



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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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 submissions to:

### Newsletter Editor:

Judy Ward  
Contact information above

## Future Activities

**August 24:** Newsletter items are due

**August 27:** Trip to see Otto Fajen's restored strip mine land in Northern Boone Co. Led by Jim Whitley. Expect to see Water Lily ponds and wetland plants. Meet at MDC on College Ave. at 9:00 am to carpool.

**August 31:** Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery, 816 Broadway. All are invited.

**September 11:** Regular meeting. 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. George Yatskievych, from the Missouri Botanical Garden, will present "Reflections on the Flora of Missouri"

**September 16:** Evening Walk in Rocheport and picnic on Marge McDermott's deck

**September 22-24:** State Board Meeting – Dexter, MO

**October 1:** Fall wreath making and Hawthorn Society cookout with the Ellifrits on Cedar Creek

**October 14:** Chestnut Festival at Franklin Farm. 10 – 4 Please plan to help with our booth

**October 15:** Painted Rock Hike and lunch at a local Winery

**December 2:** State Board Meeting. Dunn-Palmer Herbarium, Columbia, MO

**December?:** Holiday party

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

\* \* \* \* \*

# Hawthorn Chapter Regular Meeting Minutes: July 10, 2006

--Jean Graebner, Secretary

The regular meeting of Hawthorn Chapter opened on Monday, July 10, with a well-deserved recognition of a long-time friend. Randal Clark was presented the Erna Eisendrath Memorial plaque by President Judy Ward. The award is presented annually by the MoNPS. Here is the message from Judy Turner, our representative to the state, as she advised us of Randal's selection for the this recognition:

*This award is given to an individual who, through teaching, writing, or other activity, has conveyed to others a significant appreciation and knowledge of Missouri's native flora. We are very pleased that the MONPS State Board also realizes what a treasure our local chapter has with Randal. Congratulations to Randal!*

A break for refreshments and hospitality followed the presentation.

Frank Gordon, Stormwater Outreach Coordinator for the area, then talked to us about that effort. He asked our chapter to consider participating in educational programs that are sponsored by the Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods such as self-guided tours of specimen yards or workshops. He said that much needed are those who can answer the public's questions concerning specific native plants, their requirements and best uses

The ultimate purpose of the educational efforts is to inform people about the very important relationship between non-point sources of watershed pollution and their care of their urban yards. Many watershed-friendly techniques can be used to create healthier, more environmentally friendly lawns without sacrificing anything in the way of beauty.

The next tour of sample healthy lawns and gardens will be next May. One of the destinations this past May was the Watershed-Friendly Lawn and Native Plant Garden at the Hickam Cabin, upper parking lot at Rock Bridge State Park. This Garden is cared for by a committee chaired by Nancy Brakhage.

President Judy Ward then conducted the business meeting. Paula Peters reported that \$226 worth of books were sold at the Field Day at Bradford Farm June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We also acquired one new member. We

also manned a booth at the Trail-side Expo at the Forum Nature Center on June 3. No sales were permitted, but we gave away many native plant plugs which were provided primarily by Becky Erickson.

Discussions followed about having a booth at the Farmers' Market to sell plants and wreaths and also about coming a couple of hours early for a future meeting to help plant an area near the church. No decisions were made.

It was suggested that we ask Carol Arnold, our liaison between the chapter and the Universalist Unitarian Church, to ask if we might be permitted to hold our meetings in the upstairs entrance area. President Ward asked Carol to do this. The meeting was adjourned.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Hawthorn Chapter to Contribute to Church Landscaping

To show our appreciation for use of the church space, we will be adding plants to the Universalist Unitarian Church meadow just before our September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will meet at the church at 5pm, two hours prior to our regular meeting. Come with plants and/or come to help.

Carol Arnold writes:

Knowing that what people have to contribute will be limited, I think a description of the site might be more helpful than a detailed species list. The site has mostly hard clay soil with lots of rocks, and it gets full sun most of the day. Spring and fall blooms are especially appreciated, since more people are at the church to see them at those times. Any native plants that will thrive in this spot would be welcome, although we really don't need any more tall grasses or grayhead coneflowers. A few plants that would be extra nice if anyone has them are: aromatic asters, purple coneflowers, golden alexanders, liatris, little bluestem, prairie dropseed. I heard we have an abundance of river oats, and I think we should try a few of them, too.

Thanks so much! See you in September. Meet at 5pm on September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Church.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Order your Steyermark, Volume 2

The Hawthorn Chapter will be accepting orders for the new Steyermark Vol. 2 until August 20. The price will be \$32 with no charge for shipping or tax. If you are interested, please contact Paula Peters at 474-4225 or by email: [prpeters@prpeters.com](mailto:prpeters@prpeters.com) before August 20.

## Rain garden concept catching on with Missouri homeowners

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July 20, 2006

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Swamp milkweed, rose mallow, buttonbush and manna grass. Left by themselves, these native Missouri plants might be sprayed with an herbicide and tilled over as nuisance weeds. Put together though, and surrounded by stacked sandstone or some other decorative border, they make an attractive low-maintenance perennial flower and grass garden. Called a rain garden, these landscape features can bloom through the worst droughts, grow well in clay soils and compete with invasive weeds.

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, a University of Missouri-Columbia native plant research scientist, with the help of students and staff, planted two rain gardens as demonstration and research plots at Bradford Research and Extension Center, east of Columbia, Mo. "The reason we have these demonstration gardens is so people, anyone, can come out and look to see what might work in their yard," Navarrete-Tindall said. The gardens, which can help reduce the volume of storm water runoff going into storm drains and creeks, are gaining popularity in Midwest states. "If we didn't have these here, the water would just run off," Navarrete-Tindall said. "The roots of the plants create aeration. It's not compacted soil anymore, and the water easily penetrates it."

Scott Hamilton, Show-Me Clean Streams urban conservationist, gave a presentation on building rain gardens at the Bradford plots last month. It was part of MU Extension's annual Native Plant Field Day. More than 150 people showed to the field day, which included various presentations and speakers. Navarrete-Tindall spoke on prairie restoration and the use of shrubs for wildlife cover. Hamilton works under a grant program that helps homeowners in the Hinkson Creek watershed build rain gardens. Since starting the program 18 months ago, he and an assistant have consulted on plans for 44 rain gardens in the area. "They're definitely catching on. Nobody had heard of this concept here two years ago," Hamilton said, adding that even the name rain garden is new. "I had one in my backyard six years ago, but I called it a wetland."

The gardens are made by digging a hole or depression in the ground, roughly 3 feet deep or less. Rain gardens vary in size. A garden in a typical subdivision tract home backyard, designed to take on water from rain gutters, could be just 10 feet in diameter. Hamilton's rain garden is 40 feet long. Navarrete-Tindall recommends putting in native plants but said that non-invasive exotics can be used too. Wet rain gardens or "frog ponds," as they're also called, hold standing water year-round. Dry rain gardens are usually shallower and can have standing water, but they tend to dry up between rain storms.

One garden at Bradford is wet, and the other is dry. Both have combinations of grasses, sedges, rushes, shrubs and wildflowers. "They are as much maintenance as a raised flower bed. You will have some weeds and some maintenance," Hamilton said. "You get out of it what you put into it."

Mosquitoes are a risk, but Navarrete-Tindall said dragonflies and frogs often solve the problem. Minnows can be added to wet gardens for more protection. Navarrete-Tindall developed a list of plants for rain gardens, all Missouri natives. The following is a short list of her favorite recommendations.

**Wildflowers and forbs:** arrowheads; blue lobelia; calamus or also called sweet flag; cardinal flower; copper iris; southern blue flag; and swamp milkweed.

**Grasses, sedges and rushes:** Beak grass; manna grass; palm sedge; prairie cordgrass; river oats; square-stem spike rush.

**Shrubs:** buttonbush; false wild indigo; rose mallow.

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### Presentation

George Yatskievych, Flora of Missouri Project, Missouri Botanical Garden will present a program titled:

#### **Reflections on the Flora of Missouri**

Date: September 11th at 7 p.m.

Location: Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, Missouri



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**Highlights of the Native Plant Field Day** --by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall



Jerry Van Sambeek, a plant physiologist, was one of three scientists talking about research with native plants.



Becky talks about the importance of ecotypes next to a rain garden.



Laura, Nancy, and Jean by the booth during the Native Plant Field Day.

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