



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 11

November 2007

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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

November 3: Cookout at the Ellifrit's on Cedar Creek. See article inside.

November 12: Regular meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Shane Pruett, doctoral candidate in Fisheries and Wildlife, will share with us the results of research on wildlife in the bottomland hardwood forests of Southeastern Missouri. He will compare the birdlife that is successful in that type of environment with the birdlife of Central Missouri.

November 15: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 pm at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway. All are invited.

November 17: Cedar Wreath workshop at the Ellifrit's. 11:00 am to 2:30 pm See directions under "Cookout at the Ellifrit's" on November 3. **Rain date November 18.**

November 27: Newsletter items are due

December 1: State Board Meeting. Dunn-Palmer Herbarium, Columbia, MO

December 8: Holiday party at Nadia and Randy's 6:00 pm Please bring a dish or favorite drink to share. Directions inside.

December 15: Plant seed at Stadium Site. Please contact Becky to say if morning or afternoon is better for you. **Sunday 16 Dec at 2pm** is alternate date.

January 14: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Dennis Stegall, camera manager at Columbia Photo, will present a program giving tips on photographing plants and flowers.

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

And Most Recent Stadium Update. . .

Becky Erickson, 657-2314,
beckyerick@socket.net
Stadium Project Coordinator

Good news!! Paula Peters, Wanda Parscal, Jim Whitley, Judy Turner, Ann Wakeman and Nancy Langworthy, Kathleen Anderson have each spent some time picking on their own or with me in some wild areas helping to harvest a good amount of seed for the area we have adopted on Stadium Boulevard. Thanks to each one for the day they volunteered to help at Bennitt, Whetstone, Ann's, The Hole.

Because of these efforts, we have about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the seed we need to revitalize the area. I am offering you a chance to get out during some of our beautiful fall weather to wander some of the beautiful wild areas of mid-MO. These outings are for anyone who wants to learn how to identify our natives when the stems are dead, but still hold life in the seed. You may keep some of the seed collected for your own garden. Please call me or send an email to arrange the day you want to come to help me finish.

Warren Taylor has offered his place in Callaway Co. We need to make an appointment with him to collect on his place, so call as soon as you have decided what day you want to go (watch weather reports!).

If you plan to harvest seed on your own, PLEASE ask me about amount needed, and storage of seed until we meet to process the seed for planting.

We Don't Want Anyone to Miss the Cookout on Cedar Creek - November 3

Laura Ellifrit will host a cookout on Cedar Creek Saturday, Nov 3. Members, family, and friends should bring a well defrosted Cornish Hen, potato wrapped in foil, and anything else you want to try to cook on an open fire. Bring a side dish and beverage to share if you can. Please arrive in time to put the little chickens on the pole at 2:00 pm and eat at 4:00 pm. I will provide utensils, plates, condiments, etc. Feel free to call me if you have any questions. Laura Ellifrit – 442-0777.

Directions to Ellifrits' place

Take Hwy 63 South from Columbia to State Route AB (Deer Park & Deer Park Store with RED roof). Turn left (east) on State Route 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 there and continue straight thru the gate and follow the driveway. Pass the wetlands on your right and continue up the hill to the house.

Photo from 2006 cookout



My Lead Plant

Submitted by Judy Turner

Or is it an Indigo Bush? They are both legumes and of the genus *Amorpha*. They sort of look alike when they are both small. And in some areas of the country the common name for the *Amorpha fruticosa* is lead plant. But in those areas the *Amorpha canescens* does not grow. If it did, most all would recognize the differences. At my house the *A. fruticosa* is about 10 feet tall, likes part shade and moisture, while my *a. canescens* barely stands 2 feet at this time and is in full sun. The interesting thing is that I planted the *A. fruticosa* only a year before the *A. canescens*! (continued on page 3)

(Lead Plant cont.)

Amorpha is from a Greek word meaning “without form” or “deformed,” which refers to the one-petaled flowers. The specific name, *canescens* is Latin referring to the generally hoary or whitish appearance of the plant due to the tiny, silvery-gray hairs. It was called lead plant by the early settlers because they thought it resemble the color of lead ore that was found on the ground. In the 1820s miners in Missouri and southern Illinois found many shallow surface deposits of lead where this plant grew and, consequently, believed that the existence of the lead plant’s deep tap root of 6 to 16 feet indicated the presence of lead in the ground. That is obviously not correct. However, both the lead ore (in association with copper and dolomite) and the lead plant do exist in Missouri and southern Illinois. So it seems to me that their assumption could be considered reasonable for that era. Today, we know that lead plant is usually found growing in high-quality prairies, savannas, rocky open woods, dry prairies, hillsides, and native plant gardens. It is considered an important range condition indicator as it hosts a nitrogen-fixing bacterium in its roots.

Lead plant was used by the Native Americans in the early days for medicinal purposes. An infusion of the leaves was used to kill pinworms and for eczema by the Meskwaki Indians in Wisconsin. The Ojibwa made a decoction from the root for stomach pain. The Omaha of Nebraska and other Missouri River area Native Americans burned twigs and stems of the lead plant for cases of neuralgia and rheumatism. The Omaha also dried leaves and powdered them, then blew the powder into cuts and open wounds. The Oglala dried the leaves and mixed the fine crushed leaves with buffalo fat and used it as a smoking material. I can’t imagine what that smelled like!

Nowadays, the lead plant is revered mainly for its glorious spike-like clusters of purple flowers and the contrasting yellow stamens. It is also a butterfly larval host plant for native plant gardens. Caterpillars of several species of butterflies including Little Yellow Sulphur, Long-tailed Skipper, Northern Cloudywing, Silvery Blue, Cerauus Blue, Gray Hairstreak, and Variegated Fritillary are known to prefer legumes like the lead plant. Specifically, the caterpillars of the Southern Dogface Sulphur, the Silver-spotted Skipper, and the Eastern Tailed-Blue dine on the foliage of the lead plant, as do three Underwing moths: the Abbreviated, the Three-Staff, and Whitney’s. Nymphs of the Bird-Winged Grasshopper feed on the leaves. Because the lead plant is quite palatable and high in protein, deer, rabbits, and livestock are reportedly fond of it.

As a nectar plant, lead plant is favored by a variety of bees and wasps, and, possibly, the Little Yellow Sulphur, Coral Hairstreak, and Banded Hairstreak. Because of its attraction for so many Lepidoptera, it is frequently listed as a “must” plant for your butterfly garden.

References: Gilmore, Melvin R. 1919. Uses of Plants by the Indians of the Missouri River Region. SI-BAE Annual Report #33 (p. 93)

And information found on line: Dawes Arboretum, Illinoiswildflowers.info, Johnsonsnursery.com, Kansas State University, Missouri Botanical Garden, University of Wisconsin Herbarium, USDA Plant Database, Wildflower.Org, Wildthingsnursery.com, Wildtypeplants.com



Amorpha canescens portrait, B. Erickson



Lead plant habit at Morris Prairie, B. Erickson

Not totally rained out at Missouri Chestnut Roast

We loaded up all of the books and plants and tent needed to set up the booth at the chestnut festival. Laura, Paula, Judy, Jim and Becky arrived in a steady drizzle which increased into an impressive downpour. We decided to not set up the booth to avoid ruining the books in the rain.

Most of us stayed with the several hundred other visitors who ran from one tent to another under umbrellas to enjoy Missouri grown pecans, freshly roasted chestnuts, locally made soaps and skin moisturizers, local artists in wood and ceramics. Mervin Wallace was there with a large selection of potted plants. We lunched on buffalo or elk burger followed by a taste of some wines from Mount Pleasant. Some tapped their feet to the lively Ironweed Bluegrass Band. It just goes to show that we can find or make a good time in spite of the weather.

Fall Foliage Hike on the Shooting Star Trail, in the Gans Creek Area of Rock Bridge State Park.

Jim, Paula, Judy, Fran, Nancy B. and Becky met October 20 about 10 am at the trailhead, on Bonne Femme Church Rd, just off Highway 163. Paula showed us the way around the maze of trails. We counted 8 vultures rise off the thermals near Coyote Bluff.

We had a relaxing lunch together afterwards at the Upper Crust Bakery on Green Meadow Road.



Consider Books Available from your Hawthorn Chapter for Holiday Gifts

Submitted by Paula Peters

We will once again be ordering MDC nature calendars and books. We will accept orders from now until November 14, by phone (573-474-4225), at the November meeting on the 12th, and by email (prpeters@prpeters.com). The order will be made on November 14, and the calendars and books will be available at the Holiday party at Nadia's Dec 8, State Board meeting, regular January meeting, or can be picked up at my home (2216 S Grace Ellen Dr. Columbia). The price for the calendars will be \$4.00. You may also order books. The price list for the books that we have available are listed below. These make great holiday gifts.

2008 Nature Calendar and Books Missouri Department of Conservation Publications

<u>Price</u>	<u>Title</u>
\$7	Water Plants for Missouri Ponds
\$14	Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People
\$23	Terrestrial Communities of MO - Paul Nelson
\$3	Key to Missouri Trees in Winter
\$6	Field Guide to Trees of MO
\$5	Missouri Orchids
\$10	Missouri Wildflowers
\$13	Missouri Conservation Dept Atlas (one available)
\$17	Missouri Atlas and Gazateer (one available)
\$9	Wild Edibles of Missouri
\$13	Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri
\$4	Conservation Trails
\$14	Butterflies and Moths of Missouri
\$30	Flora of Missouri Vol 1
\$32	Flora of Missouri Vol 2
\$14	Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri
\$5	A Paddler's Guide to Missouri
\$18	Trees of Missouri – Hardbound (one available)
\$13	Trees of Missouri – Softcover
\$5	Seedling ID Booklet MDC and NRCS
\$15	In Focus – Jim Rathert
\$6	Show-Me Bugs
\$5	Tried and True Native Plants for your Yard
\$4	MDC Calendars

Books from other sources

- \$27 Propagating Wildflowers – William Cullina (one available)
- \$15 Growing and Propagating Wildflowers - Phillips
- \$16 Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers-Falcon Publishing
- \$ 14 Ozark Wildflowers-Falcon Publishing
- \$16 Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie (one available)

November 15: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!

11:30 am at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway.

We now meet on the **3rd Thursday** of the month.

All are invited; please join us

My First Hike with NPS

Submitted by Wanda Parscal.

Saturday, Oct. 27 I hiked with Jim, Paula and Becky in the Spring Gap Creek Conservation Area off Old 63 in Maries Co. It was a beautiful day, cool breeze, plenty of sun, everything was perfect. I only wished the leaves had more fall color, but was able to get some great scenery pictures. I have not been able to venture on foot back into the hills to enjoy the woods for quite a while so it was enjoyable hike to folks who enjoy the outdoors. I had wonderful guides to point out the native plants. I am just learning to recognize the plants by name and I was so happy when I was actually able to recognize plants with the coaching of my cohorts. We harvested seeds for the Stadium project in a rolling glade where we discovered a new born lizard. Along the way we saw deer tracks, a large female turtle, a woodchuck den, an open glade with native plants, this was all great fun to me. The day passed quickly and it was only a mile hike to the glade but wow seemed like a ten miles back to the car, where we were surprised with an apple pie snack made by Becky, yummy good, worth the "ten miles" back.

Then we decided to go on to the Summit Winery in Holts Summit. We ate inside instead of out on the lake terrace where a cool breeze was beginning to blow. Each of us had a delicious meal, wine and a fun discussion of the day. I ended the day feeling the warm friendship of the three club members and look forward to many more hikes and working with the club members. It was great, enjoyed it very much.

View from Spring Creek Gap trail B. Erickson



Cedar Wreath Workshop at the Ellifrit's – Nov 17

Hawthorn chapter members will be holding a cedar wreath making workshop on November 17 from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. You should bring a small spool of craft wire (about 26 gauge) and a straw form or wreath base of your choice (12-14 inches). These are generally available at WalMart craft department or in other craft stores. Bring pliers and hand pruners, gloves if you want them. Cedar will be provided. If you can, bring natural materials to share for decoration. Examples of these natural materials are tall grass seed heads, sumac heads, dried flowers, bittersweet, lotus pods, etc. Please bring a sack lunch and beverage. Directions given in this newsletter under "Cedar Creek Cookout". Feel free to call if you have any questions. Laura Ellifrit – 442-0777 or Paula Peters - 474-4225. **Rain date will be November 18.**

Invitation to 2007 Holiday Party

Native Plant Society members, family and friends: The holiday season is here again! It has been a very eventful year and we have to celebrate! Come for supper and bring your favorite appetizer or desert and favorite beverage. As is the tradition, Randy will prepare a soup or two to go with the appetizers and to keep you warm. If it is chilly, we plan to have an enclosed bonfire on the patio. We hope to see you there!

When: December 8 starting at 6 pm to whenever you want to leave.

Where: 2116 Grant Lane, Columbia at Randy and Nadia's.

Directions From Stadium, go south on Forum to Chapel Hill Road. Turn right (west) on Chapel Hill and keep going past two stop signs. After the 2nd stop sign at the top of a hill, pass a fire station and a church on your left. After the church, take the 3rd left onto Grant Lane (Grant is Cunningham Road on the north side of Chapel Hill, so be careful to look at the street sign on the south side). Nadia's house is on the left side of the street. Look for a white mailbox and yard covered with native plants.

From the South, both Nifong and Green Meadows intersect Forum Blvd. Turn north on Forum and go to the first stoplight. Turn left on Chapel Hill and see directions above.

For more information call Nadia or Randy at 234-2088 or 289-2018

Memorial for Marge McDermott

Hawthorn NPS has collected \$735 to plant a tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) at Rocheport for Marge. The sign will be a beautifully engraved rock. If we have enough now to plant a woodland garden for hummingbirds and butterflies under the tree. It will all be planted early next spring. Thank you for the donations.

Please Step Forward For Service

There is a need for a few inactive members to step forward to fill spaces temporarily filled by a few hard working folks who cover several duties each. We are in need of a president, a newsletter editor, and a person who knows how to manipulate a web site. Please contact one of the officers ready to volunteer a little time to a very good environmental and educational service.

___ Student (\$11.00)

___ Regular (\$16.00)

___ Contributing (\$26.00)

___ Life (\$200.00)

Includes both Chapter and State dues.

Make check payable to: **Missouri Native Plant Society.**
Send check and this form to: Paula Peters, 2216 Grace Ellen Dr., Columbia, MO 65202

MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri Native Plant Society—Hawthorn Chapter
July 1 through June 30.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day (or cell) _____

Email: _____

Do you want to receive email updates between newsletters?

Yes No

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:

(circle preference) **Email Regular mail**

(Email delivery brings you color photos and it saves NPS money)

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