



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 1

January 2009

## *Hawthorn Chapter*

### **Officers:**

#### **President**

Nancy Langworthy  
573-874-2463  
[nancylangworthy@hotmail.com](mailto:nancylangworthy@hotmail.com)

#### **Vice President**

Vanessa Melton  
573-864-3905  
[vanndawn@gmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@gmail.com)

#### **Secretary**

Jean Graebner  
1800 Roby Farm Rd.  
Rocheport, MO  
573-698-2855  
[jeanr@socket.net](mailto:jeanr@socket.net)

#### **Treasurer**

Paula Peters  
2216 Grace Ellen Dr  
Columbia, MO 65202  
573-474-4225  
[peridae1@gmail.com](mailto:peridae1@gmail.com)

#### **Chapter Representative**

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

#### **Web Master**

Judy Ward  
[wardjud@gmail.com](mailto:wardjud@gmail.com)

#### **Web site:**

<http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org/>

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)

**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 Becky; we can get notice out 2-3 days in advance of your chosen date and form a carpool.**

## **Future Activities**

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

**January 17: Seed Exchange and Propagation Workshop, Saturday afternoon 2 pm** at Nadia's house (garage) 2116 Grant. Bring several packets of seed and pots to exchange. Bring a folding chair for your own comfort. The garage will be heated, but not up to 70 degrees so dress accordingly. Storm date is 26 Jan, Monday evening 7pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

**January 22: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!** 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery at 10 Hitt Street, near Broadway.

**Winter hikes will be impromptu according to the weather. Please let Paula or Becky know when and where you would like to go.**

**March 9: Regular Meeting** at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Speaker to be announced.

**April 19: Earth Day (rain date April 26)**

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

Thanks to Nadia, and Nancy L., for their submissions to the newsletter this month.

## Holiday Party

*Submitted by Nancy Langworthy*

Good weather, good food, and good cheer were the wonderful conditions of the Hawthorn Chapter's holiday party at my house on December 13<sup>th</sup>. With a good turnout we unanimously voted in Paula Peters to her second term as Hawthorn treasurer, Vanessa Melton to her first term as vice-president (remember that last year she was filling out Nadia's term), and Nadia Navarrete-Tindall to her first term as chapter representative. Just for the record, I want to mention that four members who could not join us exercised their right to use an absentee ballot.

The Blazing Star is awarded to a person in Hawthorn or in the regional community (Everyone is eligible) who has shown leadership and dedication over time to furthering the knowledge and understanding of native plants and their roll in ecology. We awarded Blazing Stars to three of our own: Jim Whitley, Paula Peters, and Nancy and George Brakhage. All of them have offered their knowledge, service and countless hours of effort to keep Hawthorn running smoothly and to help achieve its goals. Unfortunately, Nancy and George could not be with us and so we will make the actual award at another day, we hope as soon as possible.

And, wow, did we talk and eat well; no one paid any attention to the holiday music playing on the stereo. It was a very good party and folks left happy and high on the all the fabulous homemade desserts they'd eaten.



R. Tindall

Nadia (center) congratulates the Blazing Star recipients, Jim Whitley (left) and Paula Peters (right)

## A Message from the Hawthorn President

*Submitted by Nancy Langworthy*

The end of the year and the beginning of a new year is traditionally a time for looking back and planning for the future. Life has been busy and crazy for me recently which reduces the available time for that kind of contemplation. But, I do have some thoughts to share with you.

It's been almost a year since you elected me as Hawthorn Chapter president. It's been a year and a few months since I first met any of you and joined the chapter. It has been a remarkable year for me because of all of you. Sometimes I feel as though I've been swallowed alive by the chapter (I almost want to write The Hawthorn as though it were some sort of living spirit instead of a group of people); I certainly have been buffeted and taken to soaring heights by the energy and commitment of our members. There is indeed among you a communal spirit stronger than the ordinary ethos of a volunteer group.

You have been my teachers and guides. A number of you have become my friends. Some of you I've not yet met, as your lives are too busy to get to meetings often or you live too far for much participation or life in some other way just doesn't allow you to be with us; I do look forward to when you can make a meeting or a botanizing or a party. Clearly, Hawthorn Chapter is only possible because of all of you. This next year may be hard, hard for our chapter and hard for us as individuals. But, remember, botanizing need only cost as much as the gas to get there and the sack lunch to eat afterwards; can't beat that for value for money!

Everyone has been great, welcoming and tolerant of my learning curve. Several of you have taken special efforts to bring me along and deserve very special thanks. What richness!

Thank you, one and all, for this past year.

What we need for this next year is even more energy and commitment. We need to somehow not get stale and be open to new ways of doing things, to new ideas. I'm afraid we may need those ideas and that energy to combat what might be fewer sales of plants or books at our various exhibits; the outlook for the Boone County 2009 economy does look grim right now. This isn't a prediction, just a serious concern. Folks may be less able to listen to why native plants are important, and we'll have to be creative about how to help them see those connections. That means each of you sharing your passion and your own particular awareness of those connections, sharing them with the public and among ourselves. Lots of commitment and re-commitment.

Thank you in advance for this next year--I have great hopes!

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

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

## Birds don't need to know it, but not all berries are berries.

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

While botanizing and learning about my new surroundings in the grounds of Lincoln University, I got a great surprise when I discovered a healthy stand of deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*) at Busby Farm in Jefferson City. Some of the trees were so loaded with the deep-red berries that they almost seemed to be glowing under the shade of 100-year-old oaks in a savanna-woodland remnant at this farm. I was pleased with this find because this remnant – now under restoration - is part of an area being protected for wildlife and planned to be used for environmental education. Finding this holly and other native species make this project more exciting and can save us the time it takes to plant these native shrubs, although there is Japanese honeysuckle and winter creeper that will need to go.

Deciduous holly, also called possumhaw, gets its name because unlike its more common relative American holly (*I. opaca*), it loses its leaves in winter. The berries that are actually tiny-drupes, like peaches or plums, remain in the trees during winter. Birds eat the whole fruit. After digesting the soft covering, they leave the hard seeds miles away with fertilizer.

Deciduous holly is dioecious, which means that male and female flowers are found on separate trees. It starts producing fruits at 3 to 4 years of age. Propagation can be done from seed or cuttings. Seed need to be moist-cold-stratified and may take two to three years to germinate. Cuttings are easy to root and will assure you the gender of the tree. Several cultivars are sold in the trade market; however local collections are sold as bareroot seedlings by the MDC-George White Nursery and by local nurseries including Missouri Wildflowers in Brazito. Deciduous holly can grow in shade or full sunlight, in loam to poor soil. It tolerates acidic soils and naturally grows from glades to swamps along streams. Several mammals consume the fruit and as many as 20 or more birds including bobwhite quail, robins, and mockingbirds. The caterpillar of Henri's elfin (*Callophrys henrici*) use the leaves as fodder.

Other species that produce berries (actually drupes too—not that the birds care!) are sumacs: winged, smooth, and aromatic (*Rhus copallina*, *R. glabra*, and *R. aromatic*). These native shrubs more abundant than deciduous holly are related to poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and the tropical mango and cashew (*Mangifera indica* and *Anacardium occidentale*). All these species except for poison ivy have fruit edible for humans. Sumac fruits are consumed by mammals and many birds, but for some special reason poison ivy fruits are eaten by more than 75 species of birds! including bobwhite quail, cedar



NNT photo

Deciduous holly fruiting at Lincoln University's Busby Farm



NNT photo

Bright velvety red berries of a natural stand of sumac by the Runge Conservation Center, JC.

waxwings, and turkey. Flowers provide nectar for butterflies and the red-banded hairstreak use the leaves for food. Sumacs are shrubs that form thickets under light shade to full sunlight and can be propagated very easily from cuttings and seed. They are good alternatives to shrub honeysuckle and are also sold by the MDC and Missouri Wildflowers nurseries.

There is another group of plants that does not produce berries but hips -the roses-. Roses produce rose hips (which are actually pomes like apples-again birds don't mind) that are consumed by a large number of birds and mammals. Rosehips and sumac berries make excellent teas as a source of vitamin C and trace elements good for the immune system.

In Missouri, 5 species are climbing wild rose, prairie wild rose, smooth wild rose, pasture rose, and swamp rose (*Rosa setigera*, *R. arkansana*, *R. blanda*, *R. caroliniana*, and *R. pallustris*; see Steyermark for their ranges). The most common in our area is climbing rose that grows along fencerows and reproduce easily from moist-stratified seed or cuttings. This ability to grow from stem tips allows it to spread down fence-lines. It may be confused with multiflora rose because of the similar growth habits; however, climbing rose is not as aggressive as multiflora rose. The delicate pasture rose is found in abundant numbers in prairies in slightly moist places. Pasture rose can take two winters to stratify seed; however, once established, it has a tendency to spread rhizomatously. Climbing and pasture rose make excellent garden plants for their fragrant flowers and as a food source. Climbing rose can be trained to create a fence.



NNT photo

Cluster of rose hips of *R. setigera* resembling tiny apples (pomes with inferior ovary). Note the stiff, conical thorns.



BE photo



BE photo

Carolina rose and single hip. Note longer, hooked thorns.

---

## Seed Exchange and Propagation Workshop

There are three purposes for holding this workshop.

**ONE:** Part of our mission statement is to educate about all aspects of native plants.

**TWO:** When you have learned some of the secrets to coaxing wild seed to germinate, you can plant plants in your garden that you didn't have to drive 50 miles to purchase.

**THREE:** We need plants to sell at our booth when we set it up at events such as Earth Day and Chestnut Festival. There are always more seedlings germinate than you can use in your garden, so we are expecting you to leave some of them in pots to donate to the booth efforts. The booth efforts are primarily educational so by donating plants, you are partially fulfilling your part in passing on your knowledge to the next person. When you have propagated several species of plants, you then have the knowledge to explain [teach] people at the booth with questions.

---

When you arrive at the workshop, come with an open mind and a willingness to get your hands dirty. If you have ever put three ingredients together in the kitchen and heated it until it changes so you can eat it [if you can cook basic food], then you can grow native plants. Identification and understanding of environmental processes and how the seed responds to them will be explained.

Please bring some 4" pots for your own use. Or if you have room to stratify a whole flat, bring one or two flats with support trays. Also bring any pots you want to trade – just remember you will want some quart pots [maybe 10-30] for saleable plants. If you have any small quantities of potting soil left from last year, bring that.

Some of us have saved seed before it shattered. If some of your garden plants have been sheltered, they might still have seed. I went down my neighborhood roads this week and pulled seed from several species. Pull the whole heads off; seal them securely in an envelope or other tight container so the tiny seed does not escape. Please identify the species of the seed you bring.

## A Chance to Network with Plant Conservation Alliance [PCA]

Please share this correspondence with anyone who might be interested as we could use some help keeping the membership informed.

Attached is a flier for a new site that is "green". You are welcome to post announcements regarding up and coming events for your organization such as symposiums or workshops as well as any other information you'd like to pass on. We are currently working on a calendar that is able to be edited by members where one would be able to input their own events. The events calendar will appear on our home page as well as on our main index page.

An area was created for other environmentally responsible groups. They [such as our Hawthorn Chapter] will be able to provide a link to their site as well as contact information and any other information deemed pertinent such as their mission statement for no charge. Hope being members will use this area as a resource. If you know any organizations that might benefit from a free plug, please feel free to share a link to the Wildlife Gardeners site with them.

The site opened earlier this week:

[www.wildlifegardeners.org](http://www.wildlifegardeners.org) Hope you'll join us.  
Cheers, Fearless Weeder \*David\*

**This is a personal invitation to visit the Wildlife Gardeners Forums opening on Dec 15, 2008.**

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." **Aldo Leopold**

Mission Statement:

*Wildlife Gardeners promotes environmentally sound practices to preserve biodiversity. We do so by encouraging discussions of the preservation, restoration and establishment of native flora and fauna AND sustainable gardening practices. Best science will prevail. We are an environmental tutelage and advocacy organization dedicated to fostering a love of ecosystems and education in the areas of environmental science and natural history.*

We believe that you will find much to like at our website. With over 50 forum topics, you're sure to find something of interest to you. A few examples of our topics include Birds, Butterflies, Insects; Organic Gardening, Composting; Fruits, Nuts, Herbs, Spices, Vegetables, Tomatoes; Permaculture, Stewardship, Natural Areas; Native Plants, Mosses, Ferns, Grasses, Woodies; Greenhouses, Landscaping, Tools; etc. Get the answer to that question you've always had, or just

join in on the discussions on your favorite topics. And please take a moment to post in our feedback area should you have any suggestions that might help make our site better. To enhance your forum community experience, please note that Wildlife Gardeners has no google or yahoo syndicated ads. Actually, we have no third party ads at all. There will be no pop-ups or pop-unders or other annoying ads dancing across your monitor.

Happy Gardening,

The Wildlife Gardeners Team

[www.wildlifegardeners.org](http://www.wildlifegardeners.org)

**[Ed note: It would be a good idea to join the PCA news service; you will get more than the once-per-month story I send out.]**

native-plants mailing list

[native-plants@lists.plantconservation.org](mailto:native-plants@lists.plantconservation.org)

[http://lists.plantconservation.org/mailman/listinfo/native-plants\\_lists.plantconservation.org](http://lists.plantconservation.org/mailman/listinfo/native-plants_lists.plantconservation.org)

### Please plan to join us in '09!



---

**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. We need people to grow plants for fundraising and we need people to man our information booth at events such as Earth Day.

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

---