions of the Osage tribe. East Dogwood Creek Natural Area is only 50 acres that run along the East Dogwood Creek. Hunkah Prairie Natural Area is 160 acres. Hunkah means "Earth People" and is another of the grand divisions of the Osage. The rest of the acreage (3,702 acres) of Prairie State Park is mostly original tallgrass prairie. Much of the area was first purchased by The Nature Conservancy and now is owned by us taxpayers with management by The Department of Natural Resources. According to the park manager several species of "Conservation Concern" (see MDC checklist from January 2005) are found in the park. - Mead's milkweed, regal fritillary, royal catchfly, short-eared owl, northern harrier, greater prairie chicken, loggerhead shrike. We did not see any of them! Of the 465 plant species in the park, 385 are natives. The main non-native species is *Sericea lespedeza*. Park officials are using a new herbicide called "pasture guard," which is not as hard on the other forbs, and burning to attempt to control it.

From Prairie State Park we traveled south to Wah-Sha-She Prairie Natural Area, owned by the Nature Conservancy. Wah-Sha-She means "Water People," which is one of the subdivisions of the Hunkah tribe. It is another hardpan prairie over deep silt loam soils. Our last visit was to the Treaty Line Prairie Conservation Area about 2 miles east of Lamar. It is an upland prairie of sandstone soils, but it also has an equal area of deep claypan soils. Sandstone rocks are visible in the sandstone soils.

OK, enough of the background information. Let me tell you about the plants we saw. Keep in mind that not all of them were in bloom at this time: Illinois Bundle Flower, rough white lettuce, sky blue aster, blue hearts, lead plant, purple prairie clover, echinacea, downy gentian, *Liatris aspera*, *Liatris pycnostachya*, *Salvia azurea*, *Gaura sp.*, *Phlox pilosa*, partridge pea, ashy sunflower, nits and lice, St. John's-wort, *Solidago rigida*, pencil flower, yarrow, *Asclepias hirtella*, New Jersey tea, buttonbush, rattlesnake master, flowering spurge, slender mountain mint, sumac, *Spiranthes cernua*, big and little bluestem, June grass, switch grass, indian grass, wild indigo, goat's rue, carex sp., arrowhead violet, *Coreopsis sp.*, *Agalinis sp.*, rosin weed, *Liatris squarrosa*, *Solidago speciosa*, and last, but not least, splitbeard bluestem. We wished we had been in the area when the *Liatris spp.* were blooming, it would have been spectacular!

For more information on the prairies in Missouri, see MDC's *Public Prairies of Missouri*, edited by Don Kurz. --Judy Turner, Chapter Representative



Splitbeard bluestem, photo by Judy Turner



Plant advice at the Heritage Festival --Nadia

Bioblitz results!

During our plant survey at the first Bioblitz at the University of Missouri, we identified approximately 190 plant species—native and introduced just along the MKT trail. We started our walk at Flat Branch Park, where a family of 3 healthy looking groundhogs lives next to the creek, and ended 2 blocks east of the Forum parking lot. Jerry Van Sambeek, a USDA Plant Physiologist assisted with tree identification and Cheryl Jensen helped identifying native and non-native species previous to the event. Several volunteers joined Jerry and Nadia on Saturday September 10th for 2 hours to find additional plants. Other activities during this event included surveys of reptiles, bats, birds, and insects. At the end of the event a cookout was offered by the organizers. Final lists of surveys will be available at the bioblitz website <http://bioblitz.missouri.edu/> or contact Sara Storrs at sisk95@mizzou.edu. One of the interesting plants we found was Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) –see attached photo!– a non-photosynthetic flowering plant that gets its energy from trees through mycorrhizal fungi. You can learn more about this plant at the website http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/oct2002.html. A more complete survey of plants is planned for next year. – *Nadia Navarrete-Tindall*



Indian Pipe, Photo by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall.



Wildflowers bouquet prepared by Nancy Brakhage --Photo by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Family of three found a place to relax at our booth during the Heritage Festival this past Sept. 17.



-- Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

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The Missouri Chestnut Roast is not only about chestnuts!

Native Plant Society members, helping or not with our booth, should plan to attend this event. In addition to our traditional book and plant sales, we will offer a demonstration workshop entitled 'how to make a natural wreath' and walking tours to show native plantings at the farm. In addition, there will be cooking demonstrations, wine tasting, free chestnut samples, and musical entertainment, as well as other activities. Our booth will be located outside of the tents. If it rains, we will move inside one of the tents. Remember this event will take place on Saturday October 29th from 10am to 4pm – rain or shine! – at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center located in New Franklin. If you need more information and directions contact Nadia or check their website: www.centerforagroforestry.org

Plan to donate your plants or bring your favorite natural wreath for the demonstration workshop.

– Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

MONPS Quarterly State Board Meeting September 17, 2005 Lamar, MO

14 Members present

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report

Income for the current fiscal year is \$2,788.15. Expenses for the same period are \$2,293.85, which includes expenses incurred in the previous fiscal year for the joint meeting with Illinois. The current total assets are \$27,008.68, half of which is the Hudson Fund for scholarships. The Board approved the FY2006 budget showing income and expenses to be about even at a little more than \$6,000.

Membership

We have 13 new members since June and two life members for a total of 322 members. 73 members from 2005 have not paid dues. Chapters are asked to review their membership lists for past due members and to encourage all to pay their 2006 dues.

Awards

Jack Harris was appointed chair. We need to start now to develop a list of folks to nominate for the various awards. Recipients need not be members of the Society. Nominations must be written, have the name of the nominee, her or his contributions, and the nominator. The awards are as follows:

- Erna Eisendrath Memorial Education Award:** To be awarded to an individual, who through teaching, writing, or other activity, has conveyed to others a significant appreciation and knowledge of Missouri's native flora.
- Arthur Christ Research Award:** To be awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution toward furthering the knowledge of Missouri flora.
- Plant Stewardship Award:** To be awarded to an individual or organization for the preservation of important elements of Missouri's flora through purchase, registry, and/or management practice.
- The John E. Wylie Award:** To recognize individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Society.
- Julian A. Steyermark Award:** The Society's highest award to be presented to an individual, who has made outstanding contributions to any and all aspects of Missouri botany.

As you may remember only the Plant Stewardship Award was given last year.

Chapter Reports

All but the Ozarks Chapter in West Plains were in attendance. Chapter reports will be in the next *Petal Pusher*. Of special interest is a raffle of an original Steyermark's Flora of Missouri by the Ozarks Chapter. Tickets are \$5.00, for more information, e-mail Pat French at patricia.french@mdc.mo.gov.

Society Business

Look for the article on Mead's milkweed in the September *Conservationist*. Cuivre River area is the next area to have a plan developed by the state Wild Areas Advisory Committee.

--Judy Turner, Chapter Representative

Is an electronic newsletter for you?

Let me know if you are interested in receiving the newsletter electronically. You can receive the newsletter in electronic format only or in both electronic and the current paper format. Just tell me your preference, by email jward@nmsu.edu. And don't worry if you later decide that it doesn't work for you or you miss the paper format. You can change your preference at any time.

For those interested, I will send the newsletter to you as a PDF file in an email attachment. PDF files are readable with Adobe Reader and are a widely used and accepted format for documents. Many people already have Adobe Reader on their computer, but if you don't, it is free at this site:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

I am happy to offer specific help if you have problems getting started. I believe the primary advantage of an electronic newsletter will be that color photographs will be in color rather than in black and white. In addition, the electronic only option could save paper and Chapter funds. --Judy Ward

Discussion Question: Mowing

Mowing along the roadsides appears to be the standard management practice taken by Missouri Department of Transportation. A quick web search, however, indicates that the number of acres mowed has decreased since 2001, and MoDOT states that this decline is the desired trend.

http://www.modot.state.mo.us/about/documents/Tracker.pdf/TRACKER_April_2005_Attractive.pdf.

What do we know about the influence of mowing on wildflower displays, including longevity and persistence across years? What is the variety of arguments for and against mowing? --Judy Ward



MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri Native Plant Society—Hawthorn Chapter

July 1 through June 30.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day _____

Email: _____

Make check payable to Missouri Native Plant Society.

Send check and this form to:

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2426 Highway 124
Fayette, MO 65248

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Includes both Chapter and State dues.

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