



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 1

January 2008

## **Hawthorn Chapter Officers:**

*Acting President*  
Nadia Navarrete-Tindall  
2116 Grant Lane  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573.234.2088  
[navarreten@missouri.edu](mailto:navarreten@missouri.edu)

*Vice President*  
Not filled

*Secretary*  
Jean Graebner  
1800 Roby Farm Rd.  
Rocheport, MO  
573.698.2855  
[jeangr@socket.net](mailto:jeangr@socket.net)

*Treasurer*  
Paula Peters  
2216 Grace Ellen Dr  
Columbia, MO 65202  
573.474.4225  
[prpeters@prpeters.com](mailto:prpeters@prpeters.com)

*Chapter Representative*  
Judy Turner  
[jtejasrgv@yahoo.com](mailto:jtejasrgv@yahoo.com)

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:*  
Becky Erickson  
[beckyerick@socket.net](mailto:beckyerick@socket.net)

## **Future Activities**

**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. **Election of President and Vice President will follow the presentation. Please plan to attend.**

**January 17:** Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway. All are invited; please join us.

**January 21:** Plant Propagation Workshop, 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. **Snow date: January 28** Please bring seeds to share. Please bring pots for exchange and enough potting soil for you and another. See article p3.

**January 28:** Newsletter items are due.

**January – February:** Impromptu hikes, weather permitting. Hikes will be announced by email. Please call Becky for your area &/or date preference 657-2314. Please call Paula if you additionally want to be placed on a phone call list 474-4225.

**March 10:** Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Dorie Draper will present a program on her botanical drawings, which are mostly natives.

**April 4 – 6:** State Board Meeting. Joint meeting with the Arkansas NPS. Lodging in Harrison, Arkansas

**April 12:** Native Plant Sale – Bradford Farm 9 – 12

**June 20 – 22:** State Board Meeting. Squaw Creek NWR and other sites, lodging in Mound City, MO

**June 26:** Native Plant Field Day – Bradford Farm

**September 12 – 14:** State Board Meeting. South St. Louis Area – La Barque Watershed and other sites.

**December 6:** State Board Meeting

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

---

## And Most Recent Stadium Update. . .

Becky Erickson, 657-2314, [beckyerick@socket.net](mailto:beckyerick@socket.net)  
Stadium Project Coordinator

This year's work has come to a close on the adopted roadside along Stadium Boulevard. About this time last year Becky approached MODOT with a proposal that our Hawthorn Chapter [MoNPS] improve the beauty and diversity of the vegetation along the stretch of Stadium across from the MKL Park and MKT trail parking. The bureaucratic wheels turned at an expected pace and we got our permit just in time to start work cutting bush honeysuckle in late April (after the first scheduled work day was frozen out!!).

The first attack on fescue, Japanese honeysuckle, crown vetch, and Johnson grass among many encroaching aliens was done in May, by Ann and Jamie Coe and the second spraying was done in October by Ann and Becky. Ann and Becky hit the Johnson grass in July.

When the weather cooled enough to enjoy autumn outings, several of us went on seed-collecting forays. Ann Wakeman has an antique hammermill which she and Becky put to use for two days breaking up and mixing a pickup load of feed sacks full of collected plant material.

Similar to weather issues of our first work day last spring, the seeding day in December had to be re-scheduled 3 times due to ice-snow-rain-cold. After a delightful lunch at Felini's in downtown Columbia on 20 December, nine of the membership donned our orange vests and scattered a load of seed that packed the back of Becky's little station wagon. Success! What a fabulous accomplishment! Next summer there could be a flush of some of the annual coreopsis and black-eyed susan we threw out. In two years there should be a beautiful transformation on that hill side.

A good deal of thanks goes to the following folks for their contributions to the project. (VERY sorry if I forgot anyone's contribution.)

Spraying: Ann Wakeman, Jamie Coe, Becky Erickson

Brush cutting: Jim Whitley, Glen Pickett, Paula Peters, Jean Graebner, Nadia Tindall, Judy Turner, Kathleen Anderson, Ann Wakeman, Becky Erickson

Seed collection: Nancy Langworthy, Lea Langdon, Paula Peters, Ann Wakeman, Jim Whitley, Judy Turner, Jean Graebner, Wanda Pascal, Vance Clearwater, Nancy Brackhage, Kathleen Anderson, Becky Erickson, Nadia Tindall.

Seed processing: Ann Wakeman, Becky Erickson.

Seed distribution: Jean Graebner, Lea Langdon, Nancy Langworthy, Kathleen and Harold Anderson, Paula Peters, Ann Wakeman, Jim Whitley, Becky Erickson

We can focus on other things for the winter, but in the spring we need to get geared up again to cut more bush honeysuckle and replace it by planting little stick shrubs from the MDC nursery in Licking, MO.

### December 20:

Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!

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

We now meet on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of the month.

All are invited; please join us

## Elections at Regular Meeting January 14

**It is extremely important to attend the regular member meeting this month as we need to elect a new President and Vice-president and discuss a few other activities.**

We are very fortunate to have a few members step up to offer their candidacy for election of the post of officers for the next two years. Candidates for president are Denny Donnell and Nancy Langworthy. Candidates for Vice President are Vanessa Melton and Becky Erickson.

**Denny Donnell** is retired from 26 years as state epidemiologist in Mo Dept of Health. Denny created a solution for lead poisoning in the Mo lead belt. He has had a life long interest in nature and a healthy ecosystem. He recently held the president's position in Columbia Audubon, now chairs the Trailside Nature Center.

**Nancy Langworthy** has recently moved to Rocheport from Paris, France and other international locations before that. She has seen and experienced a broad scope of environmental issues. Nancy is extremely interested in transforming her newly acquired 100 abused acres to natural habitats.

**Vanessa Melton** works as a chemist at USGS office. She has held offices in Audubon, Sierra Club and Stream Team. She holds the vice-president position in Columbia Audubon.

**Becky Erickson** has been a member of NPS for 9 years.

## Member Burns Woods!



John George and Ann Wakeman start a woodland fire at Becky Erickson's house on 29 Nov 07. It was the last day possible to burn since the winter ice storms came the next day. The fire was nearly complete in the 2.2 acres and deemed a success!

## Seed Exchange and Propagation Workshop Information.

Becky Erickson [beckyerick@socket.net](mailto:beckyerick@socket.net)  
657-2314

Hope you have collected seed from you garden and wayside for the seed exchange. It should have been kept in a paper bag under 60 degrees in your house or in a closed container in the refrigerator.

Bring several species: what you want to grow and some to share. If you don't know the name of the plant, that is ok, but if you do know, please label the bag or envelope.

Organize all of your left over pots. You do not have to sterilize them. We especially need 4" pots for the propagation exercise. Hopefully everyone will bring pots of different sizes to exchange for now and for future use. Tall quarts are especially useful for booth sales.

If you have a partial bag of course peat potting soil to share, that would be helpful to bring. Do not use "top soil" as that contains clay which turns to cement in a pot.

We will meet at the Unitarian Church on 21 January at 7 pm unless it is snowing. I will send an email if that date is cancelled; then the meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup>. I will give an explanation of the whys and hows of stratifying native seed and the general propagation of native plants. Call me or email me for more info.



## Greetings from San Diego CA! Dec 16, 2007

Judy Ward (past president) [wardjud@gmail.com](mailto:wardjud@gmail.com) (same email address)

**Dear Native Plant Society Friends,** I can't believe it has already been 6 months since we moved from Missouri. We really like our new home, although the beginning was pretty rocky. The apartment that I found for us online was way too small—now I know that "resort-style living" means living in the space the size of a hotel room. We scrambled around to find a larger place, but had to do some "resort-style living" in a hotel (with our 2 cats!) for two weeks until the new larger place opened up. But now we have settled in and are really enjoying it here.

San Diego has the mildest climate and we live 15 minutes from the Pacific Ocean. Frank has taken up surfing, sea kayaking, and snorkeling and although I occasionally take my turn, I have to say that he is more gung-ho and skilled with these water sports than I am. I enjoy the gentler activities of boogy-boarding, walking along the beach, and playing in the sand with Marcello. San Diego is a big and busy city and it has taken me some time to get comfortable driving on the busy freeways. Now I really plan out every car trip, consider rush hour, and make sure I know which lane I need to be in. I certainly miss the more relaxed driving experience of Columbia.

I have decided to continue to stay with Marcello for the near future. Since September, I have been taking care of another little boy, 3 months younger than Marcello for three days a week. Of course, the extra income was my initial motivation, but other benefits including a playmate for Marcello and more structure to the day have become rewarding. The boy is sweet and easy to nap, which is a real relief as I still spend quite a bit of time trying to get Marcello to sleep. I am patient, so he is well rested most of the time.

Marcello celebrated his first birthday this October. He is an active little toddler! He started walking at 11 months and loves to run. He also loves to laugh, play with toy cars and balls, dance, and say hello to everyone he sees! He is very playful and has made up some of his own games; everyone comments on what a happy boy he is! Every couple weeks, he picks up some new words, and uses them to the almost exclusion of his previous words; this week everything is an apple! Marcello loves to play in the sand and rush into the surf, I think he will soon be joining his dad with the water sports.

Well what about the native vegetation? I am sure that you heard about the wildfires. A lot of them occurred in the wildland-urban interface and the native chaparral, as well as, exotic vegetation burned. The chaparral is quite interesting, almost all of the precipitation comes in the winter, but the coastal vegetation also gets marine fog as a source of moisture. The leaves are thick and typically have thick waxy coatings to resist water loss; members from the heath (Ericaceae) family are well-represented in the native flora, which is quite diverse. I have attended a few native plant society events here, and have even met an author of a local field guide!

I have thoroughly enjoyed keeping up with the chapter's activities through the newsletter and email announcements. I would have loved to join you at the Chestnut festival, wreath workshop, and holiday party. I am so impressed with the dedication of the Hawthorn Chapter members and I truly miss you all! I wish you the best in the 2008 and hope to hear from you soon!

Happy holidays! Judy Ward

**This survey can make a difference in the management of our  
Missouri Highway rights of way.**

If you are interested in expressing your opinion about the billboards or the wildflowers along our state highways, cut off this half page, circle your choices and send it to this address:

Scenic Missouri,  
3963 Wyoming St.,

St. Louis, MO 63116. For more information on Scenic Missouri, go to [www.scenicmissouri.org](http://www.scenicmissouri.org)

**Highway Aesthetics Survey**

In response to legislation seeking to repeal current law and allow nonconforming billboards to be relocated as Missouri's highways are expanded, Scenic Missouri will be unveiling a more positive vision for the future of our highway system. One recommendation will be for the creation of a landscape architecture and aesthetics master planning process for our major highway corridors. Master planning in other states has helped achieve an improved relationship between the landscape and highways.

As Missouri rebuilds its highway system, how important are the following aesthetic programs to you? (Please rank the items from 1 (not important ) to 5 (very important.)

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) The removal of as many billboards as possible:                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2) Architectural details for bridges, soundwalls and other        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3) Significant use of roadside native plantings                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4) Prairie, wetland and/or forest restoration                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5) Parkway design with alignment that works with the<br>Landscape | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

---

**Good 'weeds' that we should learn to love.**

*Nadia E. Navarrete-Tindall*

Call them aggressive, persistent, troublesome, or just call them weeds if you wish, but they are here, always have been, and always will be. If you think that I'm talking about some introduced species, you are wrong. Some native plants, such as tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), common boneset (*Eupatorium altissimum*), and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) are treated as undesirable because they show up uninvited, however, they have their place in nature, whether we want them or not. These and many other native plants survive due to their ability to adapt to a wide range of habitats and disturbances, and because they produce vast amounts of viable seed. These plants are naturally found in prairies, glades, and open woods as well as in fallow fields, in roadsides, or in vacant lots in cities. In spite of their bad reputation they provide beauty and are the source of food and cover for butterflies and other insects during stressful times of the year. Many of these species or their relatives can provide pollen and nectar for pollinators and other beneficial insects (Landis 2007).

Driving along highways in Missouri in early September I was amazed at how green and healthy these species and others look in some of the driest spots along the road. We had had an unusually hot, dry summer and still these plants seem to thrive. Species like ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*) do much better in drainages where there is more moisture but they also grow in dry slopes. They are adapted to hot drought periods, like many other native prairie or savanna species. Tall goldenrod grows vegetatively and develops a fibrous root system before blooming in late summer or fall to escape the hottest period of the year. It has the capacity to clone from rhizomes forming dense colonies during the second year of growth, when propagated from seed. Goldenrod and boneset sprout even after severe pruning or mowing in late June and still bloom in later summer or early fall. Other species

---

### Good Weeds cont . . .

that are seen in these hard conditions are winged and smooth sumac, wild plum, and dogbane. These species all have something in common, they are perennial, spread from seed and vegetatively and are usually considered weeds in gardens and crop fields; however, their importance in providing food and cover for many insects and birds is usually underestimated. They add color along roads and by providing habitat for butterflies, allow you to see a butterfly or two that manage to escape the traffic and your own windshield. (For identification of these species consult the Flora of Missouri webpage.)

If you are interested in finding out if you already have these plants in your garden? Try selecting an open spot of your choice and kill the grass either by covering with black plastic or with 1% glyphosate in the fall. In the spring, make a survey of all the seedlings growing in your treated area. Keep the area mowed until June. When you stop mowing, start observing what you have there. If you need any help identifying your plants consult with a Botanist or talk to your nearest Native Plant Society in your area. Take pictures for your records. Allow your plants to develop until they bloom in the fall. Who knows maybe you will find some less usual natives in your own backyard.

If you are interested in diversifying your new plant bed, plant other species in early spring or in the fall. You only need to water your plants during establishment if rain is not in the forecast and fertilization is usually not necessary. If you prefer to plant shorter species than tall goldenrod, tall eupatorium, and common milkweed, you can choose *Solidago nemoralis*, *S. petiolaris*, or *S. rugosa*, *Eupatorium rugosum*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, and *A. purpurascens* among others.

Call them weeds if you want, but you can learn to love these plants. They don't ask for much and can give you a whole different world of nature in your yard.

#### Selected references:

Landis, E. and others. 2007. Enhancing beneficial insects with native plants. University of Michigan.

<http://nativeplants.msu.edu/>

Maddox, G.D. and others. 1989. Clone structure in four *Solidago altissima* (Asteraceae) populations: Rhizome connections within genotypes. *American J. of Botany*, Vol. 76: :318-326

Missouri Botanical Garden website: <http://www.missouriplants.com>

Photo 1. Paper wasp among many other insects visiting flowers of tall boneset grown in the author's backyard.

Photo 2. Tall boneset and Buckeye butterfly in a recently cleared wooded area in Columbia.

Photos by Randy Tindall



**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)**

Hawthorn Chapter Missouri Native Plant Society  
Newsletter editor, Becky Erickson  
PO Box 496  
Ashland MO 65010-0496

