



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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Hawthorn Chapter Officers:

President

Nancy Langworthy
573-874-2463
nancylangworthy@hotmail.com

Vice President

Vanessa Melton
573-864-3905
vanndawn@gmail.com

Secretary

Jean Graebner
1800 Roby Farm Rd.
Rocheport, MO
573-698-2855
jeangr@socket.net

Treasurer

Paula Peters
2216 Grace Ellen Dr
Columbia, MO 65202
573-474-4225
peridae1@gmail.com

Chapter Representative

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Web Master

Judy Ward
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

Future Activities

Watch email for notices of winter hikes. We want to visit the new Lycopodium site in Boone Co with the Ellifrits. **Please offer suggestions of your favorite winter spots** to Paula or Becky; we will get them posted as soon as weather permits. If you do not communicate by email and have a suggested destination or want notice of a hike, please call Paula to get on the phone list.

February 19: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery at 10 Hitt Street, near Broadway

March 9: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. There will be a presentation of the budget, followed by a discussion, led by Glenn Pickett, about the possibility of offering grants to the Public Schools. We will vote on these issues. Information will be available in the March newsletter. Snacks are always welcome.

April 11: Native Plant Sale at Bradford Farm. 10:00am to 2:00 pm We plan to have a booth. Details will be in the March newsletter.

April 17-19: State Board Meeting - Sikeston area. Wonder field trips planned.

April 19: Earth Day (rain date April 26) 12:00 to 5 pm Please watch for additional information, and make a note on your calendar to come and help with our booth. This is a primary opportunity for us to connect with the public and teach interested individuals.

May: Date TBA. Dedication of Marge's Memorial at the Rocheport Park, followed by snacks and drinks at the home of Jean Graebner.

May 29-31: Summer Board Meeting – A joint meeting with the Arkansas Society in Springfield area. This is a stimulating opportunity to have a co-meeting with NPS of another state. Missouri visited Arkansas last spring; seven of Hawthorn joined the gathering. This summer we will host them at some of our premier prairies. This is an occasion not to be missed!!

June 18: Bobwhite quail/Native Plant Field Day at Bradford farm. Please plan to help with our booth.

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

Thanks to Nancy Brakhage, Nancy Langworthy, Ann Wakeman, Jean Graebner for their submissions to the newsletter this month.

Minutes of the January Membership Meeting

Submitted by Jean Graebner Secretary

Vanessa Melton, vice president, called the regular meeting to order at 7 o'clock Monday evening, January 11 at the Unitarian Church in Columbia. Becky Erickson announced details for the plant propagation event which will be held at the home of Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, 2116 Grant Lane, at 2 o'clock Saturday, January 17. She asked those who plan to attend to bring pots (including extra ones if available), planting soil and as many seeds as they have gathered. She said she hopes there will be seeds for all to share.

Paula Peterson announced that we have \$4,991.91 in the treasury.

Laura Ellifrit passed around a sample of a unique native plant find made by her son, Paul. While on a family hike along the equestrian trail in the Mark Twain National Forest, he found several patches of a primitive plant commonly known as Club Moss, a type of Ground Cedar. After consultation with Dr. Robin Kennedy, curator of the herbarium at the University of Missouri (and also a chapter member) and with George Yatskievych, MO Botanical Garden, the plant was identified as *Lycopodium digitatum* (see photo). Interesting details about the plant: It is listed in Steyermark as uncommon, found only in eight counties, all in the Taum Sauk area. This is the first find in Boone County and the plant's furthest northwest location in the state.

Bill Clark, noted Columbia Tribune columnist and chapter member, gave a fascinating program showing slides of wildflowers of foreign lands. The presentation was designed as a quiz with the audience challenged to guess the location (country) of a series of pictures. While a major league baseball talent scout, Ol' Clark (as he refers to himself) has traveled in 50 countries and used his camera prolifically. The five countries that he chose to highlight in this presentation were Nicaragua, Curacao, Australia, Mali and El Salvador. While someone in the group managed to come up with the correct guess in each case, the speaker had to give some broad hints.

Vanessa closed the meeting with an announcement that the March presenter would be Glenn Pickett, chairman of our chapter's committee on designing an educational grant program to be offered to Columbia Public School teachers in the school year 2009-2010.

Meeting was adjourned for refreshments.

**February 19:
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.

A Message from the Hawthorn President Reblooming a Good Idea!

Submitted by Nancy Langworthy

As the calendar indicates, our March meeting will be devoted to considering a version of something that was tried before. One of our purposes is to promote public education of the value of native flora, but we have found that difficult to actually accomplish beyond our one-on-one efforts at our booths and in our private lives. A few years ago, Hawthorn offered scholarships to college level botany classes to pay expenses to conferences, but there wasn't much public response to that idea. Members have not given up on promoting public education but have been disappointed in that particular avenue. A new option for public education is now being investigated: offering funding for small projects to the public schools. A committee has been established to flesh this idea out: Glenn Pickett, chair, and Jean Graebner, with one or two other members to be identified at the March meeting (if we go forward with this). They have worked out some ideas, but there are many issues to be considered and decided. In March our treasurer Paula Peters will provide us information on our treasury and income/spending patterns, so we know our financial situation.

More details on all this will be published in next month's newsletter. This note is just an advance notice to get you thinking about that purpose and how to accomplish it. Then we will talk and decide a) if we want to pursue this, and then b) how much money we'd devote to it, how often, etc. So, please put the March meeting down on your personal calendars in bold letters so you make a point of keeping that time for this meeting.



Lycopodium photos by Paul Ellifrit



Add to your calendar:

Missouri River Communities Network is hosting a workshop series focused on healthy watersheds from January to June 2009. Local guest speakers will be giving presentations on watershed conservation and management issues. These workshops are **FREE** and open to the public, there is no registration required and seating will be on a first come first serve basis. For more information about this series please email Katrina Thomas missouririver@gmail.com or call us at 573-256-2602

Life in the Water -- Water Quality Indicating Insects

Monday, Feb 9

Damselflies, mayflies, crayfish, etc... What can these critters tell us about the health of a stream? Learn about Water Quality Monitoring methods or just brush up on your knowledge and skills. To be held at 7:00 PM in the Friends Room at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia. Presented by Priscilla Stotts, Water Quality Monitor Volunteer/ Stream Team Coordinator with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Stormwater Mitigation: Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels

Tuesday, March 3

Stormwater, its causes, problems, and how rain gardens and rain barrels work to mitigate the negative effects of stormwater runoff. To be held at 7:00 in the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia. Presented by MRCN Missouri Stream Team AmeriCorps Assistants and the Columbia/Boone County Rain Garden Project.

Endangered & Invasive Species in the Mo River Region

Monday, April 6

A discussion of local endangered and invasive species. To be held at 7:00 PM in the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia. Presented by John George, Natural Historical Biologist with theMDC.

MO River Flood Plain Ecology: How it all comes together Mon, May 4

A discussion of the ecology of the Missouri River Flood Plain and its tributaries. To be held at 7:00 PM at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia. Presented by Tim Haller, Park Ranger with the US Fish & Wildlife Service Big Muddy Fish & Wildlife Refuge and Charles Laun, retired Biology Professor with Stephens College.

Community Rain Garden Workshop Saturday, June 6

The workshop will start with a 30 minute presentation on creating rain gardens as a tool for mitigation of stormwater runoff, then we will move outside to participate in creating a rain garden by digging, planting, mulching, etc... in a new community rain garden site. The second part of this workshop will include an outdoor hands on component, so please dress accordingly. Presented by MRCN Missouri Stream Team AmeriCorps Assistants and the Columbia/Boone County Rain Garden Project

Back Yard Bird Count

Visit www.birdcount.org for easy-to-follow instructions including tips on bird identification. **February 13 thru 16:** count birds 15 minutes each day at one spot. The numbers you turn in help ornithologists and ecologists keep track of population distributions. If you snap a good image you can post it in the online gallery on the same website.

The Dark Side of Earthworms

(<http://www.wssa.net/WSSA/PressRoom/WSSA...:Nightcrawlers.htm>)
Reprint suggested by Ann Wakeman

Scientists have discovered that "underground gardening" by earthworms is contributing to the spread of giant ragweed, a plant that causes sneezes and sniffles and is one of the nation's most irritating weeds.

"Earthworms help ragweed thrive by systematically collecting and burying its seeds in their burrows," said weed ecologist Dr. Emilie Regnier of Ohio State University. "In fact, we've found that more than two-thirds of all giant ragweed seedlings emerge from earthworm burrows."

Though giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) is best known for the prolific blanket of pollen it produces to plague hay fever sufferers, it also takes a costly toll on crops. Throughout the Midwest, the weed is especially a problem in corn and soybeans, causing yield losses of 50% to 75% when left unchecked.

Scientists have long been mystified by the rapid spread of giant ragweed since it produces relatively few seeds. Now research shows the lowly earthworm is one of the culprits. Regnier's study focused on *Lumbricus terrestris* worms - commonly known as nightcrawlers. Until now, nightcrawlers have had a stellar reputation among growers since their burrows promote water filtration and their eating habits help make nutrients more available to crops. "Our study shows that nightcrawlers actively forage for weed seeds, pull them into their burrows and then 'plant' them under up to several inches of soil," Regnier said.

Two-thirds of the seeds produced by a ragweed plot were found in burrows. Each burrow examined contained an average of 127 ragweed seeds, or 450 seeds per square foot. "We found the worms collect and bury 10 types of seeds in the same size range," Regnier said. "But they have three special favorites - giant ragweed, bur cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus*) and sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)."

Plant Lore

Submitted by Nancy Braklage

For many fall seasons I have picked up some persimmons to examine the seeds. According to lore they will predict the kind of winter ahead. When you cut through the seed laterally, you will see a whitish figure in the center that, with a little imagination, resembles cutlery. If it looks like your dinner knife, the winter will be bitter cold with cutting winds. A fork predicts a mild winter with little snow. A spoon predicts that a winter with heavy snow lies ahead. This fall's cutlery? Indeed it was a knife shape in the crossed-cut seed!

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginica*) is a member of the ebony family and its fine-grained, flexible wood is used for golf club heads and pool cues. Depending on the genetics of each tree, it can have sweet, tasty fruit or dry fruit so full of alum you have to spit it out. Usually the fruit that falls before frost is sweeter; those that hang on late need a hard freeze to have a tolerable taste.

Coralberries: unimportant late winter food

Suggested by Jean Graebner; downloaded from MoBirds (Audubon listserv), original copy from Bob Fisher, Independence MO.

Coralberries (*Symphoricarpon orbiculata*) are a food of last resort for the 12 or more species of birds that sometimes eat them. Their leaves and berries both contain *saponin*, a chemical of which *digitalis* is one form, and are mildly toxic to humans and animals. Apparently the reason they are so dominant in cow savannas. Because of this toxin, most birds and animals dislike them, and they often get through most of the winter uneaten.

Members of the honeysuckle family and closely related to snow berry or wolf berry (*S. occidentalis*), coralberries spread by rooting where the plant runners touches the ground and tend to form dense colonies. For that reason, it may not be so important for them to make their berries (which are really drupes, or fruits surrounding a single seed, like peaches and cherries) attractive to seed dispersing birds. Perhaps making their fruits edible but distasteful is a strategy that favors dispersal of their seeds later in the winter and closer to spring.

Coral berries are called "buck brush" because deer are said to eat them. However, deer dislike them almost as much as birds do. (Ed note: It takes 2 years for seed to stratify. The runners look more like honeysuckle than the bushes do. If you can rip up the underground root runners, they can be woven into a trellis or used to tie up droopy vines; they last several years.)

Peat Moss Shortage

Reprint suggested by Ann Wakeman

The peat moss industry in Canada is having one of its poorest peat harvest seasons on record. The result will be a shortage of peat for professional growers.

The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association said that the Canadian peat harvest at the end of August was only at 43% and carry-over inventory at 17%. This is a record low of 60% in comparison to the last 5 year average of 75%. Abnormal and persistently wet conditions throughout all Canadian peat harvest regions have reduced the harvest.

Many sustainable growers have already switched away from using peat moss in growing media because of concerns about the damage to peat bogs. Some alternatives to peat include compost, coir, rice hulls, composted pine bark and sawdust, vermiculite and perlite. ATTRA has a list of potential potting mix ingredients that are allowed in organic production at <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/potmix.html>.

Photos from Propagation Workshop



Glenn and Paula check i.d. in the new & improved Dennison



Becky explains plant life cycles to Hans and Rosie, new Columbia residents from Germany. Photos by Ann Wakeman.

Dr. Peter Raven Receives the 2009 Scott Medal and Award

Date & Time: Sunday, March 15, 4 pm

Cost: Free & open to the public

Location: Lang Performing Arts Center,
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

Special Notes: Reservations are required, call 610-328-8025

Join us Sunday, March 15 at 4 pm at the Lang Performing Arts Center to hear one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation and biodiversity, Dr. Peter H. Raven, the 2009 recipient of the Scott Medal and Award, speak about issues he is passionate about and how these passions have shaped his life. Described by Time magazine as a "Hero for the Planet," Dr. Peter H. Raven was selected to receive the 2009 Scott Medal and Award because of his outstanding national contributions to the science and art of horticulture.

For four decades he has headed the Missouri Botanical Garden, an institution he nurtured into a world-class center for botanical research, education, and horticultural display. Dr. Peter H. Raven champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants and is a leading advocate for conservation and a sustainable environment.

Kathryn L. Kennedy, President and Executive Director of Center for Plant Conservation stated that Dr. Peter H. Raven's "...global vision caused him to worry about our consumptive society, and moved him to lecture widely about the need for stewardship of our resources years before 'sustainable' became a buzzword for environmental responsibility. In fact, he's a principal driving force of the public awakening about this concept of restraint and careful management."

In addition to being President of the Missouri Botanical Garden, he currently serves as George Engelmann Professor of Botany for Washington University of St. Louis, and adjunct professor of biology for St. Louis University. He received an AB with highest honors from the University of California, Berkeley in 1957 and a PhD from University of California, Los Angeles in 1960.

He has received numerous prizes and awards, including the prestigious International Prize for Biology from the government of Japan; and the U.S. National Medal of Science, the country's highest award for scientific accomplishment. He has held Guggenheim and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellowships.

Dr. Peter H. Raven was a member of President Bill Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. He also served for 12 years as home secretary of the National Academy of Sciences and is a member of the academies of science in Argentina, Brazil, China, Denmark, India, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Sweden, and the U.K., among other countries.

The author of numerous books and reports, both popular and scientific, Dr. Peter H. Raven co-wrote Biology of Plants, an international best-selling textbook, now in its sixth edition. He also co-authored Environment, a leading textbook on the environment.

Dr. Peter H. Raven embodies the meaning of the Scott Medal and Award with his outstanding national and international contributions to the science and art of gardening and developing a wider interest in gardening.

The Scott Arboretum is an educational garden of ideas and suggestions. Covering more than 300 acres of the Swarthmore College Campus and exhibiting over 4,000 different kinds of plants, the Arboretum displays some of the best trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals for use in the Delaware Valley. Established in 1929 as a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott, the Arboretum is open to the public year-round free of charge, from dawn to dusk. Adam Levine in the November/December 2002 issue of Garden Design magazine described the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College as "the most beautiful campus in America." Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call the Arboretum Offices at 610-328-8025. Visit us on our website on www.scottarboretum.org.

Rebecca (Wehry) Robert
Member and Visitor Programs Coordinator
The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College

Ed note: [reprint] this message could have been received 26 Jan 09 of you had requested the native-plants mailing list:

native-plants@lists.plantconservation.org
http://lists.plantconservation.org/mailman/listinfo/native-plants_lists.plantconservation.org

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) _____

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Yes No

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(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

