



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 4

April 2008

## Hawthorn Chapter

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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly. Send your submissions to:

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573-657-2314  
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## Future Activities

**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. Please bring your extra potted plants and help us with the booth.

**April 13: Tree planting day at Stadium site.** Alternate date, in case of rain or cold, April 27. Watch email for exact time and place. If you want to help, but do not receive email, call 657-2314 (leave a message = name, phone number and what you want to do.)

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

**April 20: Earth Day Festival and Street Fair.** 12 to 5:30 – Please plan to help with our booth. Set up will be at 9:00 – all cars must be out by 11:00. We will be at #A4 and A5 on the North side of Elm near the University gates. Rain date is April 27.

**May 4: Trip to Whitmire Wildflower Garden,** at Shaw Nature Reserve (a division of MOBOT) in Gray's Summit, MO. Depart Columbia from the MDC parking lot on College Ave (at Stadium Blvd in Columbia) at 8:00 am. We will eat lunch at a local restaurant after our walk.

**May 12: Regular Meeting** at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Becky Erickson will give a program about the natural history of fire on the continent, the cumulative research of response to seasonal fires, and how to burn a small area.

**May 17: Hike to Auxvasse Glade** in Callaway Co. The access to this spectacular area is through private property. John George (MDC Regional Naturalist) will be our guide.

**May 24: Visit to Audubon's Wild Haven.** Columbia Audubon has been working to restore and enhance their wild area for several years. Habitats include a glade, pond, open woodland, and butterfly garden.

**June 7: Trail-Side Nature Expo** 9-12. At the Forum Nature Area (MKT Trail parking lot). Please plan to help with our booth.

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

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

## Hawthorn Regular Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Jean Graebner, Secretary*

President Nancy Langworthy called the regular meeting of the Hawthorn Chapter to order at 7 p.m. Monday, March 10 at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Prior to the meeting, 12 members had gathered at Felini's Restaurant in downtown Columbia for dinner with the evening presenter, Dorie Draper, botanical drawer, of Hermann, MO.

Nancy called our attention to a bill being sponsored in the state legislature by Rep. Judy Baker of Columbia which would "authorize counties to impose a sales tax to fund the purchases of easements for farmland and natural land preservation." Tom Vernon had asked that the proposal be brought to the attention of the chapter. Nancy had copies of the bill available for anyone interested. She then introduced the speaker.

Mrs. Draper identifies herself as a "botanical drawer" not a "botanical illustrator." The distinction, she said, is that as a "drawer" she has more freedom. One has to have extensive scientific background and training to illustrate because minute details and exactness count, she said. She strives for accuracy as she draws plants, but "has more freedom." and wants her work to "reveal the soul of the plant, what it is that makes it unique." She does not work from photographs because she wants her results to be more dynamic.

The artist displayed examples of her work, including three different versions of her favorite wildflower—the dandelion. She said she has used cultivars as subjects but wildflowers are her first love. She described her studio, discussed her tools, graphite and heavily waxed pencils, and said it usually took about 20 hours to complete a drawing.

Mrs. Draper is a retired elementary school teacher who has had an interest in drawing all of her life and began drawing plants when she took a class at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. She was inspired by her teacher, and still attends a studio class regularly in Hermann.

The president then called for committee reports. Treasurer Paula Peters reported that we have \$4631.84 in the treasury with \$735 dedicated to Marge McDermott's memorial.

Jim Whitley said that the walk to his property to see snow trillium and wild leeks would be postponed from March 22 to March 29 because of a late spring. Becky Erickson asked members for any ideas for the Field Trip Committee.

In response to requests from the State Board MONPS for nominations for annual awards, Becky named three persons: Jim Whitley, Ann Wakeman, (both members of Hawthorn chapter) and Brad Jacobs,

ornithologist with the MO Department of Conservation. Becky, Jim and Vanessa Melton were named to a committee to write the recommendations for the three.

Recommended changes to the By-laws, which were published in the March newsletter, were then brought up for comment. Nancy Brakhage questioned the clarity of Article II, Section 3 of the revised version. It states "A member may vote via an absentee ballot..." She pointed out that it is unclear whether a reason is necessary to obtain an absentee ballot and, if so, what reasons are acceptable. She said that if no reason is required, then that should be made clear. Denny Donnell also made the point that if proxy or absentee ballot votes were to be accepted on published motions, the published version would have to be presented for the final vote unchanged.

Nancy Brakhage also said that to better secure continuity, she would recommend retaining the part of Article V, Section 1 which specifies that President and Secretary should be elected in odd-numbered years and Vice President, Treasurer, and Chapter Representative should be elected in even numbered years. In the revised version all officers would be elected in the same year.

The president said that all comments concerning the revision would be taken into consideration in coming up with a final version. Parts that were the subject of discussion will be reprinted in recommended version in the April newsletter and final vote on the revisions will be at the May meeting.

Jean Graebner reported that when Judy Turner returns from Texas, the committee on Marge McDermott's memorial (Jean, Judy and Paula Peters) will visit Rocheport leaders to get information for placing a memorial tree and marker somewhere in the village.

An informal show of hands indicated that several people would work at our table at the Trailside Expo at Forum parking lot on June 9. We have taken part in this activity for the past two years. Meeting was then adjourned.

**April 17:  
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**

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## Tree Planting Day at Stadium Site

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

One hundred fifty bare-root twigs have been ordered from the MDC nursery at Licking for the Stadium Project site. On 15 March, five members came to Jim Whitley's basement where we made 150 chicken wire cages. They are stored in Jim's back yard. We will need every car available to carry all of them to the Stadium site which is about 8 blocks from Jim's house.

If the trees arrive early in the month and if the weather is tolerable on 13 April, we will plant the trees. We will need water. So if you buy cat litter in 2 gallon jugs, save the jugs to fill with water to carry to the site. If you have a shovel, please bring that, too. If the weather is bitter cold again in early April or the trees don't arrive before the 13th, we will make another go of it on 27 April.

Watch your email for possible adjustments. If you want to help this project and do not get email, call and leave a message so I can coordinate your effort by phone.

## Book Review: The World Without Us

Thomas Dunn Books//\$24.95

Reprint from *Nature Conservancy: V58No1*

By David Connell (amendments by B. Erickson)

How would the natural world respond if humans were no more? That is the premise behind Alex Weisman's latest book, The World Without Us. By investigating places already devoid of humans, Weisman uses (well researched and correct) hard science to speculate on how nature would stretch its legs in a depopulated world. He finds signs of nature's resilience everywhere, from Korea's Demilitarized Zone, which has become a wildlife refuge for rare species like the Asian black bear and Eurasian lynx, to the Soviet Union where swallows and skylarks returned only a year after they were silenced by Chernobyl's radioactive blast. (He investigates which of man's products will decay first and which will leave an environmental footprint far into the future.) Weisman's mind-boggling, if somewhat macabre, thought experiment showcases the power and persistence of a nature unharnessed.

## What's This Plant?



This is Amelanchier arborea, service berry. It grows in dry woodland slopes. It is the first tree to bloom from late March through April.

Dee Dokken and Vanessa Melton responded correctly to the quiz.

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Send the Common name, Scientific name, habitat and bloom time to Becky. Everyone who answers it correctly will be listed in the May Issue with a new photo of a plant.



## Step Softly: Environmental Stewardship

*RE-print from the Central Missouri Orchid Society newsletter March 2008*

*Marilyn H.S.Light*. Gatineau, Quebec, Canada [milight@igs.net](mailto:milight@igs.net)

Spring is in the air! Native (plant) enthusiasts are gearing up for another year of discovery and enjoyment of their favorite blooming beauties. Photographers are hoping to find the species that eluded them previously. Others including myself are looking forward to initiating or continuing long term tracking studies. Now is a good time to consider the relative impact of all those feet on the (tender spring natives) and their environment.

Believe me, even one person moving carefully through the forest has an impact. Several people following in those same footsteps multiplies the trampling effect. Damage to fragile ecosystems such as bogs and fens may be more quickly apparent but all habitats are vulnerable to foot traffic. Ironically, it is the recent popularity of the 'great outdoors' that exacerbates the problem. The very (plants) that interest us may disappear as a result of our forays unless we consider the impact of what we do (Penskar and Higman, 2000; Meleg, 2003). Studies in Finland, Ireland and Switzerland have measured the effect of trampling on forest trees, tree seedlings, ground cover plants and on the soil microbial community. The first plants to disappear are tender herbs like mosses. "With only minimal trampling 20 peatland species are lost" (MacGowan, 1996). In a Finnish study, the microbial community structure of the humus layer in an urban forest was affected by a cascade of events beginning with trampling then extending to changes in vegetation and litter quality which ultimately affected humus pH (Malmivaara-Lämäsa and Fritze, 2003). The Swiss study by Waltert et al. (2002) investigated the impact of trampling on the mycorrhizal roots of seedling and mature trees. Not only did they report that trampling caused considerable damage to forest floor vegetation but it especially affected seedling trees and their mycorrhizal fine roots.

We do not yet have a measure of the indirect effect of trampling on (plants) but there are reports of the deleterious effect of leaf damage and removal. When leaves of *Dactylorhiza maculata* and *Tipularia discolor* (native orchids) were removed in whole or in part experimentally, plants became progressively smaller and were less likely to flower the following year (Whigham, 1990; Vallius and Salonen, 2000). Effects of human visitation and touch on plant growth and herbivory have been documented for species other than orchids (Cahill Jr., Castelli and Casper, 2002; Hik et al. 2003). Because we do not yet know enough about the impact of human visitation on (our native plants), we must minimize disturbance when we visit sites to photograph or otherwise study them. We must take care. So how do we minimize any damage we may cause?

1. Consider the habitat and its relative fragility. Wetlands are especially vulnerable and should be visited with great caution and preferably not in large groups.
2. Consider the (plant) and its rarity. While we may want to see the 'rare' ones, it might be best to leave a fragile site or a small population completely undisturbed. When in doubt, please don't.
3. Consider the orchid and its ecosystem. Orchids do not live in isolation. They have a complex life cycle and a reliance on particular habitat conditions to survive. Human visitation can lead to soil compaction, changes to the soil microflora and loss of vulnerable species.
4. Walk softly and carefully. Even common orchids like the Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) deserve our consideration and respect if we expect to learn something meaningful about their behavior.
5. Be an exemplary environmental steward. Stay on paths and walkways where they are provided and especially where the park respectfully requests that you do so.

Ever since I began a study in 1985, I have limited my visits to the absolute minimum needed to gather data, have walked on exposed rocks wherever possible to minimize disturbance, and have resisted moving companion plants that were spoiling my view. I wear running shoes which are less potentially damaging than hiking boots.

Acknowledgements

I thank Gary Backhouse, Mike Duncan, 'Kip' Knudson, Anna Murphy, Paul Scannell, Jyotsna Sharma and Dick Thomson for their helpful comments and suggestions.

**(Ed note: References available on request. There is not room to publish them here.)**

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## Put a Little Nature on Your Plate

Submitted by Carol Davit

Conservation Heritage license plates let you become a driving force for conservation in Missouri. You can pay for them wherever hunting and fishing permits are sold, such as Conservation Nature Centers and hunting and fishing equipment retailers.

For a \$25 annual donation to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF), you will receive a "Conservation Heritage License Plate Emblem Use Authorization Form" that allows you to order the Conservation Heritage plate of your choice from the Missouri Department of Motor Vehicles. You may order Conservation Heritage plates any time, regardless of your current license plate expiration date.

The MCHF directs funds from license plate and other donations to conservation projects statewide, working with the Missouri Department of Conservation and conservation groups like Audubon. The nonprofit MCHF was founded in 1997 to meet the increasing demand placed on Missouri's natural resources. The MCHF helps support Missouri's nature centers, outdoor classrooms, Stream Teams, and helps acquire and protect biologically diverse lands statewide. In the past decade, it has raised and dispersed more than \$7 million for conservation work in Missouri.

In addition to displaying a Conservation License Plate on your vehicle, there are other ways you can contribute to MCHF. Questions? Contact the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation at 1-800-227-1488 or visit the Foundation's Web site at [www.mochf.org](http://www.mochf.org).



## Salvation of Scientific Nomenclature

Adapted from the Central Missouri Orchid Society newsletter March 2008 by Becky Erickson.

Native plant enthusiasts have thrown up their hands in despair over all the changes in scientific nomenclature. First it was the species and then the genus names which began to change. The purpose of a classification system is to facilitate communication. It is a user tool based on scientific data, but it must be user-friendly. With the advent of molecular systematics, we have new insights into relationships within and between genera and species.

The DNA data has caused taxonomists to re-examine the morphology and to rethink generic concepts. What is a genus? How big should it be? Can it be too small to be useful? Unfortunately many of the recent changes in genera and species did not consider the impact on gardeners and field botanists (the users) who have used names such as Aster and Solidago all of their gardening years.

Learning, at least some of the family and genera names will help your communication with other gardeners and botanists. There are at least seven commonly known "coneflowers", which are in four very different genera. "Blazing star", "snakeroot", "sunflower" create a mind-bogglement of confusion because these common terms include many species across several genera. What if you wanted *Echinacea paradoxa* and you got *Ratibida pinnata* because you asked your nurseryman for yellow coneflower. These two species tolerate very different habitats. So one will not persist where you want to plant it.

Some references to assist learning scientific nomenclature are:  
New pronouncing dictionary of plant names. 1964. American nurseryman publishing company, Chicago.

Donald J Borrer; Dictionary of word roots and combining forms. 1971. Mayfield publishing company, Mtn View CA.

<http://tomclothier.hort.net> : Short dictionary of specific epithets.

(Julian Steyermark) Flora of MO revised by George Yatscavitch

Lynn Clark & Richard Pohl. Agnes Chase's First book of grasses. 1996. Smithsonian Institution Press, Wash DC.

Edgar Dennison. Missouri wildflowers. 1998. MDC, Jefferson City MO

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**Please Step Forward For Service**

We need help with the booth when we attend fairs and field days. We need assistance with several workdays at the Stadium 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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