



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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

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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.

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 2.

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.

19 May Thursday Lunch with native plant enthusiasts! 11:30, RagTag 10 Hitt St.

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.

We have learned that Jean's and Don's health will not permit us to visit their lovely prairie planting. They started this effort several years ago. The field has started to flourish lately. They wanted to share the beauty with our members, but a social gathering with them is not possible at this time.

It is possible we might substitute a different location on this day: watch for announcements.

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.

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

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

Call Paula for more information 474-4225

Thanks to Ann Wakeman, Glenn Pickett, Lea Langdon for their submission to the newsletter. The more diversity I get for submissions, the richer will be the content of this newsletter. What inspires you about the nature you see?

Everyone with an 8th grade education 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.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Ann Wakeman, Secretary

The March 21 meeting of the Hawthorn chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society was called to order at 6pm by President Vanessa Melton-Silvey. This meeting was a rescheduled date due to snow the previous week.

Mark Belwood presented a program on Rediscovering the Tallgrass Prairie. Growing up in southern Saline county, he wasn't aware of prairies, but became interested in 1995. He particularly focused on the area around the Lamine and Blackwater Rivers, reading references on the prairie ecosystem. Learned the tallgrass prairie evolved approximately 4,500 years ago. His program consisted of prairie wildflower photos and quotes from various authors' early descriptions of prairies.

John George gave the treasurer's report. The chapter has a balance of \$6154.93.

Old business: Nancy Langworthy reported there were no additional comments were received from members on the Hawthorn Award. She will write up guidelines presented to the chapter at the previous meeting with comments made at that time. It will be put up for vote at a future meeting.

Announcements:

- Becky Erickson reported serviceberry hasn't started budding yet at Baskett area. Possibly it will be in bloom at the scheduled field trip April 2 with Mike Leahy.
- Wildflower walks at Rock Bridge State Park with Randall Clark begin this coming Wednesday, March 23.
- Field trip to Graham Cave State Park and Danville glades will be April 23 and lead by Mike Leahy.
- MoNPS quarterly state board meeting will be April 30 and May 1 in Joplin area. An opportunity to see early blooming flowers on prairies.
- The film featuring Aldo Leopold will be showing at the MU Conservation Auditorium April 7 at 7 pm.
- Upcoming native plant sales April 8 at Bradford Farm, and April 17 Earth Day at Columbia's Peace Park.

John George updated what management was being done on Jim Whitley's farm. He burned a good portion of the property and it seems now we may enter it to look around.

Lea Langdon will present a program on wild edibles at the May 9, 7pm meeting.

Meeting was adjourned about 8pm.

Program for May Meeting at 7 pm



Wild ginger
BE photo

Edible Wild Plants Presented in May

Submitted by Lea Langdon, member

Lea Langdon has been interested in edible wild plants as long as she has been gardening, and she enjoys harvesting them for consumption. 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. She expects to bring a few wild foods to taste. 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.

Activities Calendar 2011 Continued

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.

Judicious Use of Herbicides

Some of us in this organization have experience with the use of herbicides to control alien invasive species. We would very much like to get our personal experience out to landowners who really want or need this information. Due to patents and labeling restrictions we cannot publish our personal experiences. If you would like to receive this information for personal use only, contact the newsletter editor.

April Field Trips

I can absolutely not remember from recent years the diversity and numbers of spring ephemerals we encountered on our April moseys. Mike Leahy showed us to some new spots in Basket CA just east of Ashland and around the NA at Graham Cave SP north of Danville.



Paula, Jody, Vanessa, Denny at dry falls in Basket CA.



Pink Hepatica at Basket CA

BE Photo



Sanguinaria near dry waterfalls at Basket CA.

BE photo

Sales in April Topped All Previous Records

There was a great deal of effort put out to erect and man the information booth at the Bradford Plant Sale and Earth Day Fair in Columbia. Weather could have been the key factor for our high sales. Both days were very pleasant and sunny. Long days of talking to many people about their home gardening resulted in an extraordinary boost to our coffers: \$795 from Bradford and \$671 from Earth Day = \$1426. Thanks for the efforts to Paula, Nancy, Nancy, Vanessa, John, John, and Becky.

We can always use more help when we set up the booth. It is highly rewarding when you know your work is helping to educate the public in their home environment and Columbia high school students in natural sciences. We are looking for more people to give a little time to the core effort. There are three more booth sales this year.

Our booth was set up at Earth Day Fair before the large crowd came. Paula is folding more brochures.

BE photo



Upcoming Field Trips

If the upcoming field trips in May and June are even close to the fabulous outings we had in April, they will definitely be “Ooo-Wow!” moments. They will be some of those days you will never forget. Paris Fork, Clifty Creek and Mule Shoe have been on the calendar since 1 March so there is no excuse that you haven’t planned to go.

PLEASE consider the task of the coordinators and contact one of them at least the day before the trip to tell them you plan to go. We don’t want to leave anyone behind when we leave from the car-pool location and we don’t want someone waiting there to go in a storm. If we KNOW you are coming we can keep you informed of last minute changes.

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



Dogwood flowers and waterfall at GCSP BE Photo



Paintbrush meadow at Graham Cave SP BE Photo



Mertensia [bluebells] just coming to full flower at Baskett



Ann, Mike, Mike, Lynn, Janice, John at Graham Cave SP. BE Photo



Rare white paintbrush at Danville CA



Mike and Ann inspect ferns at Graham Cave waterfall overhang BE Photo

Hawthorne Chapter Educational Grant Report

Submitted by Glenn Pickett Grant Committee Chairman

After a postponement due to still more rain, Rock Bridge High School Honor's Biology teachers Kerri Graham and April Sulze took some 130 sophomores into the field to apply ecology/native plant class work to the real world. While the morning of Tuesday April 26 was overcast and gray, the temperature wasn't too chilly, and shortly after noon, the sun warmed us all just a bit. The Hawthorn Chapter provided money to support this field trip through a \$200 Educational Grant awarded to these two teachers in October of 2010.

For several weeks prior to the field trip to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park students had participated in lessons and labs designed to help them understand the ecological importance of native plants and species diversity. During this time each student also completed research on plants native to Missouri and made a 'field guide' of plants, according to specific guidelines concerning the number of species and types of plants to be included. Their field guides contained a photo (off the Internet in most cases) and a brief botanical description for each included species. Students had their personally unique field guides with them on the trip.

For the field trip, Graham and Sulze organized their students into 36 teams. During the 5 hours at the park, each team rotated through three different scheduled activities. A 'diversity survey' and 'scavenger hunt' occupied most of the student's time. In the scavenger hunt, students were to find as many native plants in their field guides as possible, and then photograph the plant with a body part (hand) included in the picture. They were also to select roughly a 750 square foot plot in the woods in which to conduct a 'diversity survey' as part of an activity constructed by the student teachers of Mrs. Graham and Sulze. This survey required them to make and record observations about the forest structure, variety of woody and herbaceous plants, along with a few stabs at describing seral stages. Photographic documentation of this study plot was required, and the two student teachers will be using the data collected by the students to further classroom lessons in ecological succession.

The other two activities were a "wildflower walk" and "cave ecology." My responsibilities as a wildflower walk leader were to work with about 24 students for a little over an hour, helping them to recognize/identify wildflowers, (some of which just so happened to be in their personal field guides), to provide a small amount of ecological interpretation, and where appropriate describe uses or other interesting plant adaptations.

Native Plant Society always needs your input. PLEASE tell us what kind of activity you would participate in. Where do you want to go to explore? What workshop would you attend? What kind of information do you need? Please connect with one of the officers with requests, suggestions and other comments.

For the "cave ecology" activity, Nathan Harness, the Environmental Science Teacher at RBHS, made the students compare the abiotic and biotic factors in a cave to the land surface above, and then focused on how the limited tolerance range for cave species results in the famously fragile cave ecosystems. And of course there was some discussion about how the unique entrance to Devil's Icebox formed, and how it in turn created the interesting little microclimates in the cave entrance.

In the next week, each student will submit their home-made field guides, the photos taken in the field, and a report of their findings from the diversity survey, and the 'scavenger hunt' for evaluation. Of course there are additional teacher made summative assessments of the native plant project that the students will complete at a later date.

As a Hawthorne Chapter member, a wildflower walk leader for the field trip, and an observer of students, I can assure you that the Chapter has made a wise investment with this grant. The large majority of students were fully engaged in the activities and the learning taking place at the park. As a group, students were excited about the day and had a positive attitude about their tasks and responsibilities. It was obvious that the two teachers had prepared the students well, and had rather elegantly orchestrated the numerous teams' schedule for the day. Indeed, it was refreshing to witness students transferring learning from the classroom to the field; to watch while students thumb through their home-made field guides to confirm their identification of a native plant, to help them answer their own questions about a plant, and yes, to watch them sensibly enjoy the mud! Teachers Kerri Graham and April Sulze are to be commended; organizing and preparing this large group of students with purposeful learning in the field, finding sufficiently competent adults to help provide leadership and supervision, and attending to the individual needs of the students at the same time—well, it is just very difficult to do. By helping these teachers with the Hawthorn Educational Grant, the Chapter has, without question, furthered its mission.



Grant recipients Graham and Sulze

G Pickett 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 _____

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(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.

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