



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 9  
*Hawthorn Chapter Officers:*

**President**

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

**Vice President**

Position vacant

**Secretary**

Ann Wakeman  
5798 Windy Meadows Lane  
Fulton, MO 65251  
573-642-6927  
[mike-ann@socket.net](mailto:mike-ann@socket.net)

**Treasurer**

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

**Chapter Representative**

John [Rusty] White  
573-886-8698  
[rstywhit@yahoo.com](mailto:rstywhit@yahoo.com)

**Web Master**

Doug Miller  
[thedesign@bigthe.com](mailto:thedesign@bigthe.com)

**Web site:**

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

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

**Newsletter Editor**

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

September 2010

## Future Activities

Watch email for notices of impromptu hikes. **Please offer suggestions of your favorite walking destinations** to Paula or Becky; we will get them posted as soon as weather permits. **PLEASE call or email Becky 657-2314 or Paula 474-4225 as soon as you know you will attend an activity.** We don't want to leave anyone behind if weather or plans change. Leave your name and PHONE # if you leave a message. If you do not communicate by email and have a suggested destination or want notice of a walk, call Paula 474-4225 to get on the phone list.

**10-12 September State Meeting – Kansas City Area. Watch Petal Pusher for information.**

**13 Sept Monday: Regular Meeting** at 7:00pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. **Our speaker will be Allison Vaughn, Naturalist with DNR.** Allison will present a program on glade and woodland fall-blooming plants.

**15 Sept Wed, Columbia Audubon Society Meeting: The Growing Crisis In Missouri's State Parks** 7:30 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Speaker Dr. Susan Flader, President of the Missouri Parks Association.

**16 Sept Thursday: Lunch** with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery (RagTag Theater) 10 Hitt Street, just South of Broadway

**18 Sept Saturday: EcoArtFest** at Cooper's Landing (Saturday only) 2pm – 6pm Set-up at 12:30pm Please plan to help with our booth; sign up with Paula.. Relaxing afternoon of good music and fun on the Missouri River. Food available at Cooper's [= grill or good Thi food].

**18 Sept Observe The Moon Night and Audubon's Wildhaven** 7 pm Grand opening of the 1848 vintage German telescope. Bring friends [yhg49@mchsi.com](mailto:yhg49@mchsi.com)

**25 Sept Saturday: In Touch with Nature Field Day at Lincoln University Busby Farm** in Jefferson City. 10am – 2pm. We will be setting up the booth at 9:30am; please contact Becky if you can help. Wagon tours and exhibits to discuss uses of native plants in landscaping, conservation, and as alternative crops will be emphasized. See article Page 3.

**26 Sept Sunday Party for Vanessa and David** at Nancy Langworthy's farm 11am to 1pm. Celebration and Pot luck. See article Page 2

**2 Oct Saturday Mosey at HaHaTonka SP** hosted by Allison Vaughn, Naturalist in DNR. Meet at MDC Research Center [College & Stadium] at 8 am. Late lunch at Native Stone Winery near Prairie Home. Bring a snack, water and other personal comforts.

**Calendar continued on Page 4**

## Party for Vanessa and David

*Submitted by Nancy Langworthy*

**You are invited to a Sunday picnic\* brunch in celebration of Vanessa's upcoming marriage to David Silvey.**

Time: **11 am – 1 pm, Sunday, September 26th**

Place: **7301 N Boothe Lane** (Nancy Langworthy's farm, about 6 miles south of Harrisburg.) Directions below.

I will provide several main dishes (that's why I need to know how many are coming; right now my plan is a baked ham and a cheese/veggie frittata but if the numbers go up I have thought of what else to add), biscuits, coffee and fruit juice, and the alcoholic and non-alcoholic makings for some toasts. I am hoping that you will bring wonderful salads, veggies, dips, and desserts. You may also want to bring your favorite thirst-quencher (whether it's a wine/beer or soda) **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE let me know by Wednesday Sept 22 if you realistically plan to attend.** Call me at 573 874-2463 or email me at [nancylangworthy@hotmail.com](mailto:nancylangworthy@hotmail.com), or even mail me a card, but please let me know in advance. \* If it rains, we'll be under cover.

Now, this is not a shower but, if you're inclined, here's a suggestion. You might consider selecting your favorite saying about love, marriage, and/or relationships. This can be from your favorite romantic poem or a giggle from Ogden Nash; it could be your grandmother's favorite comment or wisdom from Benjamin Franklin's writings. (Hint: You can always do a google search if nothing comes to mind at first.) If you have more than one and can't choose, please feel free to offer them all. Please write it on a piece of paper making sure to tell us who said it, roll the paper up and secure it with a bit of ribbon. We'll collect them all for Vanessa and David. It's your choice whether or not to give yourself credit for the selection; we can always try to guess who selected it. If you'd like to do something but think that my suggestion is unbelievably dumb and silly, maybe you could simply bring a fresh flower to put into the basket for them.

One more thing: **Please do not bring any dogs.** Our two old dogs have never been good with other dogs, and one of them is now in a serious decline from which he will not recover.

**Directions:** From I-70, take the Midway/240 [OLD 40] exit heading west; you then have two choices: 1) Go north on Boothe Lane = mixed blacktop/gravel road just past the MU dairy farm and fishing lake (note: look for tall pine tree fence row for the Boothe Lane turn; also there's a left curve and a right turn then 2.8 miles)

until you get to our house, or 2) continue west past Boothe to J Hiway, where you turn north and drive until you get to the Woodlandville water tower which is at the junction of J and Boothe. Take a hard right to turn back South on Boothe 1.1 miles South until you get to our house. Look for balloons on gate.

---

## Treasurer's Report

*Submitted by Paula Peters, Treasurer*

Since I will miss the Sept meeting, I am sending the Treasurer's report to the newsletter:

As of mid-August we have \$6072.99 in the treasury.

**Don't miss out on all the fun next year – send in your dues to Paula!**

---

## Local Lifetime Membership and Contributions

*Submitted by Vanessa Melton, President*

At the May meeting we discussed the idea of offering a local lifetime membership for those who would like to join and only pay once. According to our bylaws the chapter can set its own membership costs. So the officers approved of offering this membership payment option.

The cost of a local lifetime membership is \$120 [= \$6 X 20 years], but since all chapter members must also belong to the Missouri Native Plant Society [the state organization], dues must be paid to them every year as well. Dues for that organization are \$10 per year, or \$200 for a lifetime membership. **Since your dues are due now, consider taking advantage of this new offer for a local life membership.** Contact Paula Peters at [pieridael@gmail.com](mailto:pieridael@gmail.com) or 573-474-4225 if you would like to change you membership status.

Also, for those of you who send in contributions along with your dues, please state if the contribution is to stay with the chapter or if you would like it to go to the state organization. If contributions are sent to Paula Peters, Treasurer, and it is not stated that the additional money sent to her is to stay with the chapter then Paula is obligated to send it to the state organization, **so please, state where you would like your contribution to go.** Thanks! – for considering a life membership.

---

## Tote Bags for Sale

Missouri Native Plant Society has had tote bags made displaying the Missouri Native Plant Society logo. The bags are cream colored with green handles Show your support for the parent organization of our chapter by purchasing a tote bag for \$12. Contact Paula Peters at [pieridael@gmail.com](mailto:pieridael@gmail.com) or 573-474-4225 if you would like to order a bag and you can make arrangements with her as to when and where you can pick it/them up.

## In Touch With Nature

*Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall*

Lincoln University is inviting you to attend their third annual "In Touch with Nature" field day on Saturday, September 25 from 10 am to 2 pm at Alan T. Busby Farm located on Goller Rd. Off US-54 W, 5 minutes from Jefferson City.

Come with your family and friends to enjoy and learn. The event is open to everyone. Presenters include LU staff/faculty, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Prairie Foundation, MU-Extension, Hawthorn Native Plant Society and others local groups. During this field day visit exhibits, get involved with hands-on demonstrations, and take part of walking or wagon tours.

Activities include native plant garden tours, dutch-oven cooking demonstrations and food tasting, storytelling, pet zoo with chicken, goats and sheep, mini-pet zoo with amphibians and fish, insect id, and more. Learn about prairie and woodland native plants beneficial for pollinators and other wildlife.

Environmental education activities will be offered for children.

For more information about this event and if you or your group are interested in having an exhibit please contact Nadia Navarrete-Tindall ([navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu](mailto:navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu)) or visit the website: <http://www.lincolnu.edu/pages/2526.asp> or Kathy Wildhaber at [kathy.wildhaber685@my.lincolnu.edu](mailto:kathy.wildhaber685@my.lincolnu.edu)

Directions to the farm located on 5124 Goller Road, Jefferson City From Columbia, south on US-63, merge onto US-54 W/US-63 S via the ramp to Jefferson City.

Continue to follow US-54 W for 7.9 miles, after passing Neighorn creek, take the left side of the road on a long hill, turn left just at the crest of the road on Monticello Rd. (opposite small Phillips gas station) and right on Goller Rd. Once on Goller Rd. Look for signs and balloons.

## Botanical Notes

*Submitted by John R White member and herbarium employee*

**Herbarium Definition and Purpose** A herbarium is primarily a collection of pressed, dried and labeled plant specimens, documented and stored. It can include woody and non-woody plants as well as other types of collections such as bryophytes, wood and seeds. It can be as small as an individual's personal collection to the largest herbariums with over 7,000,000 specimens of plants. The oldest herbarium in the world, more than 425 years old, is located in Kassel, Germany and was founded in 1569. It is generally thought that Luca Ghini (1490-1556), Professor of Botany at the University of Bologna, was the first person to dry plants under pressure and mount them on paper for future use. His students also made herbaria and some of those specimens still exist today.

All herbarium specimens are a long-term source of verifiable data. Some of the purposes follow:

- A source of reference material. Specimens are preserved, stored and arranged using a system that provides easy retrieval such as alphabetically or taxonomically.
- A means of identification. A questionable identified plant or an unnamed plant can be matched with named specimens (type or voucher specimens when available) for positive identification.
- Maintain correct names. Due to constant revisions, (many due to the increasing use of DNA to compare and re-classify) specimens must be pulled from the shelves, correct annotation labels attached, and re-filed properly.
- A comprehensive data-bank. Ideally the collections should fully represent the diversity and distribution of the region's vegetation, and the head of department should organize collecting expeditions to fill gaps in the coverage. All identified Herbarium specimens are entered into a database and can be cross referenced and sorted by different criteria.
- Educational and Research. Herbarium specimens are used in Taxonomy classes and various research projects, including species diversity documentation. Numerous loans and exchanges of specimens are made each year with plant systematists at other herbaria worldwide, including academic and governmental institutions.

The above purposes and much more make increasing demands on the botanical knowledge and organizational skill of the curator.

The University of Missouri Dunn-Palmer Herbarium (UMO Herbarium) is located at the Museum Support Center on the University of Missouri's main campus in Columbia, MO. Founded in 1896 it is the oldest public institutional herbarium west of the Mississippi River, containing over 300,000 vascular and non-vascular plants. The Curator of the Herbarium is Dr. Robin C. Kennedy, Ph.D. An article detailing our university level herbarium will follow next month.

## Calendar Continued . . .

**9 Oct Saturday Seed collection.** Time and location announced to people who make reservations by return email or 573-657-2314 This is the first part of the Propagation Workshop offered by Becky. See Article in the October newsletter

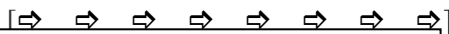
**16 Oct Saturday: Chestnut Festival** at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center [HARC], New Franklin, MO. 10 am to 4 pm. Set up at 9 am. Please plan to help with our booth; sign up with Paula.

**23 Oct Saturday Mosey at Painted Rock CA** to see fall flowers and fall leaf color over the Osage River. Easy trail. Meet at MDC Research Center [College & Stadium] at 9 am or drive Just north of Westphalia, 133 west of US63 about 6 miles. Lunch at Summit Winery [Holt's Summit] just north of Jefferson City on 54 get off at first overpass, [left over bridge] right into break in rock wall.

**November 8 Monday: Regular Meeting** at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. **Speaker will Robin Kennedy, Curator of Dunn-Palmer Herbarium.**

Contact Paula for more information 474-4225

**Thanks to Nancy Langworthy, John White, Paula Peters, Vanessa Melton, and Nadia Navarrete-Tindall for their contributions in this edition.**



Retired teacher Lou Little stands in front of her 1937 English Tudor home near Wing Park in Elgin. Little is still working to make her entire yard virtually lawn-free.

## New Age Lawns

By **DAVE GATHMAN** dgathman@stmedianetwork.com  
August 25, 2010 (Michael Smart/Staff Photographer) Chicago Courier News.

### To stay 'green,' more environment-minded people are trading green grass for prairie plants and flowers

ELGIN Illinois-- A small but increasing number of homeowners say they are becoming more "green" by giving up green. Instead of maintaining the usual sprawling spread of short, neatly mowed grass, their "lawns" now consist of a mixture of native perennial plants and flowers that require little fertilizing, herbicides, watering or mowing, yet attract a zoo of butterflies, bees and birds.



Horticulturist and author Pat Hill created a yard of 80 percent native prairie plants and flowers in front of her 1927 Sears catalog home in Elgin. Hill wrote a book about the subject and also appeared in a special edition of Better Homes & Gardens last spring.

One guru of this movement is Pat Hill, who wrote a book showing how to "Design Your Natural Midwest Garden" (Trails Books, 2007). Her yard at 626 Orange St. in Elgin was the topic of an article last spring in a Better Homes & Gardens special edition titled "Nature's Garden." "In fact, Hill said, she was so excited by what happened when she converted 80 percent of the yard around her 1927 Sears catalog home into a spread of native plants that she left the real estate business and centered her entire career on her sideline as a landscape designer. "The magic word now is 'sustainable,' and a prairie garden is sustainable," Hill said. "Once it gets going, you don't have to bring anything in. And nothing leaves."

An acre of grass lawn might have a few robins pecking away in search of worms. But even without counting the brass dragonfly doorknocker, Hill's little 50-by-125-foot yard overpowers a visitor with a vibrant sense of many things alive. Bumblebees gather pollen from a variety of flowers, some on stalks 3 feet tall. A yellow-winged goldfinch flies by, attracted by thistle seeds. Monarch butterflies flirt with black-eyed susans but seem to prefer a brown, dull-looking species Hill identifies as "Joe Pye weed."

"This had been the worst house on the block until (Elgin home rehabber) Dennis Roxworthy bought it and restored it in 1997," Hill said. "For a landscape designer, it was a blank canvas. I started working with native plants and changed the whole way I do business." Hill said the first two years of putting in such a yard [⇒]

[**New Age Lawns continued . . .** ] requires a lot of work. She began by planting 2-inch "plugs." But, once the new plants become established, they require no weeding, since sprouting weeds can't get enough space and sun. And since these prairie plants have roots as much as 15 feet deep, compared to 2 or 3 inches for lawn grass, they don't need much watering. Hill even burns up her yard each fall with a controlled-burn permit, the way prairie plants prefer the world to treat them. The flames destroy shallow-rooted weeds and turn the desirable plants' stems into ash that, she says, does all the fertilizing the plants need. Nitrates that have been washed away or lost to natural processes are replaced by burning legume plants that have turned nitrogen from the air into chemicals a plant can use. "These plants evolved on a prairie that has a climate like ours," Hill said. "Lawn grasses evolved in Europe, where it's cool and rainy and cloudy, so they need lots of water." "The reason we have so much flooding is that rain runs off our lawns and into the storm sewers," Hill said. "The deep roots of native plants open up the soil and let rain water get down to the aquifers."

**Fighting the maples** Retired teacher Lou Little got into the movement a step at a time, partly for practical reasons. After she moved into her 1937 English Tudor house near Wing Park, on Elgin's west side, she couldn't get grass to grow under two maple trees. For a few years, she targeted one 20-by-20-by-10-foot triangle in the front yard to grow hostas, violets and coreopsis while covering the treebank beneath the maples with a ground cover called archangel.

Spurred to new enthusiasm by attending a lecture Hill gave, Little then began converting more and more of her yard to the new look each year. The yard "is not where I want it to be yet," Little said. "It actually takes more care than a lawn now. It's easy to call a lawn service and have them come spray your grass. But once this gets better established, it will prevent the weeds from growing." On the east side of Elgin, on the block across the street from Mayor Ed Schock's home with its manicured grass on Jefferson Avenue, two homes devote their front yards to native plants and flowers. "I don't like chemicals," said the owner of one, technical writer Rebecca Marco, as she trimmed plants Sunday. "I pull weeds and apply compost made from table scraps and clippings, but no watering is needed."

Some gardeners fill a yard with annual flowers. But Marco argues that doing that is actually harder on the planet than grass. She notes that nurseries use tons of chemicals to get the plants going and buyers take them home in thousands of little one-use-only plastic containers.

**Neighbors react:** But how do neighbors react to a clump of variegated 3-foot-tall plants and flowers? And what would a city look like if every yard were like this? "When I'm working out here, people come by and say, 'Keep up the good work,'" Little said. In fact, inspired by Little, two neighbors have converted parts of their front yards to plants and flowers, too.

Hill said one of her neighbors called the city building department and had her cited because her plants overhung the sidewalk. Hill also was asked by city inspectors to cut back plantings near the corner where she lives to avoid blocking drivers' vision. "But most of my neighbors like this a lot," she said. "I'm not saying everyone should give up their lawns," Hill said. "For instance, lawns are the best place for children to play. I still keep some bits of lawn where I can sit on a chair and read and watch the butterflies and birds or play croquet. But people shouldn't have any useless lawns."



*B. Erickson photos*

Nadia's and Becky's yards reduce mowing and increase habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

---

**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 serve as officers, to grow plants for fundraising and we need people to man our information booth at events such as Earth Day and Chestnut Festival. If you get this only by mail, please consider requesting email delivery; it saves us money

- Regular (\$16.00)\*
- Student (\$11.00)
- Contributing (\$26.00)\* designate chapter or state
- State Lifetime (\$200)
- Chapter Lifetime (\$120 – you must also be a member of the state organization to utilize this option)
- Chapter only (\$6.00 – this is for members who already belong to State and another chapter)

\*Includes both Chapter (\$6) and State (\$10) 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:  
(circle preference) **Email**            **Regular mail**

**Email delivery brings you color photos and it saves NPS money. With email delivery you also receive updates and announcements between newsletters. Regular Mail includes **NO** interim updates or reminders without request for phone contact.**

Hawthorn Chapter Missouri Native Plant Society  
Newsletter editor, Becky Erickson  
PO Box 496  
Ashland MO 65010-0496

