



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 by the 26th to:

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October 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 **Call Vanessa or Paula for more information.** Carpool meeting place, commuter parking lot at AC and US63.

October

3 Wednesday: 1:30 pm Two Mile Prairie School. Serecia removal [see page 3]

6 Saturday: Spring Creek Gap This has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

18 Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, 11:30 at RagTag, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway]. Informal exchange of ideas and information.

27 Saturday: Wreath workshop/ potluck/cookout 10 to 2 at Nancy Brakhage's house. See Page 3.

31 Wednesday: Nominations for awards due [see Vanessa's "Upcoming Activities..."]

November

12 Monday: Regular Membership Meeting, 6 PM Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Lorna Domke will talk about the work they do at Prairie Garden Trust.

15 Thursday nominations for officers due in to Nancy Langworthy [see block below].

15 Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, 11:30 at RagTag, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway]. Informal exchange of ideas and information.

December

1 Saturday: State Board meeting UM Herbarium, [on Rock Quarry Road just south of Stadium] Columbia, MO. Business and field-trip planning. All are welcome.

8 Saturday: Holiday Party Starting at Noon, at Vanessa and David's house. Invitation inside. Directions in December newsletter.

CALL FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Submitted by Nancy Langworthy, Nominating Committee

President Vanessa Melton-Silvey has appointed a nominating committee to establish a slate of candidates for open 2013-14 chapter offices: president[final 1 year of Vanessa's term], vice president, treasurer, and chapter representative. The committee has begun work on this task but also requests nominations [of oneself or of others you think capable] from the membership for each of these positions.

***** Please call or email current vice-president Nancy Langworthy at 874-2463 or langworthyn@gmail.com with your nominations. The deadline for submitting these nominations is Thursday 15 November 6 pm so the nominations can be published in the December newsletter.**

Thanks to Nancy Langworthy, Vanessa Melton-Silvey, Lea Langdon, Ann Wakeman for their submissions to the newsletter this month. Thanks to Doug Miller for keeping the website up to date. We would like to get announcements, impressions or other creative nature writing from you, too.

Upcoming Activities for Fall and Winter

Submitted by Vanessa Melton-Silvey, President

The last quarter of the year is upon us, and with the upcoming holiday season it will go by in a flash. We only have one meeting left this year and it is sure to be a good one. Lorna Domke from Prairie Garden Trust will be speaking on the work her and her husband, Henry, have been doing on their property so if you want to hear the latest news about this gem of the natural world come to the November meeting on the 12th at 6 pm.

In December we will be having our annual Holiday Party on the 8th at Vanessa's house. Wassail and appetizers will be served at noon and lunch will be at 1 pm. There will be an article in the November newsletter complete with directions if you haven't been there before. The Holiday Party is always a great time to socialize with friends.

Don't forget the end of the year is also a time we start thinking about Blazing Star Awards and Hawthorn Awards. Remember Blazing Star Awards are for chapter members who have done great service to the chapter and Hawthorn Awards go to individuals, groups, or organizations outside our chapter who promote natives, excel in teaching the importance of natives, are good stewards of using native landscaping, or something along those lines. If you have an award nominee suggestion for either award please let myself or Nancy Langworthy know by the end of October. Please keep in mind you will have to give reasoning why the nominee deserves an award, and remember finding recipients for these awards is not mandatory every year. I just thought I would remind you they are available if you have been thinking of someone who deserves an award.

It is also that time of year to start thinking about elections. The Nominating Committee consisting of Nancy Langworthy, Paula Peters, and Ann Wakeman have already started pondering this issue, but they need your help. If you would like to continue in your current position or would like to nominate yourself or someone else for one of the positions being voted on please let them know. The positions being voted on in January are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and State Representative. We typically do not vote on President along with these other offices in the same year, but due to my current circumstances I have asked the Nominating Committee to find a replacement for me starting in January. I am expecting a baby in February of next year and I am concerned that with a newborn I will not be able to fulfill my duties as President. These last four years have been great and I look forward to the years ahead as a continued member of the chapter. So, give the Nominating Committee your full support as they have a big task ahead of them this year, and consider running for one of the positions. If you have any questions concerning the duties of any office listed above give them a call or send an email and they would be glad to offer any information they can.

See you all at the November meeting! Vanessa Silvey

September Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Ann Wakeman, Secretary

The September 10, 2012 meeting of the Hawthorn chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society was called to order at 7:02 pm by president Vanessa Melton-Silvey.

Nels Holmberg presented a program on Bryophytes, which include mosses, liverworts and hornworts. He felt he needed learn what plants were growing the farm that he and his wife acquired so she could raise sheep. He has learned that mosses can grow almost anywhere, and don't like to be covered by leaf litter so many may be found on raised areas such as where trees topple with their root mass. Mosses are good habitat for springtails thought of as possible pollinators of mosses as well as water bears. We were surprised to learn there are even annual mosses. Mosses make good nurseries for ferns and other plants.

Mosses have no vascular tissue, which limits how tall they can grow, and are the first branch which come directly off the algae. Bryophytes reproduce differently than most other plants, their spores are haploid (half the DNA). They are diploid only after fertilization.

Nels went on to let us know there are 324 species of moss, 128 species of liverwort, and 4 species of hornwort identified in Missouri - that are known to date. The best habitat for liverworts is found in sandstone canyons because of the constantly moist substrate. Hornworts are ephemerals, and little known.

In general, bryophytes are not well studied, and one needs a 40x power microscope to identify them. He has tried transplanting mosses to his farm in similar habitat, but some do not thrive, which means they can be specialists. After the short business meeting adjourned, we looked at samples of mosses and liverworts he brought so we could see the diversity of mosses.

Business meeting . . .

Treasurer's report. Balance of \$8501.53, including a partial refund of a school grant.

Old business:

The Hickox cabin renovation in Rock Bridge State Park has started.

New business:

The Bradford Farm plant sale has been canceled. Instead, September 15, members of the chapter and the Wild Ones are invited to Becky's place to purchase plants, then go to Missouri Wildflowers to purchase more.

Becky has the heavy wooden display table for sale.

Events:

Nadia reminded us of In Touch With Nature that Lincoln University holds at Busby Farm is to be September 22. She will have the recipes for the native plant foods that were served at the reception after Dr. Tallamy's talk.

Announcements:

Program for November Meeting

NB!: Meeting time is at 6 pm due to the change of daylight saving time. January and March meetings will also be at 6 pm. Come early for social hour and we can all leave early. Henry and Lorna Domke will talk about the work they do at Prairie Garden Trust.

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Workday at Two Mile Prairie and Rockbridge Elementary Schools

Submitted by Lea Langdon, Coordinator

[Ed. note: For those of you who don't know Lea: she is a member who does much more hands-on direct education in CPS about native plants and management than anyone I know. Supporting her efforts strengthens a broader outreach.]

We are having a workday in the prairie, at Two Mile Prairie Elementary School, to begin to eradicate invasive, exotic, *Sericea lespedeza*, and we would love more help. Some of this has already flowered, so we are trying to remove it before millions of seeds are dropped. This prairie is in pretty good shape, generally, so we want to keep it that way.

There are also blackberry bushes and some trees that should be removed, so if we have enough volunteers, we will tackle these as well. Please dress for rough work, and if you have good loppers or pruners, bring them. There will be more tools available. If you have a chainsaw that you could use for cutting a few trees, that would be great also.

***** We plan to start around 1:30, Wednesday 3 October so being there a bit earlier would be helpful. *****

Two Mile Prairie is less than 10 miles from 70 & 63, at 5450 No. Route Z. Go east on 70 to Route Z, then north to the school. The prairie is just south of the school, and you can park along the east side of it.

*** If you are interested in carpooling, reply by email or phone and I will try to help coordinate. Lea Langdon langtrea@gmail.com or 864-7647 ***

We hope to have another work day at Rock Bridge Elementary School prairie soon, to work on their *Sericea lespedeza*, but it hasn't yet been scheduled. If you are interested, you could email me and I will put you on the email list for notification. Thanks for your interest. I hope to work with some of you this coming Wednesday afternoon.

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State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Renewed

Report from Vanessa Melton-Silvey, President

A few months ago our Chapter sent a letter of support for the State & Tribal Wildlife Grant and its continued funding. Over 600 other organizations did the same thing and because of our collective effort their funding has been continued at the same level as last year. Congrats to them on a successful achievement.

[Minutes continued . . .]

The wreath workshop and potluck will be October 27 at Nancy Brakhage's home.

Field trips:

October 6 to Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area.

Announcements

Vanessa reminded us in January the chapter will be electing Chapter Representative, Vice president and someone to finish the President's term. Members need to be thinking who can fill those positions.

Glenn Pickett has been receiving school grant applications.

The November 12 meeting which starts at 6 pm speaker will be Lorna Domke from the Prairie Garden Trust.

Meeting was adjourned close to 9 pm.

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October Lunch at RagTag is

Thursday 18 October, 11:30 am, 10 Hitt St.

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Wreath Workshop and Potluck.

Submitted by Nancy Brakhage

Everyone is invited to the wreath workshop and potluck October 27. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 7852 S. Hill Creek Road. Directions: from Columbia travel all the way south on Providence Road to Route K at Rockbridge Elementary School. Take Route K (toward McBaine) 1.3 miles to left on Hill Creek Road, continue 1.3 miles on Hill Creek to 7852 on the left (look for a big mailbox).

To make a harvest or holiday wreath bring a straw base (\$3-\$4 at craft stores) and a spool of 24 to 26-gauge wire (\$2 at craft stores), pliers or clippers, gloves if you want, and dried plant material to share [non-invasive berries, grasses, interesting leaves, dried flowers]. Fresh cedar will be supplied. If you don't know how to make a wreath, someone will help to get you started. Also you can learn how to make wreaths from wild grape vine.

For pot luck bring meat (or equivalent) for yourself and a side dish to share. A hot charcoal grill, oven or microwave will be available to prepare your meat. Paper plates, plastic ware and drinks are provided, or bring your own. Bring snacks for the morning if you want them. Plans are to eat by 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Plan to arrive 11:30-12:00 if you can only come for the meal. I hope you'll come for both.

Suggested Websites

If you have found a good botanical/ecological site you would like to share with the membership, please send it to Becky.

Our own chapter website!!

Check into the Hawthorn website =

www.columbianativeplants.org If you have photos to add, please send them to Doug Miller thedesign@bigthe.com

Nadia's Backyard: blog by Randy Tindall =

www.nadiasyard.com

MO Botanical Garden = www.mobot.org

National and local plant identification = www.plants.usda.gov

Millpond Plants local native water plants =

www.millpondplants.wordpress.com

Ozark Highlands = www.allisonjvaughn.blogspot.com

WildOnes! = www.wildones.com

Plant Conservation Alliance hq at MoBOT =

www.nps.gov/plants

Univ of MO Weed ID website = weedID.missouri.edu

LadyBirdJohnsonWildflowerCenter = www.wildflower.org

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It's Just Trees – isn't it?

From E.O. Wilson 2000

“Now when you cut a forest, an ancient forest in particular, you are not just removing a lot of big trees and a few birds flutter around in the canopy. You are drastically imperiling a vast array of species within a few square miles of you. The number of these species may go to tens of thousands. Many of them are still unknown to science, and science has not yet discovered the key roll undoubtedly played in the maintenance of that ecosystem, as in the case of fungi, microorganisms, and many insects” [Ed, note: this concept can be extrapolated to plowing a prairie or dredging an estuary.]

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Liatris pycnostachya spring sprouts

BE photo

Project Table for Sale

There is a very sturdy hand built table we used at our booth displays for many years being stored at Becky's house. This 3X8 foot table has a thick, varnished, plywood top with 3" skirting, heavy folding legs. It would cost much more than \$100 for the materials and the time it takes to build a comparable table. \$100 goes back into the NPS account. Please call Becky for viewing, sale, and pickup. 657-2314

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Help Monarchs;

sign up with Monarch Watch

Submitted by Becky Erickson

Look up Monarch Watch on line to get information for reporting monarch visitation and reproduction on your property, or anywhere in the area. Your reporting these observations is VERY important to record counts of migrating monarchs.

In case you don't know what they look like, there are thousands if you use Google images.

Feed Monarchs with milkweeds available from our own nursery at Becky's house or from MO Wildflowers.

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You can renew until 1 December, dont put it off!!

Keeping an Eye on Mother Nature

Elizabeth Pope in AARP Bulletin Apr 2012

Amature naturalists are helping scientists answer questions about the shifts in season by observing things like the date a robin starts to build a nest.

It is a huge effort coordinated by the USA National Phenology Network. Phenology = the timing of seasonal activity of plants and animal activities, is the leading indicator of environmental changes. Scientists use this data to monitor invasive species, predict wildfires, and study how plants and animals adapt to climate change.

To track and compile data, professionals rely on more than 4000 volunteers who record their data onlin. “We need citizen scientists to help us take the pulse of the planet.” Jake Weltzin, ED of the NPN.

For more information on how to help, log on to www.usanpn.org .

< - < - < - [Ed note: there are other databases you can contribute data to: **Bud Burst, Monarch Watch, and Cornell Ornithology** offers several bird counts.]

Winter Treat for Downies

From *Birdwatching, December 2011* by Warren Uxley

Downy woodpeckers are birds of the forest. Goldenrods are a flowering perennial found along roads and in meadows and pastures. For most of the year, the two have nothing to do with each other. Yet every winter, thanks to a common tiny fly, the plant briefly plays a significant role in the survival of the bird. And you can watch.

Goldenrods are a ubiquitous component of the landscape throughout much of North America – more than 100 species can be found in a variety of habitats. Perhaps the most abundant plants within the group are members of what is known as the Canada goldenrod complex, several closely related species that can dominate our fields and meadows.

Goldenrods play host to a vast array of insects, but the aphids, wasps, and flies known as gallmakers are special, since they have the ability to alter the developmental pathways of plants.

One is the goldenrod gall fly. It attacks two species within the Canada goldenrod complex exclusively, producing a large, tumor-like growth called a ball gall. The growing gall takes a toll on its host plant. Goldenrods that carry the gall-fly larvae will, on average, grow more slowly and produce fewer flowers than those without the affliction.

The cycle begins when the female gall fly lays an egg on the host. The egg hatches in a week. Then the larva bores into the plant tissue and creates a chamber. As the larva feeds, it secretes chemicals that mimic plant growth hormones, and the gall begins to form. Growth of the larva and its gall continues through the summer months.

As the gall matures, it provides food and shelter, but the larva is far from secure. Three insects – two wasps and a beetle – are known to parasitize gall-fly grubs. In some years, few larvae outlive the onslaught.

In the early fall, if the larva survives, it excavates an escape tunnel to, but not through, the thin outer layer of the gall and then returns to the center. The larva won't use that tunnel until the spring, when it emerges as an adult fly. For now, with the tunnel exit covered and its summertime enemies gone, it settles in for the winter, unaware that it must face one more threat: the Downy Woodpecker, which loves goldenrod gall-fly larvae.

Starting in early December, the woodpecker comes out of the woods and begins searching galls for exit tunnels. While failure to find a tunnel indicates that a parasitic wasp or beetle may have already attacked the larva, meaning that the woodpecker should look elsewhere, discovering a tunnel signals an easy-to-obtain, calorie-rich meal. The Downy creates a cone-shaped opening big enough to accommodate its bill.

Then it plunges its long, barbed tongue down the passageway and pulls out the grub.

Highly prized gall-fly grubs can be a significant part of the woodpecker's diet for two or three weeks each winter. But heavy predation causes rapid depletion of the resource. By January, the Downies will have to move on to other less profitable foods.

The goldenrods that host the gall fly are plants of open habitats, and woodpeckers are reluctant to wander far from their woodland home. One study conducted near Ithaca, New York, found that woodpecker use of goldenrod galls located more than 25 yards from the woodland edge was zero.

The Downy is not the only bird to utilize galls. Black-capped Chickadees in southern Ontario routinely attack goldenrod galls. Since chickadees lack the woodpecker's large bill and long tongue, they have to remove a large portion of the gall to get their reward, leaving a characteristically messy opening.

For reasons that are still unclear, chickadees in other parts of the continent have not learned how to do this; the technique is observed rarely. The researchers in Ithaca examined thousands of galls and found only a handful damaged by chickadees, and investigators elsewhere have made similar observations. It's not that unusual for different populations of the same species to have different behavior repertoires.

Perhaps this aspect of chickadee natural history has been exaggerated. Throughout most of the goldenrod gall fly's range, it has only one major predator in winter – the Downy Woodpecker.

To see the woodpecker's handiwork for yourself, visit a field that has patches of goldenrod and adjacent woodlands, and look for galls. Conduct your own survey. It can be a fun wintertime activity!



Gerald Vogt © 2009

Gerald Vogt photo From Google Images

Male & female Downy for identification

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 **RENEW NOW !!**

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.

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