



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 21, Number 10

October 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 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 Chapter cookout with the Ellifrits on Cedar Creek. Arrive at 10:30 to 11:00 for wreath making - for those attending the picnic only, arrive in time to put your Cornish hen on the spit by 2:00 pm. Details inside.

October 14: Chestnut Festival at the University of MO Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in Franklin, 10 – 4. We will be selling books, plants, and wreaths. Please plan to help with our booth.

October 15: Fall foliage hike to Painted Rock State Forest followed by lunch at a local Winery. Meet at 10:00 am in the MDC parking lot on College Avenue to carpool.

October 24: Newsletter items are due.

October 26: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery, 816 Broadway. All are invited.

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

December?: Holiday party

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

So what happened at our regular meeting on September 11th?

Program: “Reflections on the Flora of Missouri”

George Yatskievych presented a program entitled “**Reflections on the Flora of Missouri**” in which he described the life and floristic work of Julian Steyermark and the process of revising Steyermark’s Flora of Missouri. He described how since the original flora came out in 1963, many changes have occurred in our state’s flora. These changes include name changes and species lumping and splitting based on taxonomic studies, new records of native species, and new non-native species found in the state. He provided us with vivid examples, such as: 6 different species of cocklebur recognized by Steyermark in 1963 now considered 1 species with different morphologies; name changes include the “Aster Disaster” in which the Aster genus is now broken up into 6 different genera. The most new species come from new records or introductions of non-natives. And finally 1 species, *Echinacea simulata*, which appears to be a parental taxa that gave rise to *E. pallida* (pale purple coneflower), is new to science. George also described the potential shortcomings of the flora, in particular that the species distributions represent historical (some point in time) versus present-day distribution. Using an example from San Diego County, he described an opportunity for a county-level floristic effort in Missouri in which volunteers, after receiving training, conduct the fun aspect of collecting voucher specimen of species found within the county. There was considerable excitement about this idea. More about the San Diego County project can be found at: <http://www.sdnhm.org/plantatlas/>

Thank you, George for the excellent program and for signing all of those floras!

--Judy Ward

Business meeting

At our regular meeting, we heard from the committees. The Events Committee described our planned participation in the “South Farm Showcase” which was hosted by the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station on September 16th and the Chestnut Festival where we will be selling books, plants, and wreaths, and which will be held on October 14th. We also decided on the meeting times for the Fall wreath workshop and cookout on Cedar Creek (see article this issue). The Field Trip Committee vividly described the field trips held over the past two months, as well as the upcoming trips.

New business included a proposal for a “Restoration Working Group” to lead local restoration projects. Courtney Kerns is spearheading this effort which will have multiple benefits including reclaiming real estate for the natives, public outreach and education as to the effect of invasive non-natives on natural areas, see article this issue. Judy Ward raised an additional proposal for a “Membership Focus Group” to evaluate our ability to recruit and retain new members, increase membership participation, and examine how well we are meeting our purpose.

Chapter members work together for Unitarian Church Planting

Prior to the meeting on September 11th, chapter members met to replace some non-natives with a collection of native plants in the landscape of the Universalist Unitarian Church. Many of the natives were grown as local ecotypes by Becky Erickson, others came from the collection of individual members. Thank you Becky and others for the plants; thank you to Nadia Navarrete-Tindall and Carol Arnold for the preparation work to identify and mow a path to the site; and thanks to all those who got dirt under their fingernails that evening. It is a great way to show our gratitude to the church for providing a meeting space.

Reclaiming Real Estate for the Natives

Bush honeysuckle towering over spring wildflowers....*Sericea lespedeza* multiplying exponentially....eastern redcedars closing in cone-flowers. Do these images make you break into a cold sweat? Do they give rise to herbicidal thoughts? Are you nagged by an urge to just DO something?

If so, please join the new Restoration Working Group, and get your hands dirty in the name of ecological integrity. Although in the formative stages, the group will hopefully begin by conducting some restoration activities on public land in and around Columbia. The group could also sponsor talks by restoration ecology practitioners, and/or share relevant readings (research on deer overpopulation alone is quite fascinating). A hefty time commitment is not necessary, nor is the ability to perform hard manual labor; there will be many ways to help out. Just a few hours spent eradicating honeysuckle can have a visible impact.

Many positive outcomes will arise from restoration activities. By doing this work in visible, public locations, we can educate the people about the threats posed by invasive plants. We can enhance partnerships and cultivate new relationships, and even reach new members. Most importantly, participants will gain the satisfaction of helping to assure that Boone County's natural heritage will persist into the future. All of these benefits help further the purpose of the Native Plant Society.

So let's go! Those patient survivors and seed banks need our help to flourish once again. Just think of all the possibility waiting under leaf and grass litter. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, contact Courtney Kerns at (308) 760-1136 or cckerns@excite.com by **October 15th**, and a meeting date will be arranged soon after.

-- Courtney Kerns

Fall Wreath Making and Cookout on Cedar Creek

Members will be making wreaths from dried materials (hopefully, we've been out collecting) for their own enjoyment and for the Chapter members to sell at the Chestnut Festival on Oct. 14. I'll have tables set up in our garage. We will start at 10:30 am and go down to Cedar Creek to cook at 2:00 pm and eat at 4:00 pm. For wreath making, bring your wreath making supplies including a small spool of craft wire (about 26 gauge), and form or wreath base (12-14 inch diameter). These are generally available in the hobby section or at hobby stores. If you have them, bring pliers and hand pruners, gloves if you want them. If you can, bring natural materials to share for decoration. Examples are grass seed heads, dried flowers or leaves, bittersweet, lotus pods, etc.

For the cookout, bring a Cornish hen and potato wrapped in foil and anything else you want to try to cook on an open fire. If you are planning to come for the cookout only, bring your well defrosted Cornish Hen and foiled-wrapped potato and arrive in time to get your little chicken on the pole by 2:00 pm. I will provide utensils, plates, condiments, etc. Feel free to call me if you have any questions. Laura Ellifrit - 442-0777. Directions to our farm follow.

Directions to Ellifrits' place

Take Hwy 63 South from Columbia to State Route AB (Deer Park & Deer Park Store). Turn left (east) on SR AB. After about 4 miles, state maintenance ends and the road turns to gravel and is called Barnes Chapel Road. Continue straight east on Barnes Chapel Road for about a mile until you come to North Millsite Road on your right. Turn right (south) on North Millsite Rd. about a mile or so until you come to three mailboxes and a sign with four addresses and arrows pointing left and right. Our address is 8804 and is to the left. Turn sharp left and continue straight thru the gate and follow the driveway. You'll see the wetlands on your right.
-- Laura Ellifrit



Images from Fall 2005 and 2005 Wreath making

--Judy Ward

Missouri Native Plant Society
Hawthorn Chapter
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Check your address label, renew today if you haven't already!