



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 5

May 2008

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

### Newsletter Editor

Becky Erickson  
573-657-2314  
[beckyerick@socket.net](mailto:beckyerick@socket.net)

## Future Activities

**May 7 & 14: Wildflower Walks with Randall Clark.** Meet in the lower Rock Bridge State Park parking lot at 5:30 pm. The group often goes to dinner after the walk.

**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 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 a brief explanation on how to burn a small area.

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

**May 17: Hike to Auxvasse Glade** in Callaway Co. The access to this spectacular area is through private property so John George has offered to be our guide. Depart MDC Research Center (College and Stadium) at 9 am. We will have lunch in a Fulton restaurant.

**May 24: Warren Taylor** has graciously invited us to enjoy the native diversity on his private land in Callaway Co. Depart Columbia from the MDC Research Center (College & Stadium) at 9:00 am (Please be early). We will eat lunch in Fulton after our walk. Directions on P4.

**June 1: Visit to Audubon's Wild Haven.** Habitats include a glade, pond, open woodland, and butterfly garden. Depart MDC Research Center (College and Stadium) at 9 am. We will carpool on the 20 minute trip and have lunch at a mutually chosen cafe after the hike. Bring your id books and a pad of paper and pencil.

**June 7: Trail Side Nature Expo.** 9 -12 At the Forum Nature Area. (Near the MKT 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. Consult PetalPusher for details.

**June 26: Quail and Native Plant Field Day** – Bradford Farm, 4:00 to 8:00 pm Please plan to help with our booth.

**June 29: Schwartz Prairie,** St Clair Co. 175a prairie with 237 species including Geocarpon minimum. Depart MDC Research Center (College and Stadium) at 8 am. This is an all-day trip so bring all of your creature comforts including plenty of water and snacks. We will stop at a restaurant for a mid-day meal (possibly at Collins) on the way home.

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

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225.

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## News from Stateside

*Submitted by Judy Turner, Chapter Representative*

The last quarterly meeting for the fiscal year - or the Spring Meeting, if you prefer, was a joint meeting with the Arkansas NPS, held in and around Harrison, Arkansas. Since our usual board meeting time was taken up by a joint program get together, our board held a short meeting following the program. Here are some of the highlights.

- Plans for the new website are being finalized. The potential new name will be [www.monps.org](http://www.monps.org). Dave Winn of the Kansas City Chapter will be the new webmaster when it is all setup.

- George Yatskievych is processing articles for the next *Missouriensis*. If you have anything to submit, get it to him soon!

- 12 new members since the last state board meeting for a total of 301. 80% of members have a chapter affiliation.

- A Hudson grant was awarded. See the next *Petal Pusher* for the details.

- Members were urged to participate in the USDA and National Science Foundation's Project Budburst.

- Newly formed Chapter information is being updated on the state brochures via the use of stickers.

- The next state board meeting will be the annual meeting, then the quarterly meeting. The highlight of the annual meeting will be the state awards presentation and the election of officers for the coming year. Both meetings will be held at the Squaw Creek NWR Center on June 21. Botanical hike opportunities will include participating in updating the plant inventory for the Refuge on Friday before the meeting. See next *Petal Pusher* for details.

### Now for the fun part!

Friday night the Arkansas NPS members welcomed us with snacks and a program on Ozark flora. We had an opportunity to meet and visit with folks from all across Arkansas. There was about an equal representation of Missouri folks.

Hawthorn Chapter participants were Paula, Becky, and Judy. We each independently decided that we wanted to take the Buffalo National Scenic River hike. And we were not disappointed! Spring had arrived in that beautiful northwest corner of Arkansas. Which was pretty amazing since not more than two weeks prior, there had been a major flood in the area. While there was still evidence of how high the water had gotten in the river, it was nice and dry above. Our hike was a trial in the Lost Valley area. The flora was outstanding! Along the trail we were greeted with scads and scads of yellow dogtooth violets, trilliums (Wake robins, Ozark, and even some

yellow ones), and bellworts. We also saw the Alabama snow wreath, which, unfortunately, had not bloomed yet. Other flora seen, blooming and not, included Beech drops, Beech trees, Blue Violets, Bluebells, Bluets, Yellow Buttercups, Celandine Poppy, Cinquefoil, Christmas Fern, Comfrey, Copper Iris, Cranesbill, Crested Iris, Dewberries, Ginger, Golden Seal, Hepatica, Jack in the pulpit, Jacob's Ladder, May Apple, Ozark Palmer's Saxifrage, Pine tree (maybe short leaf), Plum tree, Redbud tree, Resurrection Fern, River Oats, Rose Verbena, Sand Phlox, Serviceberry, Solomon's Seal, Spring Beauty (but not the Ozark one), Sweet William, Toothwort, Vinca Minor, Violet Wood Sorrel, Wild Garlic, Wood Betony (flamboyant maroon!), Wood Spurge, and Yucca. Along this same trail was the Angel Falls and Native American bluff shelters. Unfortunately, we hadn't backpacked our lunches, so we were forced to return to the car when hunger seriously threatened!

Our next hike was to glades which followed along the high side of the Buffalo River near Pruitt, Ark. It was not nearly as spectacular as the Lost Valley Trail. However, we managed to see a few things - *Andropogon ternarius*, Foxtail grass, Indian Paintbrush, Little Bluestem, Orange Puccoon, Pussytoes, Quince, Spanish Moss, and Yellow Star grass. Our interests were not yet satisfied for the day, so we traveled back to Harrison to visit the "best chert prairie left in Arkansas," which is actually within the town of Harrison. The unfortunate part of it was that about half of it had been destroyed by a new school campus. There we met up with a couple of folks from the Kansas City chapter. Underneath the dry grasses we encountered dried and new foliage of Cream indigo, Coreopsis, Golden Alexander, Bee balm, Goldenrod, Mountain Mint, Rattlesnake Master, and Shooting Stars.

After a quick meal and a short rest we again gathered in the motel conference center with the Arkansas folks for another excellent program and snacks, of course. Paul McKenzie and Theo Witsell, botanist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, presented slides and discussion of plants unique to the Ozark regions of both Missouri and Arkansas. Some of these plants only occur in one state. But that is probably because they haven't been located yet in the other state! At the end of the program we all agreed that we were looking forward to our next joint venture in the summer of 2009 to botanize the prairies of western Missouri.

(See related photos on last page)

**Be sure to check you email for  
calendar updates or call  
Paula 474-4225 for activity updates.**

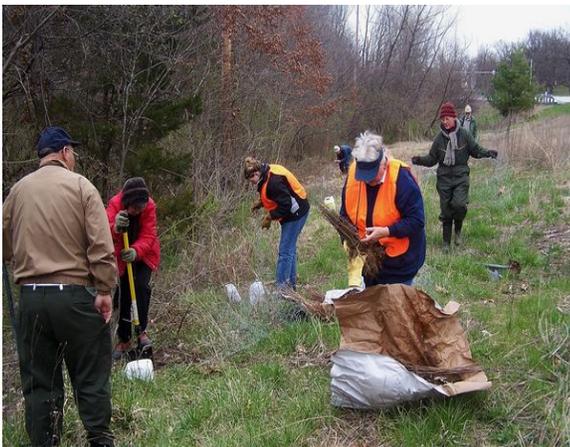
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## Tree Planting Day at Stadium Site

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

One hundred fifty bare-root twigs were successfully planted along the tree line at the Stadium Site. Jim Whitley, Jean Graebner, Nancy Langworthy, Nancy Brakhage, Vanessa Melton, Paula Peters, Lea Langdon, Wanda and Les Parscal all worked to get the trees planted, watered and caged within two and a half hours. The crew brought plenty of water and tools so with some digging holes and some planting and watering the job moved along at a good pace. We should see the results of our blooming trees behind the prairie flowers in a couple of years.

Four of us had a good lunch at Berlin Café after the morning's work.



**May 15:  
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.**

"Go my Sons, burn your books. Buy yourself stout shoes. Get away to the mountains, the valleys, the shores of the seas, the deserts, and the deepest recesses of the Earth. In this way and no other will you find true knowledge of things and their properties." Peter Severinus, 16th. century Danish educator

## What's This Plant?

**The April flower was correctly identified by Chris Angelo and Vanessa Melton:** the flower is bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*. Bloodroot grows on wooded slopes and in valleys and by our spruce trees by the patio. It is thrilling with its big, white blooms in early spring, i.e. now! (March/April)



May flower . . .



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

## **Spring Trillium**

*Submitted by Vanessa Melton*

Several of us went on a hike in late March to see blooming snow trillium on Jim Whitley's property north of Columbia, and as you can see from the photo, this trillium has a snow-white flower. Jim rescued 6 bulbs 25 years ago from the area now under the waters of Mark Twain Lake and transplanted them on his place near The Pinnacles. It was a successful venture and those 6 bulbs are now over 250 plants. This species is short, only 2-3 inches tall, and is uncommon in this state as it has only been documented to be naturally growing in 10 counties in north east Missouri. It grows well on steep, north-facing slopes with little leaf cover.

Those of us who ventured down to Harrison, Arkansas back in April (4-6) for the joint state board meeting with Arkansas Native Plant Society were treated to another species of trillium – the Ozark wake robin or Ozark trillium. This trillium is taller, around 6 inches, and has a white flower which occasionally occurs in graded shades of pink and rose. I checked out a few websites on trillium when I arrived home from the meeting, and it is amazing how many different species of trillium there really are.

The common trillium seen around this area with its rich burgundy color should be blooming now. You should definitely head out into the woods to see if you can find it because you never know what other pleasant surprises you may find.

## **Directions to Warren Taylors' Property: Hike 24 May**

Last year we found a large colony of goldenseal and had trouble to miss stepping on the putty-root orchids. There are some spots of amazingly high diversity on Warren's land.

From the Ashland: exit off US 63 take Y east to Guthrie; turn south (right) on J through Guthrie and New Bloomfield. J turns to gravel (= CR 436) west of US 54. One mile past the overpass turn south (right) on CR 431 and go one more mile. The double green gait is on the left.

From Columbia: Take WW west through Millersburg, then south (right) on J (through Guthrie) to New Bloomfield. Follow J through New Bloomfield. After going under the US54 overpass the blacktop turns to gravel which is CR436. One mile past the overpass turn south (right) on CR 431 and go one more mile. The double green gait is on the left.



Jim Whitley's  
Snow trillium  
by V. Melton



Ozark trillium  
by V. Melton



Red and yellow trillium  
by B. Erickson

## Book Review

### Bringing Nature Home

Dr. Douglas Tallamy. 2007. Timber Press.  
Adapted by Becky Erickson from article by  
Janet Allen in Wild Ones Journal 21:2

Plants are the foundation of the food web. Dr. Tallamy, entomologist, explains that if the plants with the correct leaf chemistry (taste and nutrients) don't exist for the insects to flourish, then higher classes of birds and mammals are also deprived. One study shows that native plants support 35 times more caterpillar mass (by weight) than did alien plants. Without the correct chemistry for insects and others to savor, the plant material is not recycled.

Dr. Tallamy states three truths about biodiversity. First: every creature needs its preferred habitat and food to thrive and reproduce (= plants it evolved with). Second: in many parts of the country, the only place left for wild creatures is in our yards. Third: when we plant our yards with species alien to the ecosystem we live in we have created an ecological desert for wildlife.

The author continues this theme by pointing out that by creating a demand (buying) alien plants, there is the possibility of bringing in a disease (chestnut blight, oak decline and many more), devastating insects (Japanese beetle, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth and many more) and invasive plants (bush honeysuckle, serecia lespedeza, spotted knapweed, kudzu, oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard and many more).

Tallamay's book is about ecology and gardening; his statement is inspiring and sobering. His message is urgent to accelerate our efforts to reestablish native plants in gardens and acreages across the United States.

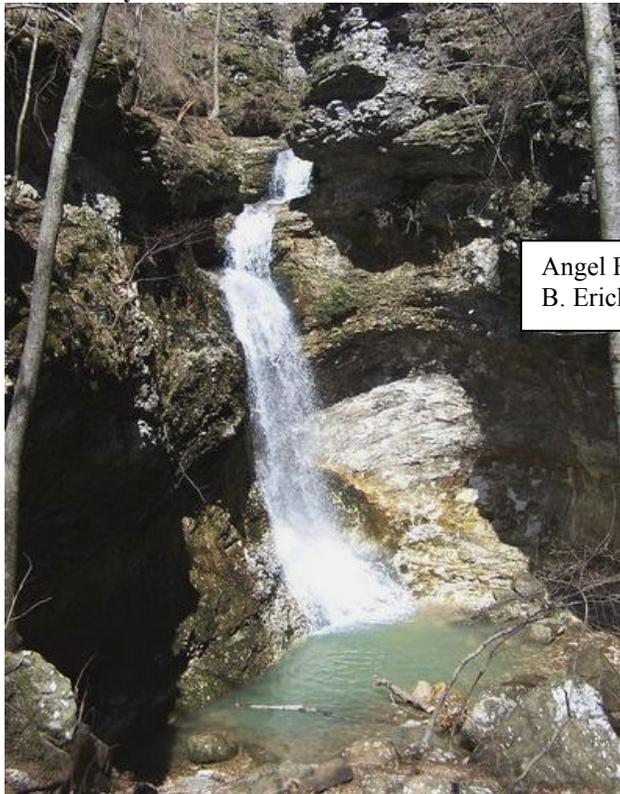
He issues a call to action in the afterword titled "the Last Refuge": *"For the past century we have created our gardens with one thing in mind: aesthetics. We have selected the plants based on their beauty and shape within our artistic designs. If we design our buildings with the same aesthetics with which we design our gardens, they would fall down. ... As gardeners and stewards of our environment, we have never been so empowered and ecological stakes have not been so high."*

The book is written in a mostly popular language. When the occasional scientific term crops up, this is the opportunity to look it up. When the occasional journal or book reference is interjected, this is the opportunity to delve deeper into the subject.

## Photos from Arkansas



Bellwort by B. Erickson



Angel Falls  
B. Erickson

Yellow dog-tooth violet morning and afternoon by B. Erickson



**Please Step Forward For Service**

We need a person to print and mail the newsletters. 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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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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