



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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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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Future Activities

There is still time to gather seed from wild areas for the seed exchange in January and for your own reconstruction. If there is someplace you would like to go to collect seed or for a walk and would like company, please call Paula; we can get notice out 2-3 days in advance of your chosen date and form a carpool.

December 6: State Board Meeting at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium, in Columbia. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Nadia will be our Chapter Rep at this meeting.

December 13: Holiday Party at Nancy Langworthy's home at 4:30 pm. See directions inside (page 4). A brief meeting for **election of officers** will take place.

December 18: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the **Uprise Bakery** at 10 Hitt Street, just south of Broadway. **Please note – this is a new location.** There is usually parking on Broadway or in a nearby parking garage.

January 12: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Bill Clark will present "Dandelions From Around the World".

Late January: seed exchange and propagation workshop: bring several packets of seed and pots to exchange.

April 19: Earth Day (rain date April 26)

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

If you have not sent your dues to Paula for the 2009 fiscal year, this will be your last newsletter.

Thanks to Jean, Paula, Vanessa, Nancy, Glenn for their submissions to the newsletter this month.

Minutes of Regular Meeting 10 Nov

Submitted by Jean Graebner, Secretary

President Nancy Langworthy opened the regular meeting of Hawthorn Chapter at 7 o'clock Monday evening, November 10 at the Unitarian Universalist church in Columbia. Nancy Brakhage presented the slate of officers for this year's election: Vanessa Melton for vice president; Paula Peters for treasurer; and Nadia Navarrete-Tindall as chapter representative. All were nominated unanimously. Serving on the nominating committee with Nancy were Laura Ellifrit and Ann Wakeman.

Jean Graebner reported that the Tulip Tree, purchased with funds donated to a Marge McDermott Memorial, has been planted in the plot at the corner of First and Center Streets in Rocheport. She drew attention to her laptop computer which was set up to display a slide show of the planting of the tree by David Vance, employee at Total Environments. This is the first step in Rocheport's plan to create a "pocket park" at the site which will be an attraction for hikers and bikers on the near-by Katy Trail. A new sidewalk is being constructed along the street-side of the park. It leads past the fire station to the post office and "downtown" Rocheport. The town's future plans for the park include amenities such as benches and tables, historic markers and art work.

Paula Peters asked for requests for Department of Conservation Natural Events Calendars. She will order them and they will be delivered at the Holiday party which will be held at the home of President Langworthy on December 13th. Directions to Nancy's home will be in the December calendar. [posted here on p4]

Member Bill Clark will present a program on "Dandelions in 15 Countries" at the next regular meeting, January 12.

The president then introduced our speaker, Dr. Chris Starbuck, horticulturist in the Plant Science Division on the University of Missouri campus. Drawing on his 20-year experiences working with hydroponics methods of holding bare root plants for permanent planting, Dr. Starbuck reported of impressive success in planting bare root trees in any month of the year.

He showed slides of the process and noted the lush development of the root system on plants held in well-watered gravel beds. The advantages of transporting plants bare-root rather than "balled and burlap" include lower cost, reduced weight, easier to handle, and after being held in the gravel beds a larger root system with root tips that will begin to take up water from backfill soil immediately after planting.

There will always be a place for B&B methods, he said, but experiments have shown that holding bare-root plants in gravel beds can extend the time frame for final planting impressively and without loss of survival.

"For example," he said, "if a group plans a large planting project and it is necessary to convene a large group of volunteers on a weather-friendly day, being able to hold the plants for a long period without damage to them is very desirable."

A time for refreshments and socializing followed the presentation.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Submitted by Nancy Langworthy, President

The nominating committee of Nancy Brakhage, Laura Ellifrit, and Ann Wakeman has announced the slate of candidates for this year's election of Hawthorn Chapter officers: For vice-president, Vanessa Melton (note that in January 2008 she was chosen to finish Nadia's term as v-p, left unfilled when Nadia stepped back up to be the interim president; this will be Vanessa's first real term); for treasurer, Paula Peters (her second term); and for her first term as chapter representative, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall.

The election for these posts will be held at the December 13th winter holiday party at Nancy Langworthy's house. Remember that absentee ballots were approved his summer with the bylaws' amendment. If you cannot attend the party, you may vote by calling or emailing any officer; in the case that unexpected bad weather or events cause you not to attend at the last minute, we will accept absentee votes through 4 pm December 13th.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Paula Peters, Treasurer

We had a great day at the Chestnut Festival in October. We took in \$404.00 and 1 membership. The profit from book sales was \$35.00, and the profit from plants was \$103.00, for a total profit of \$138.00.

Our current treasury balance is \$5393.21. This includes \$315 for Marge's memorial fund, and \$280 that will be given to the state at the December Board Meeting for dues. We will also recoup \$210.00 from the calendar sales, for an estimated balance of \$5008.21. [PLEASE remember to pick up your ordered calendars!]

If you have not sent your dues to Paula for the 2009 fiscal year, this will be your last newsletter.

2008 Nature Calendars

Submitted by Paula Peters, Treasurer

The order for MDC nature calendars was made on November 14, and the calendars will be available at the Holiday party at Nancy's Dec 13, at the State Board meeting, the regular January meeting, or can be picked up at my home (2216 S Grace Ellen Dr, Columbia). The price for the calendars is **\$6.00**. Paula – 573-474-4225.

**December 18:
Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!
11:30 am at Uprise Bakery
Hitt Street just south of Broadway**

**We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
All are invited; please join us.**

Cedar Wreath Workshop and Cookout – November 15



Jim and Paula cut cedar

B. Erickson



Wanda admires her new wreath

V. Melton



Paula's new wreath

B. Erickson



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Laura, Randy, Jim, Kay, Wanda watch the chickens cook



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Les, Kay, Laura and her sister remove cooked chickens. Bonita cleans up.

Volunteer of the Month

Re-print from: News & Notes from the City of Columbia, Office of Volunteer Services

Written by Columbia Volunteer Donna Lester

Vanessa Melton, our November Volunteer of the month, works for the U.S. Geological Survey and Environmental Research Center in Columbia. Her passion for the environment shows in her work and her volunteer service!

A city TreeKeeper since 2005, she has helped in projects spanning from Dolomite forest restoration to trail tree pruning. She is a charter member of the Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project (C.A.R.P.) that began in March 2007. Vanessa leads two Stream Teams, at Hinkson Creek and at Cedar Creek. She is also active with the Columbia Chapter of the Audubon Society, the Native Plant Society, Hawthorne Chapter and the Master Naturalists. Vanessa volunteers for Cleanup Columbia held each April.

Thanks go out to Vanessa for all the hours she devotes to Columbia's environmental programs.

Holiday Party at Nancy Langworthy's House

Please bring a dish to share. Beer and wine are welcome in moderation. Lingering daylight will help you find your way to our house, so the party will start at 4:30 pm Dec 13. We will have a brief business meeting starting at 5 pm, primarily to elect officers. If you cannot attend, please call one of the officers to register your absentee vote before 4pm Sat.

Directions: We are just south of Woodlandville at 7301 N Boothe Lane; phone is 874-2463. Boothe is a gravel road parallel but east of J, meeting with J at Woodlandville a **bit more than 5 miles north** of the intersection with Hwy 40. Take Boothe to the right off Hwy 40 and head north; or you can take J from Hwy 40 to the water tower at Woodlandville, make a sharp right onto Boothe, and come **south 1.1 miles**. From Harrisburg/Hwy 124 on J take a gentle left onto Boothe at the water tower. A black mailbox (street numbers on the side) and metal pipe gate on the west side of Boothe mark our driveway.

What's On the Horizon? The Future of Natural Landscaping in America

By Neil Diboll owner of Prairie Nursery, Westfield WI. Reprinted [and edited] from the Wild Ones Journal, Nov/Dec 2008 issue

Entire article appears at www.for-wild.org.

Small is back, perhaps even soon to be beautiful. People can no longer afford to heat and cool a house that is three times as large as they really need, much less decide whether or not to fuel their vehicle or put food on the table as the price of gasoline approaches \$4 per gallon. The recent five-year surge in the price of commodities, although cyclical by nature, is serving notice that the era of scarcity is not far around the corner. The Earth simply cannot support six billion people with aspirations to live like Americans. And of these commodities, two will dominate and drive the decisions made by individuals, businesses, governments, and nations:

Oil and Water: These two fluids are the lifeblood of the global economy and life as we know it.

Water: The vast majority of the fresh water consumed globally is used for irrigation of food crops. A tremendous amount is also used in various industrial processes. And the rest is used for drinking, washing, flushing, and, of course, watering the lawn.

Water is already in critically short supply in many parts of the world. In most parts of the world water rights are feuded over. In the new industrial areas, streams are fouled by industrial wastes. Here at home, large portions of the Ogallala Aquifer in the western United States have been drawn down to precipitously low levels by center pivot irrigation operations in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska to grow corn for ethanol.

Prolonged droughts in the southeast and western US are causing water shortages and incongruities in old and new water laws. The pressure is on to pipe that water to the fools who built their houses in the desert, and who will soon be wondering what to do when they turn on the tap and nothing comes out. And of course, they will need to water their bluegrass lawn in the middle of the desert summer.

A Fungus Amongus

Submitted by Glenn Pickett

I thought the group might find these photos interesting... (Are there mycologists in the group?)

This is on the side of a sugar maple in my dad's front yard. Lion's Mane, Bearded Tooth, Pom Pom, Hedgehog Mushroom are all apparently *Hericium erinaceus*. I undersand it is excellent to eat. I didn't have the nerve....



all fungus photos by Glenn Pickett

There are those who say that some day water will be more valuable than oil. You can't drink oil. The next time you fill up your gas tank at the convenience store and buy a quart of bottled water for \$1.50, you just paid \$4 a gallon for gas and \$6 a gallon for water.

Oil: Gasoline and diesel are the fuels of choice for transportation. They are compact, high in energy, and easy to distribute and carry. Nothing else presently available is as convenient for moving cars, trucks, trains, and ships. Oil and refined fuels can be moved by pipeline to distant locations quickly and cheaply. Petroleum-derived fuels and natural gas supplanted coal more than 50 years ago for home heating and transportation, much to the relief of those who had to breathe the smoke-filled air of our cities and industrial areas.

Many of those who watch the oil industry closely, believe that we have reached, or are near "peak oil." This is the point at which maximum global oil production has been reached, after which annual production will decline due to increasingly less available oil. As demand rises, the price climbs, often rapidly as we have seen in the past few years. *And even if more oil is discovered and made available on the world market, there are two forces that will mitigate the increased use of oil in America:*

Global Warming: It has become increasingly clear to most scientists and many politicians that global warming is a human-induced phenomenon, or is at least significantly exacerbated by the burning of fossil fuels. There is little doubt that limits on carbon emissions will be enacted at some point in the future, limiting the future use of hydrocarbons by increasing the cost to do so.

Political and Economic Control of Oil: In the late 1970s, western energy corporations controlled over 50 percent of the world's oil supply. But, the outlook for access to oil by western nations is increasingly tenuous, and the national security issue of oil availability is taking on a new sense of urgency. The long term prognosis: the future almost certainly will be characterized by increasingly expensive oil and higher cost of ALL of its products.

The Future of the American Landscape

Which brings us to why oil and water will strongly influence the future of the American Landscape. The four largest crops in America, not necessarily in order of total acreage, are: Corn, soybeans, wheat, and lawn. That's a lot of lawn that requires energy and water. It has been calculated that the average American lawn receives four times the volume of chemical applications as an average farm field. Fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, are derived from petrochemicals. Add to that the trucking costs for delivery around the country; and then there is the additional energy cost of hauling away the product of all the fertilizing – the lawn clippings to the landfill or community compost pile. And of course, mowing all that lawn requires a lot of gasoline. People are beginning to balk at paying \$4 a gallon to fill up their mowers.

Lawn and Pollution: It has been estimated that 25 percent of the air pollution in the state of California is generated by two-cycle engines, primarily lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and other lawn care machinery. Also, excess fertilizer and lawn chemicals are often washed into waterways during increasingly common flash flood events.

Why the Preoccupation with Lawn in America?

Lawn was a status symbol in England in the 18th and 19th centuries. Only the wealthy owned land and could afford to pay the gardeners to maintain a lawn. Lawn is also the perfect example of our need to control and dominate nature. The environmental impact of the lawn of a hundred years ago was relatively light; it was achieved mostly with sheep and hand-swung scythes. We didn't have the technological know-how to poison our back yards and water resources to maintain lush growth.

With the rise of the American middle class in the late 19th century, and the development of mechanized mowing machines, possessing a lawn became an economic reality for thousands of homeowners. Now, they too, could emulate the lifestyle of wealthy Europeans. The very concept of "lawn" was associated with the closely held American values of freedom and upward social mobility.

So when your neighbors frown upon your "messy" and "weedy" natural landscape, they are probably not reacting solely from the standpoint of imposing their landscape taste upon their neighbor. The planting of a prairie in your front yard is not merely a landscaping sin – it is an affront to the greater group, their shared values, and sense of propriety. In some suburban circles the planting of prairie is actually viewed as a serious social *faux pas* – it requires that action be taken by the authorities to restore the proper landscape order.

The Future: Since these native landscapes should conveniently require less maintenance and less money, we now have the answer to many a landscape dream. An ecologically sound, economically-attractive alternative to mowing the lawn would be welcomed by a host of home-owners, and cost-conscious captains of corporate America. The native-plant community best suited to the open spaces presently claimed by the lawns of America is the nearly-extirpated North American prairie. No insecticide. No fertilizer. No herbicide. No mow!! And, over time, the prairie plants attract native micorhiza to hold the soil in place and recycle detritus.

The most compelling reasons to plant prairies and other native plant communities is that they are actually net carbon sinks, since much of the carbon dioxide they extract from the air goes into their roots. The average prairie plant has about two thirds of its living biomass underground in its root systems. Approximately one third of the root mass of the average prairie grass dies back every year, adding organic matter to the soil and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

However, prairie is not the answer to every landscape application. One obviously would not want to plant a prairie right up to the house, especially if burning is the preferred method of management. It is difficult to play badminton or croquet in a prairie. There are other solutions for areas where lawn is preferable, due to the proximity to buildings, shaded conditions, or alternative uses. For these situations, many people are seeding a variety of short and slow-growing native grasses. It requires little or no fertilizing, is more drought resistant than bluegrass, and has an innate ability to crowd out many weeds.

As we come to terms with the new realities of limited oil, water, and other resources, it is inevitable that ecologically sustainable landscapes will replace the old, high-maintenance lawns of the past. Perhaps our future status symbols will be not how much we consume, but on how little impact we each have on Earth. Maybe, we will someday be measured in terms of how much of the world's resources and natural beauty we preserve for future generations. Now that's a horizon I can look forward to seeing.

Please Step Forward For Service

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. *If you have not sent your dues to Paula for the 2009 fiscal year, this will be your last newsletter.*

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day (or cell) _____

Email: _____

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Yes No

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:

(circle preference) **Email** **Regular mail**

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