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Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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AUGUST 2017

Future Activities

August 5th, Saturday at 1 pm: PGT Butterfly Walk. Prairie Garden Trust will be hosting a butterfly walk at their location by New Bloomfield. See their website (www.prairiegardentrust.org) for more information.

August 17th, Thursday at 11:30 am: Lunch at Uprise Bakery. 10 Hitt St., just south of Broadway.

September 11th, Monday at 7:00 pm: Bimonthly Meeting at Unitarian Church. Plant ID workshop led by Becky Erickson. Bring unknowns for identification.

September 21st, Thursday at 11:30 am: Lunch at Uprise Bakery. 10 Hitt St., just south of Broadway.

Update on Volunteer Efforts at the Prairie Loop in Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary, 3300 Rollins Road, Columbia. Submitted by Mike Trial and Lea Langdon

In May 2017 volunteers (with help from students at Fairview elementary school) planted a variety of native plants in 4 planting areas around the perimeter of the Prairie Loop of Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary. Most of the plants were a generous gift from the Missouri Prairie Foundation. They offered free pollinator plants to many schools in the Columbia area, which were planted by students in late spring. Some of the species planted were Butterfly Weed (*Asclepius tuberosa*) and Slender Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*).

A sign lists what native plants are in each planting area so that the many joggers and walkers that

walk the concrete path around the 2.5 acre prairie loop can identify the native plants. Individual plant markers have also been installed at several representative plants in each of the planting areas.



Planting Day with Lea Langdon and Fairview School kids.



Bonnie View Prairie Loop Sign. Both photos courtesy of Mike Trial.

MONPS 2017 Summer Field Trip, June 7-9, 2017 – Clark County MO

Submitted by John George and Becky Erickson



Horsemint. Courtesy of Becky Erickson.



Horsemint habitat. Taken by Becky Erickson.

Fourpoint Evening Primrose. Courtesy of Becky Erickson.



Becky Erickson and John George each drove separately up to NE MO for the meeting. All members, upon arriving, reported robust Japanese beetle populations as evidenced by filthy insect-covered vehicle grills.

The walk around Battle of Athens State Historic Site was pleasantly shaded by the lush forest overlooking the Des Moines River. Athens was a large town until about 100 years ago when railroad was diverted and river traffic subsided. This is the location of the northern-most battle in the Civil War that took place west of the Mississippi River. Several antebellum homes have been preserved.

Friday evening Bruce Schuette gave a presentation at the Clark County Historical Museum in Kahoka, MO where he talked about “Botanical Sites of Interest in Northeast Missouri”. Bruce explained how the geology in that area is unique and how it influences the botanical communities.

The first field trip Saturday was the Crawford Estate Conservation Area. Interestingly – MDC knew nothing about this property before learning that it had been donated to them by the estate of the Crawford family. Jason Jacobson (Resource Forester, MDC) and his son guided the group through the 88 acre area next to the Des Moines River. The area displayed a mix of formerly thinned and grazed woodlands as well as some old field and crop areas and some less disturbed woodland and forest. The flora was mostly typical and expected for this part of the state; great dismay in seeing large quantities of invasive plants so far from urban areas. But the large, protected north-east facing slope going down from the woodland ridgetop to the Des Moines River had some conservative species present such as: False Hellibore (*Veratrum woodii*), Doll’s Eyes (*Actaea pachypoda*) and American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*).

Upon leaving the Crawford Estate CA the group assembled at the Illiniwek Village State Historic Site. The Illiniwek site was developed as an interpretive location about the historic Native American Tribes that existed in the area before the arrival of European settlers and their influences. The site is in the Mississippi River flood plain and therefore the substrate is largely alluvium deposited in an early era where the large river still meandered a great deal. The sandy alluvium supports some species not found very frequently in MO. There was an Evening Primrose (*Oenothera clelandii*) that was quite abundant on the site as well as Clasp-leaved Milkweed (*Asclepias amplexicaulis*), Whorled (*A. verticellata*), and numerous other milkweeds. There was a very abundant and very attractive Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) and a unique umbrella sedge (*Cyperus schweinitzii*). A short hike to the edge of an old slough channel found Smooth Rose (*Rosa blanda*) buried amidst some robust poison ivy. Once the poison ivy was stomped down, the unique thornless rose species could be observed. Some astute observers found nearby what appeared to be a hybrid between the Smooth rose and Multi-flora rose. Unfortunately the site had a robust population of spotted knapweed as well.

The last field stop Saturday was at the Steyermark Sand Prairie (which is a portion of the Frost Island Conservation Area). We found large colonies of Prickly pear (*Opuntia compressa*), hundreds of stems of Tall larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*) that had been in bloom earlier in the year as well as 2 species of Puccoon (*Lithospermum latifolium* and *L. incisum*). A pretty Golden-Aster like plant was very common although not yet in bloom (*Heterotheca villosa*). The sand dominated landscape showed the leavings of many burrowing mammals.

Everyone returned to Kahoka at about 3:30PM and settled in for a shower and dinner.

The MONPS Summer Board Meeting was held at the Clark County Historical Museum in Kahoka.

Sunday’s field trip was to Rose Pond Conservation Area. This is a known location for the rare Yellow Mud and Blanding’s Turtles. The area contains an open sandy grassland area that transitions down to a wetland pool bordered by typical *Polygonum* spp., Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and for those who waded far enough into the muck they found Great bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*).

ANNUAL MEETING

John Oliver called the annual meeting to order at 7pm Saturday 8 July 2017. He re-capped the accomplishments of the year: MONPS has 9 chapters and attended 4 field meetings [see past Petal Pushers for details]. The Hudson Award was given to Bridget Miller, a plant geneticist at

SLU. The Education Award was given to Allen Bournstein of SEMO State in Cape Girardeau for being an inspirational and demanding teacher of botany. Plant Stewardship Award went to KC Wildlands with Linda Lehrbaum at the helm. They have high volunteer turnout for clearing aliens from high quality KC park areas.

QUARTERLY MEETING: was brought to order at 7:45. JO established we did not have a quorum so no votes were taken.

Facebook had over 12,000 visitors – more will be done to encourage memberships from visitors.

PayPal link on the website works for renewals and new members.

Bob Seimer will, from now on, mail checks to chapter treasurers.

Membership: 15 new members since last meeting; 11 of them are in the new Rolla chapter “Paradoxa”. Congratulations! 377 members and 94 Life members; 2 new members asked up front to be life members.

Website: Each chapter was asked a year ago to list their favorite places. Now, plant lists from these places are requested. Please do not include species diggers would want.

New Merchandise: MONPS will no longer print and cart around merchandise for fund raising. A distributor will be found who will print our artwork on selected products and ship to customers – then share the profit with MONPS.

Fieldtrip to Ava 22-24 Sept will most likely do the Glade Top Trail, and Ozark Underground Lab, McClurg Glade is a good option.

Commit immediately to attend Paul McKenzie’s Grass ID Workshop in Warrensburg 1 & 2 Sept Collect whole stems of cool season grasses now to study at the workshop.

Attempt to coordinate with ILNPS on one of their field trip weekends in 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

July 11th Meeting Topic Submitted by Cindy Squire

Did you know folks are foraging in the middle of Columbia? We had an enthusiastic and educational presentation by Ann Koenig, MDC Community Forester, which highlighted Native Tree Orchards which can be grown in the Columbia Area. So, folks can forage the yards of Columbia, with the help of native plant enthusiasts!!

Shell Bark Hickory (*Carya Laciniosa*): This is a beautiful large tree! It has large, easy cracking nuts that are not commercially available. The nuts have a black walnut flavor and can be used in breads, cookies, salads and as a topping for savory dishes. The shelled nuts freeze well for storage. As with many of the nut trees, be careful where you locate this one, falling nuts can damage vehicles. This is a favorite of squirrels also!

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.): This is a slow growing shrubby tree that gives tasty fruit, three seasons of color and can fit into most landscaping scenarios. What more can you ask of a native? The fruit tastes like a blueberry and doesn’t last long if there are any birds nearby.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*): This a lovely fruit when it is 100% ripe. It can be incorporated into cookies, cakes, savory sauces and breads. Shake the tree to harvest, or pucker up if the fruit is not ripe! A foley food mill can help de-seed these fruits.

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*): The leaves smell like green peppers and the fruit is fragile. These water loving native trees are beautiful A banana like fruit that has large seeds and mango like taste and looks like a tropical beauty. How exotic for a Missouri Native!

MDC has a great salsa recipe in their native foraging cookbook.

Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*): Many folks had fond memories of picking up these nuts for food and profit. The nuts are quite heavy and the outer husk can stain, so be careful on the location of this stately tree. Missouri has a wild walnut station that will give you money for these.

Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*): A valuable nut that is native to Missouri and makes a stately lawn tree. On Wed., July 12, there was a tour of a local orchard next to Rock Bridge Elementary School. It was quite informative, squirrels are your enemies if you love these nuts. Also, there are improved cultivars that grow faster and don’t get many of the diseases that kill many of these beautiful trees.

Happy foraging!!!

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 the Spring Bradford Plant Sale. If you receive this by mail, please consider requesting email delivery.

- Regular (\$16.00)*
- Student (\$11.00)
- Contributing (\$26.00) Designate Chapter or State
- Paper Postal Service (\$5.00)
- State Lifetime (\$200.00)
- Chapter Lifetime (\$120.00—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 1st through June 30th.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day or Cell _____

Email _____

As of July 2015 printed paper Petal Pusher newsletters sent by post will cost an additional \$5.00 more than standard membership. Email delivery brings not only a color copy of the newsletter, but also updates and announcements between newsletters. The local Chapter newsletter will be sent by email.

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