



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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Hawthorn Chapter Officers:

President

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

Vice President

Nancy Langworthy
nancyangworthy@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@mhc.mo.gov

Membership

Paula Peters
2216 Grace Ellen Dr
Columbia, MO 65202
573-474-4225
pieridael@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

March 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.

March

10 Saturday Landscape Design with Missouri in Mind Bradford Farm, 8-4. Must pre-register before 29 February. See Grow Native website for details.

12 Monday: Membership Meeting 6 pm Eaglebluffs, 6700 W. Route K, Vic Bogosian [MDC biologist] will give a program on turtles. See article inside

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

24 Saturday: Mosey at Whitley's Thicket Leave MDC at 11am for lunch at Heuer's, OR meet us at Heuer's at 1pm for the hike after lunch to see wild leeks and snow trillium. Short walk but difficult climb on one hill; wear knee boots for stream crossing.

29 Thursday: Tentative Baskett Area Ashland: Serviceberry and other spring flowers, leave MDC in Columbia at 5 pm. Easy/Moderate.

April

1 Sunday: Possible alternate date for Baskett, Ashland, or Pinnacles Park, North Boone Co: Serviceberry and other spring flowers. Leave Columbia MDC at 1 pm. Easy/Moderate.

5 Thursday Possible alternate date for Baskett, Ashland, or Pinnacles Park, North Boone Co: Serviceberry and other spring flowers. Leave Columbia MDC at 5 pm. Easy/Moderate

[8 Easter]

14 Saturday 10 am – 2pm: Plant Sale at Bradford Farm. 9 am Booth set up.

April 13-15, 2012 – State Branson area/Bull Shoals Reservoir, etc. Details in Petal Pusher.

[16 April – 6 May = Turkey Season: can go in woods only after 1 pm; State Parks = OK any time]

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

22 Sunday Earth Day Columbia, Noon to 6pm. Booth set up [10am] and plant sale.

28 Pershing State Park [LaCiede] Easy boardwalks thru wetlands, wet forests and other habitats. Leave MDC in Columbia at 8 am. All-day outing; bring sun hat, bug spray, water, snacks. We will find someplace to eat.

May

3 Thursday Maybe 26 April or 10 May impromptu mid-week: Shooting stars at 3-Creeks CA. contact Becky for reservations. Easy walk.

4-6 Camping weekend at Hawn SP: Friday evening thru Sunday noon. Room for one more tent with up to four people. Call Paula 573-474-4225 See article inside.

Call Vanessa or Paula for more information

Thanks to John George, Nadia N-Tindall, for their contributions to the newsletter. Editor would like to hear from you, too.

Hawthorn Camping Weekend 4-6 May

Paula has organizing our chapter camping trip to Hawn State Park May 4-6. We chose the first weekend in May because it is our best chance to see azaleas and orchids in bloom. It is also the best time for migratory birds and good for insect emergence.

The Park superintendent recommended that we get our reservations in as soon as possible. **So she made the reservation on 10 February.** two tents and up to six people can be set up on each site. Each site costs \$36.50 for the weekend. So campsite costs will be split among the people occupying each site. **There is still room for one tent with up to four people in it.**

No one is excluded from this outing; please come and bring friends. Just because you don't camp doesn't mean you can't come and have a good time. If you don't want Paula to coordinate your campsite, you may go on your own, find a campsite or motel, and meet us for hikes.

Trails out of the campground and to the wildflower areas are of easy to moderate difficulty. The campground has a modern bath house, tables, and fire pits [buy firewood there; DO NOT bring firewood to the park]. Tent sites are mostly shaded.

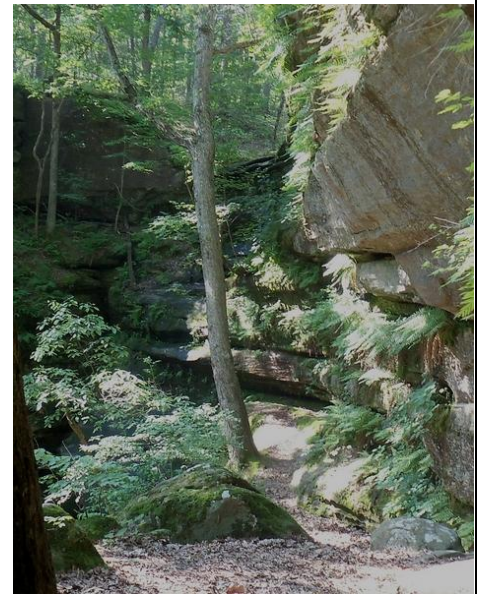
Last year we had a GREAT time in spite of the heat in early June. There were plenty of unusual plants, insects, and other animals around the streams. Bird watching was good. We combined the food we brought and ate well.

We will finalize our plans as it gets closer to the date, and we see how many people are going, and what activities the group is interested in.



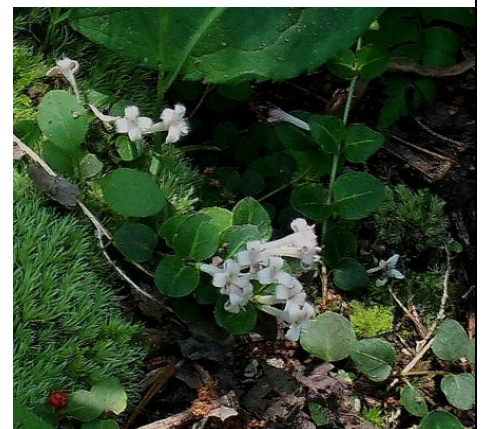
Pickle Creek

BE photo



Ferns on cliff at Hickory Canyon NA

BE Photo



Rare Partridge Berry flower at
Hickory Canyon NA

BE Photo



On the trail at Hawn SP June 2011: Ann, Paula, Cora, David, Mike, Lucky
VM-S photo

Stately American aloe

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Native Plant Extension Specialist

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension

American aloe (*Manfreda virginica*) in the Agavaceae family is more closely related to soapweed (*Yucca* spp.) than to Aloe (*Aloe vera*). What they have in common is that they are monocots, meaning that seeds only have one cotyledon, flower parts are in 3's or multiples of 3, and the leaves usually have parallel venation. (Lilies, onions, wild leeks, grasses and sedges are all monocots.)

American aloe can be easily grown from seed. One single \$2.50 packet purchased from Missouri Wildflowers Nursery several years ago provided enough seedlings for all of Lincoln University's gardens, and a few for our own private yard. I followed the recommendations for stratifying the seed under cold and moisture conditions in the winter. We planted 1 or 2 seeds per plug in well-drained soil. In the spring of the following year, many seeds germinated. Some of the first-year seedlings were planted at a demonstration garden at LU-Busby Farm in a rocky spot with poor soil next to a driveway, where now they are thriving.

We recycle all our soil, so the soil from pots with the seed that did not germinate was used to grow other seedlings. During the second year after planting, we found more new baby aloes in what we thought were empty pots. This happened in subsequent years, also, seedlings kept showing up in our nursery to the point that I lost track of the number we obtained from this one packet of seed. Now we have aloe in every garden, but the best site for them is at Busby Farm. Half of the plants bloomed in 2011, three years after germinating and their nice capsule-like fruits produced an abundance of seeds.

If you would like to see how these plants look in a garden, plan to come to the Busby Farm Field Day the fourth Saturday in September to see for yourself what is, in my opinion, a plant that should be in every garden with enough sun and poor and dry soil. It has a distinctively shaped basal rosette leaves that remind you of agave. The flowering stem rises to a stately five feet crowned with a candelabra of pale green flowers and large white stamens. These flowers have undifferentiated petals and sepals (tepals) forming a tube. Native bees and a nocturnal hawkmoths pollinate the tubular flowers with their unusual large stamens.

It is easy to maintain. Most of the visible part of the plant dies off in the winter, except for the crown that is at soil level. In a container, this plant grown with rock pink makes an interesting combination.

That packet of seed was worth every penny and more, and I would encourage everyone to grow this plant, and cultivate it in the garden. Seedlings of aloe and rock pink can be purchased at our booth during the Native Plant Sale at Bradford Farm on April 14.

Selected reference: Baskin, C. and J. M. Baskin. 2002.

Propagation protocol for production of container *Manfreda virginica* (L.) Salisb. ex Rose plants; University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. In: Native Plant Network. URL:

<http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org> (accessed 26 February 2012).



American aloe flowers bolt in July. NN-T photo



Basal leaves of American aloe.

NN-T photo



BE photo



VM-S photo

Most often, the best things take a little work to achieve. We have to cross a creek to see the snow trillium and leeks, but they are worth the extra effort to see.



Other spring ephemerals we will see along the way. Will you come with us and meet these friends of ours? BE photos



Let us show you breathtaking places like this – and they are not far from town.

BE photos



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

