



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 2

February 2007

Future Activities

Hawthorn Chapter Officers:

President

Judy Ward
1644 Highridge Circle
Columbia, MO 65203
573.449.0341
wardjud@gmail.com

Vice President

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall
2116 Grant Lane
Columbia, MO 65203
573.234.2088

Secretary

Jean Graebner
1800 Roby Farm Rd.
Rocheport, MO
573.698.2855

Chapter Representative

Judy Turner
4713 E. St. Charles Rd
Columbia, MO 65201

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

January 29: Seed Exchange and Seed Propagation Workshop led by Becky Erickson. 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

February 9: 2nd Fridays Breakfast: Informal alliance of local environmental groups meet to update each other and share ideas. Uprise Bakery on Broadway, 7:30 am, 'A Breakfast Invitation' inside.

February 10: Workshop on Landscape Design led by Ann Wakeman. Daniel Boone Regional Library 10:00 am, Conference Rm A. This is a Wild Ones event that is also open to the general public.

February 22: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at Kayotea, 912 E. Broadway. All are invited. **Please note change in location!**

February 22: Newsletter items are due.

March 12: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Speaker and topic to be announced. Election for Treasurer will be held.

April 14: Native Plant Sale at Bradford Farm. 9 – 12 Please plan to help with our booth.

April 22: Earth Day Festival - Downtown Columbia. Please plan to help with the booth.

June 3: Trailside Expo at Forum Nature Area

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

Annual planning meeting held

--submitted by Jean Graebner

Members attending the first Hawthorn chapter meeting of 2007 made plans for the coming year as they reviewed and evaluated the activities and programs of the past year. The meeting was opened by President Judy Ward at 7 p.m. at the Universalist Unitarian Church on Shepard Blvd. She began the evaluation process by calling attention to a newsletter milestone—it has been e-delivered for one year. She encourages anyone interested to receive it by email as it saves the chapter time and resources. She added that there are currently plans to upgrade the chapter's website.

<http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org>

During a discussion of attendance levels, it was moved and passed unanimously that Judy insert a notice in the January issue asking for response from those who would like regular e-mail reminders of upcoming meetings and activities. If you are interested in receiving these email reminders and haven't yet told her, please let Judy know by email wardjud@gmail.com.

After a discussion led by Becky Erickson, members passed a motion to go ahead with the "Stadium Project." It is a proposal to Missouri Department of Transportation that our chapter adopt a section of roadside along Stadium Blvd. to create a landscape of native plants (roadside beautification.) (*ed. note: To read the complete Draft Proposal as presented by Becky, project manager, see Page 2 of the January Hawthorn newsletter.*)

Celeste Mazzacano, a representative of the Master Naturalist's program, then discussed ways that those who complete that program could be recruited to help with the Stadium Project. She explained that after completing the Master Naturalist program, students are offered a number of capstone projects from which they choose one to complete their required volunteer hours. If Hawthorn chapter accepts the offer to be one of the groups partnering with Master Naturalists, then the Stadium Project could be one of these projects. Members voted to approve such a partnership role with Master Naturalist.

Field trips held this past year were discussed. Three areas which would be new to our calendar were suggested to the Field Trip Committee: Rocky Hollow Natural Area, Spring Creek Gap and Hite Prairie.

The possibility of creating a brochure on invasive species that present problems locally was discussed. It would include descriptive information and information warning of the plant's habits. There was enthusiasm for the project which would be an effort to enlighten home gardeners about the destructive potential of many invasives, even if they look benevolent.

There was a discussion of the monthly luncheon meeting, "Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts." President Ward reminded members that there continues to be a tension between the fact that we want it to be informal and social but we continue to discuss business at these monthly meetings without taking minutes. She said that she tries to make it so that discussion occurs at these meetings but decisions are actually made by committees or at regular meetings, but knows that this is not always the case. No solutions were agreed upon. It was agreed that we would meet at Kayotea, 912 E. Broadway, for our February and March lunch meeting, date (last Thursday of the month) and time (11:30 am – 1pm) will remain the same. Once we try this new location out, we will decide whether we like it enough to continue to meet there.

Plans for future programs were presented by Jean Graebner and Nadia Navarrete who serve on the Programs Committee with Marge McDermott. No formal program had been planned for this January meeting. All members contributed to a refreshments table. The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Treasurers are a Treasure

Thanks to Sandra Kubal for all the diligence that she gave as treasurer over the past term. Paula Peters has accepted the nomination for treasurer. We will have a vote at our March 12th meeting.

Reflecting on the Big Ice Storm

--submitted by Becky Erickson

Nature sure has its cycles. People with their seventy (+/-) year lifespan don't realize how much one spot on Earth can change from natural causes. I drove to Springfield only days after the storm passed and noticed waves of heavier ice and scraggly, broken trees alternating with areas where there was a much lighter coating on more entire trees. Of course most of the trees that were damaged were frail or brittle species purposely or inadvertently introduced by people in the last 70 years. And all of the previously "topped" trees looked like worn out broom sticks, like the kind you see sticking up from the bed of a farm pickup. I also had to think of the region they are in: prairie . . . with all the harshest weather that can be invoked: high winds, treacherous ice storms, heavy snowfall, droughts that seem to go forever, and don't forget the greatest leveler, fire. Without studying the climate of the ecosystems we live in, we decide to plop down and make it "home" just like it was in the Somewhere Else we came from. As we move from the shaded forest we take our beloved trees with us into the prairie. We develop modern conveniences that need to be powered by something with more speed and stamina than hand work, so we set up electric lines in the air on tall poles mixed up with the trees we want to shade us from the prairie sun. 70 years later this setup backfires and most people wonder why. Well, some of us don't.

Thirty years ago, I was living near Rocky Mountain National Park and there was a huge uproar about the pine beetles which carried a fungus from one mature Ponderosa to another. The little darlings did not bother with the young trees. Foresters fostered a campaign instructing people to cut the trees with beetles, cover them with plastic, fumigate them and burn them. People were told these actions would slow the spread of the dying trees and prevent forest fires. I also had one of the most enlightening conversations with a botanist, Ruth Nelson (She wrote many wildflower id books for the Rocky Mtn. region). She told me these waves of change occur constantly. White people had only been in the Estes Park valley for about 100 years so they had watched allot of smallish Ponderosas grow to

maturity; a very slow change related to a human life, but a quick flash in the total timetable of Earth. The beetles might have come through the area 50 years before white people settled there. She was rather perturbed with the young foresters that they were not teaching ecosystem cycles. And that what they were trying to do was stop a tsunami. You have to let the natural cycle happen and make lemonade from what is left. I noticed a news bulletin and smiled that the pine fungus beetles had hit the Black Hills and the little fellers just out doing their jobs were causing great consternation again.

So today we will mourn the passing of some big trees and some damage to others caused by helpful, needed moisture in a form that made us all stand still for a few days. I admire those of you who have already recognized the blessing of the big trees' deaths. There could be other blessings. Perhaps there will be flowers emerge from the previously shaded Earth. Or perhaps there are small oaks ready to take the place of the old fragile trees. Different animals will investigate the changed habitat. Opportunities are endless. Wonderful things can happen . . . Maybe the electric lines will be put underground.

Members contribute to the vision of Columbia's Future

--submitted by Becky Erickson

Columbia is on the fourth round of Visioning meetings to direct the path of Columbia development in the future. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall and Becky Erickson are on the Environmental and Energy Conservation committee. Jim Whitley is on the Development committee. We will be meeting at least once every month until next fall and hope to make a difference in planning for the preservation of native remnants and in retaining the quality of native streams in Boone County. Organizers are still requesting more participants. Next meeting is 21 February. This is a really good chance to re-direct the sprawl occurring in Columbia and Boone Co. Call Jim, Becky, or Nadia for more information.

A Breakfast Invitation

--from Celeste Mazzacano, Project Coordinator, Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach & Service Programs (ANROSP), cmazzacano@gmail.com

I wanted to let you know about 2nd Fridays, an informal alliance of local environmental groups that Jan Weaver (MU Environmental Studies, Friends of Rock Bridge) and I are hoping to get started. We were meeting about a different project, and got off on a side-track about how hard it can be to find and retain volunteers, keep projects running, and coordinate resources with other groups in the area, and we thought "hey, what about getting people from all of those groups together once a month to talk about what we're all doing?". And so, 2nd Fridays was born... We're planning to meet on the 2nd Friday of every month at 730 am at Uprise Bakery (on Broadway) for breakfast. This will be informal, no set agenda, other than keeping everyone updated, coordinating activities and events, exchanging ideas about volunteerism, marketing, PR, and anything else that comes up. We think this could be a good way to maximize limited resources, and to get good ideas from other groups (instead of trying to re-invent the wheel on our own). Anyway, we're contacting folks with Master Naturalist, Friends of Rock Bridge, Friends of Big Muddy, Native Plant Society, Wild Ones, Missouri River Relief, Audubon, etc. to let them know and see who is interested in attending. The next meeting will be on Friday February 9th. I hope that you will be able to make it (it's worth getting up that early just for their biscuits and gravy alone, really). And please feel free to pass this information on to any other groups that might be interested!



False rue anemone



Spring beauty



Dutchman's breeches



Wild plum

Missouri Native Plant Society
Hawthorn Chapter
Judy Ward, Newsletter Editor
1644 Highridge Circle
Columbia, MO 65203