



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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September 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 submissions to:

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Future Activities

September 11: Church Planting. 5:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. We will be adding plants to the Universalist Unitarian Church meadow just before our regular meeting. Come with plants, tools, and/or come to help. Details inside.

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." Please contact Judy W. (449-0341) if you can help with refreshments.

September 16: South Farm Showcase, 10 – 4 . South Farm is located on New Haven Road, one-quarter mile east of the AC/Grindstone exit off Highway 63 in southeast Columbia. Details inside

September 16: Evening Walk in Rocheport and picnic on Marge McDermott's deck. Meet at 4:30 pm on the East side of the Les Bourgeois Winery parking lot for the walk. Meet at Marge's at 5:30 for the picnic. Details inside.

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

September 27: Newsletter items are due.

September 28: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery, 816 Broadway. All are invited.

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

October 14: Chestnut Festival at Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in Franklin. 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

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

Evening Walk in Rocheport and Picnic on Marge McDermott's Deck

Marge McDermott will host a picnic on her deck Saturday September 16, at 5:30 pm. Please bring a side dish – Marge plans to prepare brisket.

If you would like to join us for the Evening Walk, meet at 4:30 pm on the East side of the Les Bourgeois Winery parking lot. We will walk from the Winery to the MKT trailhead in Rocheport and carpool back

Marge's house is off of Roby Farm Road. Take I-70 to the Rocheport exit. Turn left and go over I-70. This is Roby Farm Road. Watch for a green "adopt-a-road" sign on the right. Marge's driveway is the next road on the right. Watch for balloons on mail box #165. The drive is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long and is at the very end of the lane (stay on main road). Bring a friend! Any questions call Marge at 698-2041 or Paula at 573-881-4225.

--Paula Peters

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Invitation to South Farm Showcase

The inaugural South Farm Showcase hosted by The University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station will occur on Saturday, September 16. The event will include tours of the farm to learn about research on native plants, turfgrass, water quality, agroforestry, alternative fuels and beef. There will also be a number of children's activities including a petting zoo and straw bale maze. Live music and food vendor will also be an attraction.

Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society has been invited to participate in the Showcase. Due to our other events that day (see article about Marge's picnic), we have decided to participate minimally. A couple of members (or more if interested) will be available to answer questions about our Society and sell a subset of books during the day, Nadia will talk about her native plant research conducted at the farm. Please contact me (449-0341) if you are interested in helping with the booth for all or part of the day.

Event will be on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10–4.

South Farm is located on New Haven Road, one-quarter mile east of the AC/Grindstone exit off Highway 63 in southeast Columbia.

--Judy Ward

Hummers Low on Fuel

I know we all say we have all the native plants possible to feed the wildlife such as butterflies and hummingbirds. And "what did they do before we came along with sugar feeders?" Well there were great expanses of prairie and savanna that grew endless miles of the flowers they need this time of year for energy to hunt mosquitoes and gnats so they can get stoked up for the trip south.

I don't know about your yard. Rain has been spotty and the air has been hot and drying. What the deer haven't eaten in my native meadow is droopy. I came to sharp attention when I saw three hummers fighting over my one rosinweed plant (*Silphium integrifolium*). I knew there couldn't be much there for them to slurp up. So I bought 3 feeders which hold a pint each. Within a week I was filling them every day. I think there are nearly 30 birds that visit my house.

I come home and the first thing I do is rinse the feeders and fill them. Then I watch the little girls fuss over who gets to use which hole to feed before sunset. At dawn they are all there again weaving the day together in front of my kitchen window.

There is WAY too much information on feeding hummingbirds on the internet to post here. If we did post it here, a state newsletter would be called the "Hummer" instead of the "Petalpusher". There is information on keeping feeders clean, and keeping bees and ants out, and the mix, and the migration times and routes ... Just type "hummingbird" on the search line to find the information.

Filling your feeders quickly is important since the last girls will leave before 21 September. The birds will thank you and I promise you will enjoy them. —Becky Erickson



*Field trip to wet meadow at Prairie Conference
—Becky Erickson*

Listening Session on “Cooperative Conservation” organized by Department of Interior, USDA and EPA, August 28 in Jefferson City

Summary of meeting notes:

Of the 100 who attended this listening session, there were about 40 who gave 2½ minute statements. These were made by representatives of several Home Builders Associations, farmers, MO Farm Bureau, Partnership of the West (oil and gas concerns) and river barge operators. They opposed the Endangered Species Act and Federal Clean Water Regulations. The Home Builders Association had four or five statements especially against storm water runoff rules in housing developments. They claimed the rules were too complicated and that energy efficient “Green” Houses were too expensive and do not sell. Missouri Farm Bureau supported that all land should be in private ownership. Partnership of the West does not like the restrictions of ESA and Designated Critical Habitats.

Conservation oriented presenters asked for reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act with full funding and strengthening of the Clean Water Act. They recommended restoration and preservation of diverse native plant communities and ecosystems. They were also opposed to the sale of Forest Service Land. Environmentalists agreed that there needs to be cooperative policies in place for public land management. One possible scenario: The Missouri River is possibly the most underutilized resource in our State; it could be a World Tourist Corridor. Under this designation the people who use the River for economy can develop environmental initiatives to enhance the River for the tourist industry.

More good comments are needed to promote the conservation perspective! I want to encourage you to write and submit yours. Written Comments can be submitted through: <http://cooperativeconservation.gov> Click on “**Contact Us**”. Please use ‘Listening Session Comments’ in the subject line of the message. The site also provides more information about the “Coopeative Conservation effort. You are welcome to read my notes if you want more details.

--Jim Whitley

Comments may also be mailed or faxed to:
Cooperative Conservation Assistant
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW, MS5258
Washington, D.C. 20240
202 208-7574 (fax)

Field trip to restored land demonstrates the diversity and resilience of Missouri’s plant communities

Missouri’s diverse and resilient plant communities continue to amaze and delight me. Our field trip to see Otto Fajen’s restored strip mine land in Northern Boone County proved to be an exceptional example of this diversity and resilience. The field trip led by Jim Whitley and co-lead by Becky Erickson featured a series of water filled strip-mine ponds supporting a diverse array of native wetland plants. Otto and Jim have laid out systems of irrigation pipes to raise and lower the levels of ponds to manage communities as needed but they are mostly filled by natural rain and lowered by natural drought.

Some of these plants Jim knew intimately as he had decades previously collected the initial parent plant whose offspring we encountered. Many who had been on the trip or to the site previously commented on how each year each pool grew a distinctly different community. In areas where cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) flourished previously, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) was now dominant. Other areas with only a few cardinal flowers in previous years now supported many individuals intermixed with blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*). The soybean field converted into a shallow lake harbored both white and pink water lilies and the pink genetic cross. A pit-pool only 400 feet away still had a genetically pure strain of dark pink lilies showing that the pollinators have not yet carried white pollen from the lake to dilute the genetically pure pink strain of lilies.

Otto Fajen was initially a Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries biologist working with Jim but since he retired, he has been working on restoring the wetlands for the past 15 years. He has often trapped nearly fifty muskrats from his ponds to preserve the *Sagittaria*, *Pontederia*, and other tasty delicacies. Otto also has a good sense of where to broadcast seed to help his wetland communities flourish.

--Judy Ward and Becky Erickson



Water lily rafts at Otto Fajen’s –Becky Erickson

Hawthorn Chapter to Contribute to Church Landscaping

We will be adding plants to the Universalist Unitarian Church meadow just before our September 11th meeting.

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.

We will meet at the church at 5pm, two hours prior to our regular meeting. Come with plants, tools (narrow shovels seem to work best), and/or come to help.

* * * * *



Prairie Gentian –Becky Erickson



Jim describing restoration at Otto Fajen's –Becky Erickson

Prairie Festival Celebrating The Land Institute's 30th Anniversary

The Prairie Festival will celebrate The Land Institute's 30th anniversary on October 6-8, 2006 at The Land Institute near Salina Kansas. Guest speakers include Jakob Von Uexkull, founder of Right Livelihood Award; Wendell Berry; Frances Beinecke, Executive Director, Natural Resources Defense Council; Ray Anderson, Interface, Inc.; David Orr; Laura Jackson; and Doug Tompkins. Everything takes place in the Big Barn including a barn dance with live music on Friday evening. This is an inexpensive event for people who share a caring about sustainable living and the land. Last year we had people from 25 states. Please join us in the celebration. For more information and the registration form, see <http://www.landinstitute.org/>

Hope to see you there. It's lots of fun. –Sandra Kubal

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Graham Cave State Park Planning Meeting

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks has extended an invitation to the members of the Hawthorn Chapter of the Native Society to comment on plans for future development for Graham Cave State Park. An informational meeting will be held on September 19, 2006 from 7-9 pm at the Montgomery County R-II Senior High School, 394 North Hwy. 19, Montgomery City. Representatives from the Division of State Parks will present options on the long-range development plan for the park, the conceptual development plan, which was developed following public input. They will discuss the options, answer questions, and take comments. This informational meeting is supposed to facilitate communication between the division and the public.



Pink water lily –Becky Erickson

Columbia Visioning and The Native Plant Society

Sometime this fall, perhaps as early as mid September, Columbia is going to start "visioning." This is a process by which the residents of the city and Boone County will meet in small groups, called "Topic Groups," to decide what goals they want to achieve in the future and how these goals can be achieved.

A number of other cities have done this in the recent past, including Springfield, Mo., Champaign, Ill., and Chattanooga, Tenn. Apparently these efforts have been successful but, as they say, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

This process may be very important to Columbia's future. In my experiences with visioning it is often easier to create plans than it is to put plans into action. However, the Columbia City Council has agreed in writing to the following: "**The City Council hereby expresses its commitment to proceeding with a community visioning process and to implementing the visioning plan developed from that process.**"

The visioning exercise may be especially important to those of us who place high value on the natural beauty of Boone County, its rural atmosphere and its family farms. Visioning may provide an opportunity to balance development with preservation initiatives in these areas. For example, there may be areas of the county or practices that are especially important for native plants, prairies, etc. These are more likely to be protected if members of the Native Plant Society participate in the visioning process.

It has not been decided yet what the topics of the different Topic Groups will be. They are likely to include such things as: "downtown," "transportation," "health and social services," and "energy." The participants will apparently be able to create their own topics. Nor is it known how many groups there will be, how many times they will meet, when and where they will meet, etc.

I'm thinking of initiating a Topic Group called "Rural Boone County" in the hope of attracting participants who place special emphasis on environmental values such as the above.

People who want to keep abreast of the dates and times of the various public events associated with visioning should peruse the Tribune and the Missourian. They can also send me their email addresses I'll try to let them know what I find out.

Tom Vernon (Member of Smart Growth, Sierra Club, and The Native Plant Society) (573)442-7476 or vernont@socket.net --Tom Vernon

Check your address label, if you haven't renewed your membership, do it today!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Missouri Native Plant Society—Hawthorn Chapter

Membership Levels:



- Student \$11
- Regular \$16
- Contributing \$26
- Life \$200

Includes both Chapter and State dues.

Annual renewal on July 1.

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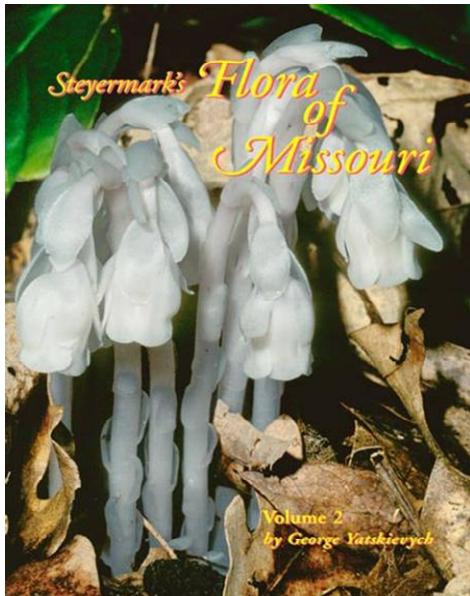


Sea of black eye susans can be seen on the Northeast corner of Bradform Farm near where the orchids are located. (from the air, it looks like the flowers occupy maybe 1/10 of the area)

--- Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

The Hawthorn Chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society
Is pleased to invite you to the presentation

Reflections on the Flora of Missouri



*Image used with the permission of the
Missouri Botanical Garden Press*

by George Yatskievych

Flora of Missouri Project
Missouri Botanical Garden

He will discuss the second of three volumes of a
revision of Julian Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri*

Flora of Missouri Volume 2, Dicots Acanthaceae through Fabaceae, first part

Date: Monday, September 11th at 7 p.m.

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

Refreshments will be served. All are invited.
Books will be available for sale and signing

*For additional information contact
Judy W. at 573-449-0341*

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Check your address label, renew today if you haven't already!