



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 21, Number 5

May 2006

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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:*  
Judy Ward  
[wardjud@gmail.com](mailto:wardjud@gmail.com)

## Future Activities

May 8: Regular meeting. 7:00 PM in the foyer (greeting room) at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall will speak on Garden Design using Native Plants. See article this issue.

May 14: Hike at Paris Fork, in Callaway County led by Ann Wakeman. Depart from Missouri Department of Conservation at 1110 S. College at 1:00 pm. Please do not park in the Paris Fork Church parking lot as this is Mother's Day Sunday.

May 25: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 AM at the Uprise Bakery, 816 Broadway. All are invited.

May 28: Newsletter items are due. Please submit to [wardjud@gmail.com](mailto:wardjud@gmail.com).

June 3: Trail-side Expo at the Forum Nature Area, adjacent to the Forum Trailhead parking area of the MKT trail. 9 AM to Noon. Please plan to help with our booth.

June 11: Field trip to Marshall Diggs Conservation Area at Wellsville, MO.

June 16-18: State Board Meeting – Peck Ranch, Mountain View, MO.

June 18: Trip to see a Warren Taylor's glade (Private land) in Callaway County. Depart from Missouri Department of Conservation at 1110 S. College Avenue at 8:00 AM. Bring a sack lunch.

June 23: Native Plant Field Day. University of Missouri, Bradford Research and Extension Center.

July: Trip to Prairie Garden Trust (near Fulton) to see the prairie and wetland restoration.

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

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## MONPS Quarterly State Board Meeting

**April 22, 2006 Cassville, MO**

The board of directors of the Missouri Native Plant Society held their third quarter board meeting in Cassville, MO.

### **Officer and Committee Reports:**

- The membership chairperson reported a slight increase in current membership with a total of 314 members. More renewals are expected by June 30th, which is the end of our fiscal year.
- Total income for the fiscal year is \$4,472.65. Total expenses as of April 15 are \$4,531.92. Dues renewals are strongly encouraged!
- The Petal Pusher editor is soliciting articles for upcoming editions on basic plant species, and the importance of wetlands, among others.
- Last year's issue of Missouriensis will be going to the printer in June. The plan is to have this year's issue ready by the end of the year. If you have a manuscript you would like to submit, please contact George Yatskievych. Contact info on back of *Petal Pusher*.
- The new "Fact Sheets" will be on the website soon, numbered 1-4 only. There will also be a link for a fact sheet from the Missouri Botanical Gardens on invasive species. Please use this site when planning eradication projects.
- Paul McKenzie and Sherry Leis were nominated for at large positions on the Board. Paul currently serves in this capacity. Sherry will be replacing Max Towler whose term expires in June.
- Four people have been nominated for the state awards. Those awards will be announced at the annual state meeting in June at the Peck Ranch.
- One Hudson Fund scholarship of \$500 was awarded to a student at SLU for his work on mosses. The feeling is that more people would apply if the award were higher. Our current CD interest on this fund precludes any higher value, but that might change in a couple of years.
- Jack Harris has taken on the role of State Archivist for MONPS. He asked that all chapters send him copies of all of their previous newsletters. Email contact [jahar@mac.com](mailto:jahar@mac.com).
- All five chapter representatives were present. The Osage Plains Chapter reported that they are working on the "Coneflower Patch".

### **Announcements:**

- Tim Smith handed out copies of the priority invasive species list that he and George Yatskievych developed. If it is not on the Missouri Botanical Garden website, see me for a copy.
- The Flora of Missouri, Volume 2 is being published in June 2006. George Yatskievych will be happy to come visit our chapter and talk about the book later this year.
- Bruce Schuette asked that anyone who visits a state part to please complete and turn in the guest comment cards.
- MDC, DNR, and the Prairie Foundation are continuing their dialog with the Seeds of Success people in Chicago. MDC has recommended that they get their seeds to save from prairies not already protected by MDC.
- Jack Harris is involved with a group trying to preserve the natural habitat of the La Barque Creek watershed southwest of St. Louis. It includes over 7,000 acres and would be a private / government partnership.
- Sherry Leis is looking for a summer temporary botanist in the Clinton office of MDC. Contact her ASAP if you are interested.
- The annual state meeting will be at the Peck Ranch outside of Eminence, MO. The dates are June 16 - June 18. See the May/June 2006 Petal Pusher for details. --*Judy Turner, State Representative*

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### **Diversity in your Garden . . . and at our Meeting**

You could call our regular May meeting "Nadia Night." Past President and current Vice President Nadia Navarrete-Tindall will not only present the program but will introduce us to members of her family who will be visiting her from El Salvador. As a special international treat, we will have refreshments typical of that country.

Nadia's topic will be "Increasing diversity in your garden with native plants." She will show photos of species that offer beauty and cover and food for wildlife. Ideas for combinations that work in semiformal gardens, more controlled gardens, open sunny areas, and shaded environments will be included.

Meeting will be at 7 PM, Monday, May 8 in the foyer (greeting room) at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. --*Jean Graebner*

## MONPS Quarterly State Field Trips April 21 - 23 Cassville, MO

The beauty of the state board meetings is that they include wonderful educational opportunities in the guise of field trips near our meeting place. This quarter was no exception. The first program Friday night was presented by Tim Smith of DNR (not our Tim Smith!). He talked about the management problems at the Roaring River State Park outside of Cassville. The three major problem plants are Eastern Red Cedar, Japanese Honeysuckle, and Periwinkle. Just to give a magnitude of the problem, Tim gave us a cedar density count in 1972 of 170 trees per acre. In 2002 that count had escalated to 971 per acre!!! They are able to use chain saws in some of the areas for clearing prior to doing a controlled burn. Since doing this, some of the state listed plants and birds have begun to return to the area. A few that he mentioned were the painted bunting, the roadrunner, a blazing star, yellow coneflower and the Missouri woodland swallowtail butterfly. Roaring River State Park is surrounded on two sides by a portion of the Mark Twain National Forest. The whole area contains mini-mountains and deep valleys within the White River watershed. The views were spectacular!

Saturday's first field trip took us to the Pilot Knob CA in southwestern Stone County. It is an area of 1100 acres that was acquired in 1999 by a land trade with the U.S. Forest Service. The dolomite glade here has been restored by cutting the cedars and by two prescribed burns. I only documented 36 of 107 plants recorded for that area; others had more, I'm sure. The most unique plant I saw was the white climbing milkweed (*Matelea baldwyniana*). Other plants that were numerous in the area were wild hyacinth, rose verbena, and wild blue indigo. The afternoon field trip was a mesic woodland trail within the main Roaring River State Park area. The unique plants for this area were the green trillium, wood spurge and the native honeysuckle. (See photos to right).

Our Sunday morning field trip was to the Piney Creek Wilderness Area in the Mark Twain National Forest that was full of short leaf pines (the only pine native to Missouri), highbush huckleberry or deerberry, poison ivy, and horsemint. We could have done without the poison ivy! --Judy Turner, State Representative

## City turns down our request

The city has turned down our request for an Adopt-a-spot next to the Audubon Trailside Nature Center. The Parks & Recreation Department has received a special grant for work on a parking lot, shelter and replacement walkways this summer. Landscaping will be planted and maintained by parks staff in the fall or spring. --Judy Ward



Photographs by Judy Turner, clockwise from upper left: White climbing milkweed, rose verbena, our native honeysuckle, and wild blue indigo.

## Earth Day Booth

Our Earth day booth was a success. Thanks so much to all those who helped with our booth and donated plants. Special thanks to Jim Whitely for repairing both the canopy and display for our booth and Becky Erickson for her monumental effort in bringing plants.

## Welcome New Members!

We have had a number of new members join in the last six months whom we want to recognize and welcome: Mary Weinstein, Jim Gast & Donna Brunet, Marilyn Cummins, J. Chris Pires, Jo Gallo, Devin Chandler, and Vanessa Melton.

## New Membership Brochure

A new brochure to describe and attract new members to our chapter has been designed by Judy Ward and Sandra Kubal. A draft of the brochure is at our website: <http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org/>. Please send feedback and suggestions to Judy ([wardjud@gmail.com](mailto:wardjud@gmail.com)).

**Ground-plum: a native legume for every garden.**

-- *Nadia Navarrete-Tindall and Randy Tindall.*

What's not to like about ground plum? This Missouri native has edible fruits, fixes nitrogen, produces handsome foliage and flowers in early spring, and is easy to grow even in poor soils, making it a perfect addition to almost any garden.

Ground plum belongs to the largest genus, *Astragalus*, of the Fabaceae or Leguminosae family with about 2000 species. Up to 1845 species in temperate and tropical regions have been recognized. Those found in North America are mostly herbaceous and only a few are shrubby; however, those from tropical regions are mostly shrubs. The most familiar ground plums in Missouri are *Astragalus crassicaarpus* with purple and individual flowers and *A. crassicaarpus* var. *tricocalyx* with creamy white flowers in small clusters. *A. crassicaarpus* is found in dry prairies in calcium-rich soils and *A. crassicaarpus* var. *tricocalyx* is occasional in rocky open woods in the Ozarks. Their natural habitat indicates that both would require dry well-drained soil under full sunlight to moderate shade to grow in gardens. *A. crassicaarpus* is listed as endangered in Illinois, but the reasons for its rarity are unknown. Other *Astragalus* species in Missouri are *A. canadensis* (rattleweed), *A. distortus* (Ozark milk vetch), and *A. lotiflorus* (low milk vetch).

A study conducted in Illinois indicates that ground plum is nodulated by rhizobia bacteria, as are white prairie clover (*Dalea candida*), leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*), and slender lespedeza (*Lespedeza virginica*). The presence of nodules indicates that these legumes fix nitrogen through symbiosis with these bacteria. The plants are propagated by seed, which should be cold stratified and scarified previous to planting. Ground plum is available in some local nurseries, so if you do not yet have this plant in your garden, consider adding it this year along with other nitrogen fixing legumes. They would add a special accent and improve the soil in your garden!



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