



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 1
Hawthorn Chapter Officers:

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

Ann Wakeman
5798 Windy Meadows Lane
Fulton, MO 65251
573-642-6927
mike-ann@socket.net

Treasurer

John George
573-234-1784
John.George@mdc.mo.gov

Membership

Paula Peters
2216 Grace Ellen Dr
Columbia, MO 65202
573-474-4225
pieridae1@gmail.com

Chapter Representative

John [Rusty] White
573-886-8698
rstywhit@yahoo.com

Web Master

Doug Miller
thedesign@bigthe.com

Web site:

<http://columbianativeplants.org/>
Webmaster: Doug Miller

The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly. Send submissions by the 26th to:

Communications Editor

Becky Erickson
573-657-2314
beckyerick@socket.net

January 2012

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.

If weather remains mild and you want some company for a walk at a local wild area, call Becky and she will send an announcement by email.

9 January Monday: Regular Membership Meeting 6:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Sheppard Blvd. Agenda: discussions on 2012 activities, officer elections. Bring ideas for mosey destinations. Program: seed exchange.

19 January Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts 11:30 RagTag, 10 Hitt St. Just south of Broadway.

23 February Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts 11:30 RagTag, 10 Hitt St. Just south of Broadway.

When you come to the January meeting, please have a couple of locations for moseys [walks into natural areas] in mind. We would like to post outings on Saturdays, Sundays, and Thursdays for folks who are swamped with other weekend activities. The committee will put a calendar together and post the list with your suggestion.

MONPS State Board Meeting Schedule for 2012

Spring – April 13-15, 2012 – Branson area/Bull Shoals Reservoir, etc.

Summer – June 1-3, 2012 – Camdenton area/Ozark Caverns/Rocky Top Glade, etc.

Fall – Sept. 28-30, 2012 – Cuivre River State Park and vicinity.

Winter – Sat. Dec. 1, 2012 – UMO Herbarium, Columbia, MO.

Call Vanessa or Paula for more information

Thanks to Ann Wakeman, John White, Vanessa Melton-Silvey, Glenn Pickett for their contributions to the newsletter. Editor would like to hear from you, too.

January Meeting Topics

Submitted by Vanessa Melton-Silvey President

Now that the holidays are over it is time to start dreaming about next year, or at least our upcoming projects, events, field trips, booths, and so forth. Join us on Monday January 9th at 6 pm for our bi-monthly meeting where we will discuss the upcoming year, so bring ideas of places you would like to go on a field trip in 2012.

We will also be holding elections for president and secretary, and deciding on whether or not we would like to look into investing funds. At the last meeting a committee was formed to look into investment options, but keep in mind we did NOT decide to invest funds. We need to decide if we will pursue this further, and that is what we will be discussing at the January meeting.

And don't forget we will also be swapping seed, so bring the seed you have been saving from your natives to share with the group. See you at the meeting!

Stadium Workday

Submitted by Becky Erickson Committee Leader

December 10 On Stadium Blvd across from MLK Park.

Lea, Nancy, Vanessa, David, Becky, Paula and Ann with her brushhog worked for two and a half hours. Ann ran the brushhog and finished cutting all of the area that she could safely maneuver over. Vanessa and David used a chainsaw to eliminate some of the locust trees on the west end next to the creek. Becky, Lea and Nancy did some major damage to the bush honeysuckle along the forest edge. Paula meticulously planted a full cup of orange milkweed seeds. After most of the vegetation was cut, we broadcast another 6 bags of plant material with seed. In about two years those seeds will be blooming.

If you don't know about our adopted spot on Stadium, drive by and LOOK. During most warm months there is a color display.

News from Stateside . . .

Columbia, MO. December 3, 2011

Submitted by John White, Chapter Representative

The fall 2011 MONPS State Board Meeting was held at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium in Columbia. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Society President Paul McKenzie.

- A determination was made that the Blazing Star Award, as well as all other State and Chapter awards, should be published in the Petal Pusher. Kevin Bley will write an essay for the Petal Pusher explaining the Blazing Star Award.
- **MONPS awards nominations are due April 1.** Five awards are offered for people who have supported the preservation of Missouri's flora. The awards committee includes Nadia Navarrete-Tindall (Chair), George Y., and Sherry Leis. Nomination instructions are in the Jan-Feb Petal Pusher.
- The MONPS Website is in need of an update. Brian Edmond will contact Dave Winn and discuss what to do.
- Missouriensis Journal: The 30th Anniversary issue of the Missouriensis, for fiscal year 2009, has been published and copies were distributed at the meeting. All members should receive a copy by mail soon. A combined 2010-2011 issue should be ready early next year (2012).
- Membership (Ann Early): There are 15 new members since the last board meeting and 7 of these are from the Hawthorn Chapter. There are 50 life members and a total of 360 memberships in the Society.
- Janet Haworth will delay the Jan-Feb Petal Pusher so that meeting schedules, awards and board member nominees can be included.
- Mike Leahy, Natural Areas Coordinator for MDC, won the raffle prize of a life membership in MONPS.
- Rex Hill will chair the Nominating Committee for the upcoming state Missouri Native Plant Society elections. An election will be held for two Board Member positions and candidates will be published in the March-April Petal Pusher. Nomination procedures will be in the Jan-Feb Petal Pusher.
- The new Missouri Botanical Inventory System (MOBIS) will be a method to track all occurrences of plant species and important information about each. Brian Edmond has been doing an amazing job putting this system together as a web database application and it should be implemented in the spring of 2012.
- Some members have expressed an interest in camping out while attending the annual board meetings. Brian Edmond will help locate camping areas available at the board meeting sites and they should be posted with the meeting details.
- Nels Holmburg has discovered a new moss genus for Missouri in the Tom Sauk. Mountain State Park area; a great find, Nels.

MONPS Board Meeting Schedule for 2012

Spring – April 13-15, 2012 – Branson area/Bull Shoals Reservoir, etc.

Summer – June 1-3, 2012 – Camdenton area/Ozark Caverns/Rocky Top Glade, and other places.

Fall – Sep. 28-30, 2012 – Cuivre River State Park and vicinity.

Winter – Sat. Dec. 1, 2012 – UMO Herbarium, Columbia, MO.

Stadium workday;
VM-S photo



Investing Chapter Money

Submitted by Vanessa Melton-Silvey, President

A member has suggested investing Chapter money to ensure that we have sufficient funds in the future. There are many questions to be answered when thinking about investing our funds. What is the purpose of investing our funds? What do we need Chapter funds for? Do we need more money than we currently have in our bank account and more than we currently usually make in a year? What are our plans for the future and how much money will we need to achieve these future goals? There are many ways to invest with different levels of risk, different possibilities for returns, and different costs attached to the process. How much cost are you willing to accept for what level of risk and what level of return? If we invest, what route should we take and who should we invest with? These are just some of the questions that should be answered, but first and foremost – should we consider investing an option?

This topic was discussed at the November meeting and a motion passed to form a committee who would look into investment options if need be. However, after the motion passed the whole idea came into question. We sort of put the cart before the horse. For this reason I feel it is important to take a vote in January on whether or not we should pursue this further. Keep in mind we will NOT be voting to invest money! We will just be voting on if this is something we should consider and pursue.

For those of you who were not at the November meeting this is your chance to speak up. Ponder these questions, come to the January meeting, and we will decide on pursuing this issue further.

Blazing Star Awarded

Our annual Blazing Star award was given at the chapter holiday party at our president Vanessa Melton-Silvey's home on 11 December. Ann Wakeman was recognized as a wonderful teacher; for sharing her knowledge of the native prairie plant ecosystem, and her skills with seeds and plants. Acknowledged as an absolute pyro in her enthusiasm for burning as a management technique. And appreciated as a tireless worker helping natives and this chapter in any way needed.



Ann received
Blazing Star
Award

*David Silvey
photo*

Wild Ones Calendars

<http://www.wildones.org/store/>

WildOnes only has a small quantity of 2012 calendars left, so if you want to order one, please do so NOW. The cover photo and the April photo were taken by Becky.

Protecting Funding for Native Plants

Within the US Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is an important source of funding for various activities that support native and rare plants. http://www.bgci.org/files/UnitedStates/PCA/plant_white_paper_for_pca_ngo_comm_2011.pdf

As Congress considers final funding levels, they are also considering BLM plans to implement a reorganization of plant activities. Please take a minute to send a message to your elected officials regarding the importance of protecting funding for plant materials and native plant programs.

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials/>

Not Enough Botanists

By Nancy Morin, plant taxonomist with Flora of NA Assoc.
From 2010 Natural Areas Newsletter P 18; MDC website

The Chicago botanic Garden and Botanic Gardens Conservation International co-organized a workshop to help assess the botanical capacity in the US, held at Chicago Botanic Garden on September 29 and 30, 2009. The workshop included approximately 40 participants from academic, governmental, and non-governmental organizations [several listed]. The workshop was part of a one year grant-funded project. Its purpose was to discuss results of a nationwide survey of the collective ability of US institutions and individuals to advance plant science education, research, and application; to identify gaps in capacity; and to recommend a plan of action to fill those gaps.

At the time of the workshop, the survey, which was conducted online with invitations to participate widely distributed within the botanical community, had resulted in 1141 responses. Additional professional groups were still being invited to participate. Responses were analyzed by Barbara Zorn-Arnold, research associate at Chicago botanic Garden, according to their category of work [gov't, ngo, academic]. The workshop participants discussed the following preliminary findings:

- Almost 40% of the faculty surveyed indicated that botany courses [...] had been eliminated from their institutions. Graduate students said that field botany, restoration ecology, and biogeography courses should be added. Fed gov't and ngo's said botanical resources needed to meet their goals were lacking. Botanists were identified as the faculty and staff most needed across all groups. Lack of botanical resource was considered to be due to lack of [funding] as well as lack of available staff time.
- Of the faculty respondents, 30% said they taught a botany course; 20% said they taught field botany; 17% said no botany classes were offered in their department. Botany, ecology, and systematics were identified by 20% as the top three fields most needed in their department.
- When asked to name their top three choices for employer, graduate students selected botanic gardens, universities, or conservation ngo's [...] in the areas of climate change, horticulture, and plant genetics.
- Top three limiting resources chosen by botanists in Fed gov't: lack of staff with top training; lack of research materials; lack of funding. 90% said they

did not have enough botanical staff to fill their needs. 80% said the lack of perceived need within the agency was the main obstacle.

Workshop participants discussed strategies to address this lack of botanical capacity. They concluded the needs were:

- 1) to increase public understanding of the importance of plants in the environment and the need for botanists who study and can increase our understanding of plants;
- 2) to urge the establishment of more botany positions within gov't agencies and ngo's;
- 3) to use whatever leverage is available to encourage academic institutions to maintain or increase courses they offer in basic botany, field botany and systematics.

For more information contact Andres Kramer, Exec Dir, BGCI-US, Chicago Botanic Garden:

andrea.kramer@bgci.us.org

[Ed note: This is why our group passes on our knowledge the best way we know how through hands-on involvement with native plants and the natural environment they support.]



Learning/teaching plant identification [botanizing] in different habitats on our moseys.

BE photos



Be sure to bring saved wildflower seed for the seed exchange at the January Meeting.

Hawthorn Education Grant Awarded

Submitted by Glenn Pickett Committee Leader

Nancy Langworthy and Glenn Pickett accepted the grant application received in September from two Biology teachers from Rock Bridge High School. Kerri Graham and April Sulze requested approximately \$550 to support their Ecology/Native Plants field trip they planned to take in October.

Club funds were used to hire school buses for the day, not only to transport students to and from the park, but to ferry them to and from the invasive species work sites. About 120 Honor's Biology students were in the field for nearly five hours on a very pleasant fall day at Rock Bridge State Park.



GP photo

As in previous years these two teachers required students to prepare a 'field guide' of about 2 dozen native plants common to our region. Once in the field they were to find and photograph as many of the plants in their guide as possible. The students also did some field work with park staff on edible plants, focusing mostly on fungi and nuts at this time of the year.

Prior to the field trip, Teachers Graham and Sulze used some of their class time to teach students about invasive species, particularly about their competitive advantage over native plants. Working with Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist, they arranged for 'service work' at the park. Each of the ten teams of students spent about two hours during the field trip cutting Eastern Red Cedar or Bush Honeysuckle from locations that park staff had identified. Armed with saws and loppers, students cut and stacked the brush, and then park staff or volunteers poisoned the stumps. With this small army of students, considerable invasive species 'control' was accomplished. A few of the groups worked on cleaning up a portion of the stream running through the popular Devil's Icebox area, as well.

The organization of this large group of 16 year olds for various activities of this trip was masterful. Sufficient volunteers had been recruited to supervise the 'service work.' Graham and Sulze had the students well prepared and they knew what they were supposed to do on the trip. They had assignments to complete while in the field to hold them accountable.

As a volunteer on the field trip, I spent most of my time working with student teams on bush honeysuckle removal.

Students were eager to 'attack the invaders' but were careful and thoughtful at the same time. I managed to squeeze in a little extra natural history or field biology as we worked; it was rewarding as students were interested in what I had to say, and they asked good, inquisitive questions. In all, the trip was an excellent field experience for the students. They were well behaved and enthusiastic, and enjoyed their time in the woods.

I truly believe that this activity and the learning achieved by the students was worthy of our club's support.

To fill the empty space . . .

Becky

Tonight [Tuesday] I watched the PBS program on Michael Pollin's Botany of Desire [Hope you didn't miss it].

At any rate the gist of it was an invitation to join the plant community and study it. Understand that diversity – community and genetic - is the core of life on this Planet, Our Earth, our home. Whether you are growing a vegetable garden to eat for you and your family, to share with your friends, or loving and managing several acres for live stock, or wild life insects. Diversity is the core of health of our existence. We need diversity for survival.

Everyone needs to understand photosynthesis. [OH geez! grade school science, then high school > I NEVER got that!] OK. 3 billion years in a nutshell: Plants take Sun energy, convert it to carbon and oxygen. Animals [we, too!] breathe oxygen mixed with carbon made form plants we eat = energy. Carbon is a major component of sugar which is energy for everything else on Earth. Stored carbon energy is timber, coal, oil and gas. Without plants that evolved about 2-3 million years ago, we could not have had the human agricultural revolution, industrial revolution, and population explosion expressing now.

Today we are dependent on huge monocultures, genetic selections, and gmo's [genetically modified organisms] to provide food for our dominant populations [I am only the reporter up to this point, not the editorialist].

Now – personally – what I suggest to help these issues is that we all diversify our landscape in every way possible. Each person plant something to eat and something to help the pollinators. Each person break up monocultures which cause insect/disease problems [lawn grass and monoculture crops]. Each person teach another person these simple healthy Earth habits. Each of us needs to invite and physically assist a neighbor or friend to go with us to a wild area to enjoy and learn how the natural world effects us all in a positive way.

Besides Michael Pollin's Botany of Desire, read Douglass Tallamy's Bringing Nature Home. Both can be found on line.

Go my Sons, burn your books. Buy yourself stout shoes. Get away to the mountains, the valleys, the shores of the seas, the deserts, and the deepest recesses of the Earth. In this way and no other will you find true knowledge of things and their properties. Peter Severinus, 16th. century Dane educator

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 Bradford Plant Sale. 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



