



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 3  
*Hawthorn Chapter Officers:*

**President**

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

**Vice President**

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

**Secretary**

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

**Treasurer**

John George  
573-234-1784  
[John.George@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.George@mdc.mo.gov)

**Membership**

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

March 2011

## 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. Carpool meeting place, MDC Research Center, is on College just north of Stadium.

**Early March: If you have potted plants you have over-wintered for booth sales, it would be good to bring them inside a sunny window to green them up.**

**14 March Monday: Regular Meeting 5:30pm** at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Mark Belwood will speak on history of the North American prairie and restoration methods using his efforts as examples. See article Page 3

**17 March Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant enthusiasts.** 11:30 RagTag [Uprise] 10 Hitt St just south of Broadway. Several activities need discussion on logistics.

**20 March Sunday: [re-scheduled] Cleanup of Hinkson Creek** sponsored by Stream Team. Meet at Twin Lakes Park. More info will come by email. Call Becky if you don't have email and you want to participate.

**2 April Saturday: Serviceberry** and other spring flowers at Baskett Area, east of Ashland. Possibly 26 March depending on weather. Meet at MDC Research Center at 1pm for carpools. Call Becky now if you don't have email and you want to participate.

**9 April Saturday 10 am – 2pm: Plant Sale at Bradford Farm.** Be there at 9 for set-up. Bring potted plants ready for sale. This is always well attended: Call Paula to confirm your time to volunteer.

**17 April Sunday Earth Day Columbia, Noon to 6pm.** Be at the booth site [space 4&5] on the south side of Elm just east of the University gates [near Peace Park] between 9 and 10 am for set up. Bring potted plants ready for sale. Cars must be off the street by 11. This is always well attended and fun: Call Paula to confirm your time to volunteer.

**21 April Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant enthusiasts.** 11:30 RagTag [Uprise] 10 Hitt St just south of Broadway.

**23 April Graham Cave State Park. Woodland and glade spring flowers.** Meet at MDC Research Center for carpools to leave at 9 am. Bring water, snack, camera, sunhat and any other personal comforts. Late lunch at Crain's store in Williamsburg.

**24 April thru 7 May impromptu mid-week:** Shooting stars at 3-Creeks CA. Call Becky if you don't have email and you want to participate.

**30 April -2 May State Meeting Joplin.** Field trips to Diamond Grove Prairie and Wildcat Glade. See Petal Pusher for details.  
Calendar continued on Page 2

**Call Paula for more information 474-4225**

**Thanks to Lea Langdon, Nancy Langworthy, and Paula Peters for their submissions to the newsletter.** The more diversity I get for submissions, the richer will be the content of this newsletter. Everyone can write, just go for it! Editor

**BIG THANKS to Doug Miller** for reviving the web site. Hopefully all members will visit our website to see the exciting information available to the public. Use it as a tool to invite new members.

**SAVE TREES, SAVE NPS MONEY. SIGN UP FOR THE EMAIL NEWSLETTER.**

## January Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Ann Wakeman Secretary*

The January 10, 2011 meeting of the Hawthorn chapter of Missouri Native Plants Society was called to order at 6pm by president Vanessa Melton-Silvey. This meeting was planning meeting to discuss meeting programs and activities for the upcoming calendar year.

Paula will have the treasurer's report in the upcoming newsletter [This report was published in February].

**First order of business:** elect the nominees for treasurer and vice-president. Treasurer's position is to be shared by Paula Peters for membership and John George for treasurer. Vice President nominee Nancy Langworthy. Ballots were passed around for members to vote on the nominees. Voting was unanimous in accepting the nominees.

**Old business:** Vanessa announced the Blazing Star award was given to Becky Erickson for her generous contributions to the chapter.

**New business:** More formal discussion was establishing an award for outstanding contribution to native plant usage/stewardship for non-chapter members in the community. Vanessa and Nancy Langworthy have started developing guidelines and these were passed around for more comments and suggestions.

A communication from Carol Davit regarding establishment of a Missouri Prairie Foundation Prairie Gardens fund on behalf of her parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Interest from this fund would be used for grant programs to support prairie garden projects associated with schools, parks, and other venues around Missouri. Donations to this fund may come from individuals as well as groups.

### **Scheduling events, field trips and activities:**

- **Educational and fund-raising events include:**

April 9 Native Plant Day at Bradford Farm

April 17 Earth Day in Peace Park, Columbia

June 9 Quail Day at Bradford Farm

September 24 In Touch With Nature at Busby Farm, Jefferson City

October 15 Chestnut Roast at HARC in New Franklin

After discussion, it was decided Eco Art Fest at Cooper's Landing and Forum Trail Day were not worthwhile to set up a booth. Becky Erickson asked that some other member needs to store the table and display board for the booth as well as transport them to events. Paula Peters offered to store them; John White offered to transport.

- **Field trips:** John George and Mike Leahy both in attendance offered suggestions for this season's field trips as well as to lead some. Suggestions were noted so the field trip committee could meet at a future time to set up the schedule. [Calendar published in this edition.]

- **Business meeting programs:** The March meeting has scheduled Mark Belwood to come speak about his prairie restoration in Saline county. He also offered his place to see the restoration as a field trip. No other programs are scheduled at this time.

Glenn Pickett will be asked to update the chapter at a future meeting on the grant program.

Meeting was adjourned about 7:30pm.

## Activities Calendar 2011

### Continued

**9 May Monday Regular Meeting** 7:00pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Lea Langdon will present the program on edible wild plants. See article page.

**14 May USFS/Paris Fork [Callaway Co]:** orchids and other woodland spring flowers. Meet at MDC Research Center for carpools to leave at 9 am.

**21 May Clifty Creek NA [Maries Co]:** A little off the beaten path. A real treat for the adventurous. Meet at MDC Research Center for carpools to leave at 8 am. Bring camera, water, snack, sunhat, any other personal comforts. Lunch after at Native Stone Winery south of Prairie Home.

**4 June Saturday: Jean Graebner's prairie planting** in Rocheport. Meet at MDC Research Center for Carpools to leave at 9 am. Visit McDermott Memorial planting [do some weeding] in park in Rocheport on First Street. See Jean's prairie about 10:15; we can talk about habitat reconstruction and challenges. Bring lunch fixings [hot dish to a large cut-up sub, fruit or salad] to share. If you want to do only the planting tour and potluck, you may contact Jean at [Graebner@centurylink.net](mailto:Graebner@centurylink.net).

**16 June Thursday afternoon: Quail & Native Plants Bradford Farm.** 4 -8 pm. Set up at 3 pm. Please volunteer to help with booth.

**10-12 June Friday-Sunday: State Meeting based at Ironton.** Visit restoration efforts at Johnson Shut-ins and near-by fens – probably see grass pink orchids and Hine's emerald dragonfly. See Petal Pusher for details.

**25 June: Mule Shoe Conservation Area** [Hickory Co] small fens, dolomite glades, John George [member and MDC Regional Naturalist] leader. Meeting time TBA.

**23 July Mark Belwood Prairie restoration near Marshall Jctn.** Meet at MDC Research Center for Carpools to leave at 8 am. Bring camera, water, snack, sunhat, any other personal comforts. We can talk about habitat reconstruction and challenges. Lunch at Glenn's [Cajun] Restaurant in Fredrick Hotel in Boonville. See article

**20 August Saturday Coakley Hollow and Ozark Cavern NA [Camden Co].** Watch for details.

**9-11 Sept, Friday -Sunday: State Meeting Sedalia:** Most outstanding prairies in the region. Watch Petal Pusher for details.

**24 September Saturday: HaHaTonka State Park.** Watch for details.

**8 October Fall Color walk. Send us your idea for a destination.** Watch for details.

**15 October Chestnut Festival 10am to 4 pm.** Be there at 9am for set-up. Bring potted plants ready for sale. This is always well attended and fun: Call Paula to confirm your time to volunteer.

## George Olson Exhibition: Tallgrass Prairie

*Announcement sponsored by George Caleb Bingham Gallery*

George Caleb Bingham Gallery, A125 Fine Arts Building, Hitt St & Univ. Ave., MU campus  
Phone: 573-882-3555,  
Mon-Fri, 8 am -5 pm.

**Exhibition Dates: February 28-March 24.**

The George Caleb Bingham Gallery is pleased to host a solo exhibition featuring **internationally recognized artist George Olson.**

This exhibit features Olson's watercolors and drawings of wildflowers and grasses of the North American Prairie. Olson's artwork and career represent his commitment to recording and preserving the Midwestern Landscape. The pieces in this show represent the artist's current endeavors as well as celebrate his long and productive career.

## Green Fire

Aldo Leopold is considered the father of the modern Environmental Movement [Sand County Almanac]. The Leopold Foundation has produced a video entitled **Green Fire** which illustrates how Leopold's land ethics vision continues to inspire people around the world. The trailer is well worth watching <http://vimeo.com/8669977> To see where it's showing near you

<http://www.greenfiremovie.com/>

## Outing to Jean's

**4 June Saturday: Jean Graebner's prairie planting** in Rocheport. Meet at MDC Research Center for Carpools to leave at 9 am. Visit McDermott Memorial planting [do some weeding] in park in Rocheport on First Street. See Jean's prairie about 10:15; we can talk about habitat reconstruction and challenges. Bring lunch fixings [anything: hot dish to a large cut-up sub, fruit or salad] to share. If you want to do only the planting tour and potluck, you may contact Jean at [Graebner@centurylink.net](mailto:Graebner@centurylink.net) for directions.

***SAVE TREES, SAVE NPS MONEY.  
SIGN UP FOR THE EMAIL NEWSLETTER.***

## Topics for March & May

### Meeting Programs

## Rediscovering the Tallgrass Prairie.

*submitted by Mark Belwood, landowner and restorationist*

For the program on the evening of Monday 14 March, I plan to give a broad history of the North American prairie followed by a more recent history of the local Tallgrass Prairie. I will follow this with recent photos I have taken at local public prairie remnants in the Lamine River watershed and Blackwater River watershed and at prairie restoration plots on our farm. These photos will focus on prairie flora. The program will conclude with restoration methods using my efforts as examples. I will enhance the program by mentioning my use of digital cameras and GPS receivers, as they relate to the topic. I'll see you at 5:30 for the meeting program, on Monday March 14!

July 23 will be a good date for a field trip. [Mark your calendars NOW!] Bring water and a snack for yourself, a sunhat and any other personal comforts as we will be in the open for about two hours. For carpools, meet at the MDC Research Center to leave at 8am. Or drive yourself to Mark's house: from Columbia, take I-70 west. At the cloverleaf intersection with US 65 Hiway, take the 65 South exit toward Sedalia. Soon [immediately] after getting onto US 65 move into the left lane. Turn left at the first crossover which is South Outer Road East (or Saline County Road 116). At about 1/2 mile turn right onto Katydid Lane driving south until it dead-ends at Mark's house (about 1/3 mile).

After a tour at Mark's farm we will have lunch at Glen's Restaurant [Cajun food] in Hotel Fredrick, in Boonville around noon.



## Edible Wild Plants Presented in May

*Submitted by Lea Langdon, member*

Lea Langdon has been interested in edible wild plants almost as long as she has been gardening, and she enjoys harvesting them and sharing nature's bounty. For the May meeting program, she will present some edible wild plants that you can find both in your garden and in wild spaces, and will share how to harvest and eat them in simple ways. She expects to bring a few wild foods to taste as well. Lea does not claim to be an expert, and would welcome input from other NPS folks, if there are others with this interest. She invites you to bring some of your favorite or suggested wild edibles for us to try.

## Making Cordage from Native Plants is Both Art and Utility.

By Nadia Navarrete-Tindall and Kathy Wildhaber

Cordage can be made with two or more strips of plant or animal fibers that are twisted or plied together. Plant fibers can be produced from stems, leaves or bark of herbaceous or woody plants. Before the textile boom and the Industrial Revolution, native fibers were used to make cordage to craft what was needed for survival. Traps, fishing poles, and hunting bows for gathering food were made out of natural fibers, as well as, mats, baskets, bracelets, and footwear. At present, there are efforts across the country to revive this Native American art (usually referred as primitive art). In Missouri, Bill Davit with the Missouri Prairie Foundation has been promoting the uses of cordage for the past few years. He introduced us to cordage and motivated us to continue his legacy during events promoted by Lincoln University.

Cordage can be used as a cultural tool to connect children and adults with nature and accept cordage as a past and present art. The Native Plants Program is also promoting other uses of native plants among underserved audiences and the public at large. The fibers of native plants are strong and durable and provide the basis for many practical items and ideas for natural mix media in fine arts. The marketability of products made from native materials, such as ornamental jewelry, sandals, belts, hot pads, rugs, baskets and handbags, can be fun and potentially generate some revenue and jobs.

For a list of North American plants that provide fibers for cordage see Layton, 2006. We are including three common native plants that provide good quality cordage in Missouri (Bill Davit, personal communication), as follows:

***Eryngium yuccifolium*** or rattlesnake master is a 3-4 feet tall, yucca type plant. It can be found in glades, prairies, and in open woods. For cordage, the leaves are collected when they turn brown in the fall. The leaves can be woven to make a thick, strong rope. A sandal, estimated to be over 8,000 years old, made from rattlesnake master was found in a cave in central Missouri. Rattlesnake master can be propagated from seed and asexually by division of the underground stems. It can be a nice addition in gardens for its beauty and for providing food for butterflies and native pollinators.

***Asclepias syriaca***

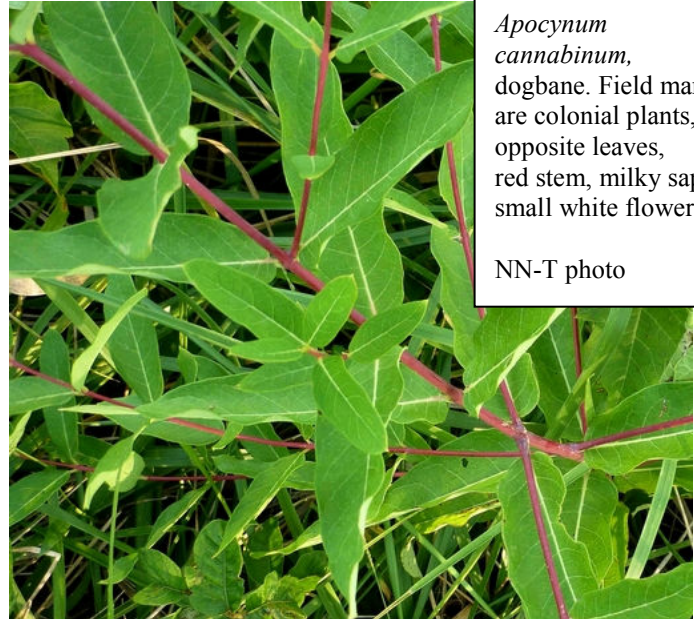


***Eryngium yuccafolium***



Nadia Navarrete-Tindall photos

***Asclepias syriaca*** or common milkweed is a 2-6.5 feet tall plant. It is one of the milkweeds favorite of monarch butterflies. Harvesting for cordage begins when the stalk easily breaks away from the ground when the leaves fall off in the late fall. The fibers are extracted from inside the dried stalks. Propagation is from seed and from division of the underground stems. Cooked shoots, flowers and green pods can be consumed as food (Peterson 1977). Its flowers attract native bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.



***Apocynum cannabinum***, dogbane. Field marks are colonial plants, opposite leaves, red stem, milky sap, small white flowers.

NN-T photo

***Apocynum cannabinum*** or dogbane is an upright perennial up to 3 feet tall that sprouts in the spring from underground stems. It is found growing in prairies, glades, roadsides, and other disturbed sites. For cordage, dogbane should be harvested in the late fall when the leaves have turned yellow and fallen off. The strands of the inner stem are used to make a strong thin twine. This twine is useful for nets, bags, and sewing. It is propagated from seed and underground stems. Look for thick stands in the fall, especially along roadsides.

Common milkweed and dogbane may be considered aggressive by some and should not be included in landscaping; however, they have a place in natural plantings.

If you are interested in making your own bracelet, visit the Native Plants Program booth during the Native Plant Sale at Bradford Farm this coming April 9.

Selected references

- Davit, C. 2004. Reviving an ancient craft. Missouri Prairie Journal. 25:4
- Denison, E. 2010. Missouri Wildflowers. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Missouri Department of Conservation.
- Densmore, F. 1974. How Indians use wild plants for food, medicine & crafts.
- Notable Finds in Missouri Archaeology. [anthromuseum.missouri.edu/minigalleries/moarchaeology/intro](http://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/minigalleries/moarchaeology/intro) accessed on Jan 30, 2011
- Layton, R. 2006. Cordage in North America. [http://www.primitiveways.com/cordage\\_in\\_North\\_America.html](http://www.primitiveways.com/cordage_in_North_America.html), accessed on Feb 1, 2011
- Prindle, T. 2011. Native American cordage. <http://www.nativetech.org>, accessed on January 30, 2011
- Shaw Nature Reserve. 2010. Making bracelets the Native American way. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQfgyF3M53E>, accessed on Jan. 30, 2011.

**More associated photos on next page . . .**

## **Hawthorn Award**

*Submitted by Nancy Langworthy, Vice-president*

**Background:** At the January 2011 meeting, President Vanessa Melton reminded members present that on several occasions in the past few years, both members and non-members have suggested giving a Blazing Star Award to a non-member for some extraordinary effort on behalf of native plants. Chapter leadership has resisted that action as Blazing Star Awards are intended specifically for members. But, the value in recognizing non-member efforts is noted, and Vanessa asked me to help her put something together to start consideration of this award. Vanessa explained this and handed out copies of a preliminary draft of some terms for an award specifically for non-member contributions, provisionally entitled the Hawthorn Award. Currently this is intended to be from our chapter specifically, not associated with MONPS. A few changes were suggested in the terms immediately at that meeting and are now incorporated into the draft which is printed below for your convenience.

**Action requested:** Please consider first whether you want to support such an award, and then whether the terms of the award are adequate. Email me at [nancylangworthy@hotmail.com](mailto:nancylangworthy@hotmail.com) or call (573 874-2463) with your suggestions and comments on establishing such an award and the proposed terms and conditions. Or, of course, bring them to the March meeting. Thanks.

**Timing of award:** As appropriate, but no more than once a year.

**Who may receive the award:** An individual, business, community, or organization not a current member of the Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society or any other chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society.

**Award criteria:** This award recognizes excellence in the demonstration of using native plants in landscape design and implementation as well as private and professional gardens, the use of sustainable gardening by using native plants, and/or excellence in education of non-Missouri Native Plant Society members of the benefits involving 1) restoring or managing adverse natural plant communities or 2) using native plants of local ecotypes in landscape design and gardening.

**Nominations:** Nominations of candidates for a Hawthorn Award must be made by a member of the Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society or if made by someone outside the Hawthorn Chapter, the nomination must be endorsed in writing by a Hawthorn Chapter member who has personally verified the basis for the nomination.

**How to nominate:** A short paragraph (no more than half a page) of nomination explaining why the nominee should receive the award must be signed by the original nominator and verifying member, must be accompanied by photograph(s) for documentation, and must be submitted to the president of the Hawthorn Chapter.

**Chapter decision making process:** The president of the Hawthorn Chapter will appoint a committee of members who will evaluate the nomination and recommend to the Chapter whether or not to make the award. The president may request that the committee to act within a certain timeframe or to visit the site or to consult experts as appropriate as part of its deliberations. The membership should have an opportunity to discuss the recommendation if desired prior to voting on the committee recommendation.

**Nature of award:** The Hawthorn Chapter will honor the awardee at a regular meeting and present an award plaque. The Chapter will also put a notice of the award and presentation in the local newspaper(s) (local to the awardee) and try to secure a TV or radio spot on a local station (e.g., Paul Pepper).



Bill Davit selecting rattlesnake master leaves to prepare cordage. NN-T photos



Sue Bartelette of LU-Native Plants Program teaching the art of cordage during the Nature and Agriculture in the City field day in Kansas City  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Propagation Workshop** In spite of needing to postpone the workshop a week due to a good snow, nine members attended 30 Jan, to learn how to coax native seed into germinating. In June we will transplant the seedlings.



Becky helped new members Letha, Bonnie, and Roy to choose seed for propagation. Vanessa M-S photo

**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

