



Newsletter

Volume 39, Number 6

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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly.

We would like to read about announcements, impressions, species accounts, photos, poems, links to scientific articles or other creative nature writing from our members. Send submissions before the 26th of every month to:

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This is the 38th year Hawthorn has supplied a newsletter to chapter members.

All newsletters since 2008 are archived on our website.

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June 2024

A Welcome Note from the President -Elena Vega

The Hawthorn Chapter had a very busy May with the Bass Pro Plant Sale and a mosey to the Cedar Creek District of the Mark Twain National Forest just east of Ashland. On Wednesday May 1, Ann Wakeman led us on the trail starting at Paris Chapel trailhead where we parked and met by the church. We had youngsters join us who added great joy by finding a box turtle, several spiders, and frogs during our adventure. After following the trail up and down and across the creek a few times, we were rewarded with a hillside of bright yellow Lady Slipper orchids. If you missed the mosey, you can find this trailhead with these directions: If starting at Millersburg, go south on J to CR356. Then turn right (or east ~1 mile). Paris Chapel is in the triangle at CR356 and CR361. If starting in Ashland, go east on Y until you reach the Aponte Horses Stables and turn north until you reach CR361 which you follow up to the corner with CR356. On Saturday, May 9, John George led a mosey to see the Shooting Stars at the Hundred Acre Wood north of Columbia. This mosey route includes a chance to see numerous blooming native plants and a beautiful overlook of the creek below. The last week of May included many opportunities – including a chance to help at our Hawthorn Adopt-a-Spot and a chance to partner with The Nature Conservancy. See the schedule for all the wonderful moseys and other activities we have planned for June and join us for one or all of them.



June Activities Calendar

Our traditional meeting time is second Mondays at 6:30.

And social lunches are third Thursdays 11:30.

[Any underlined/blue words, titles, phrases are links to more info on line.]

JUNE (No Hawthorn business meeting on Monday, June 10)

- **Sat 1 Ha-Ha Tonka (off highway 54 just south of Camdenton) (see more details below!)**
- **Fri 14 Adopt-a-Spot** workday from 9:30-11:30am (behind the recycling bins at Providence & Nifong)
- **Thurs 20 Hawthorn lunch at Uprise Bakery** (please note the change to our summer location!) 10 Hitt Street Downtown Columbia
- **Sat 22 (rain date Sun June 23) Rocky glade at Three Creeks** -south of the Turkey Creek Interpretive Nature Trail parking lot (Deer Park Rd)



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Hawthorn has organized an inspiring, and ambitious mosey schedule for this summer. Here are Becky's safety tips and suggestions about what to bring when walking off asphalt: Primarily a sense of adventure and a desire to learn, sturdy shoes, insect/tick spray, long pants, a sun hat, water, camera, notebook. And don't plan anything else for the same day.

We all must understand that we need to be flexible due to sudden changes of weather for better or worse. If you are serious about attending, it would be the best idea to connect with one of the officers so you can get a weather update or cancellation/postponement announcement. Sometimes during HOT weather, temps cool enough we can schedule an outing a few days in advance, but Never a month ahead.

Membership Renewals

The MONPS state webmaster, Jerry Barnabee, has built a system to remind you thru a personal email that the time has come to renew your membership dues. Please-Please pay attention to this notice which will come to you near the anniversary of the date you joined. So if you joined, as an example in October or May, that is the time you will get your reminder. Jerry provides a link to PayPal. I believe there is an option to pay for 1 to 5 years and at whatever donation level you deem appropriate. In truth: we welcome your renewal any time you remember.

MPF Webinars

One of the best MPF webinars was 22 Nov. It was a fabulous discussion on management of woodlands and glades including use of fire. If you would like to revisit any parts of this webinar, or were unable to attend live, the entire recording is available on our YouTube channel, [view here](#). Our free webinars are posted publicly on [our YouTube channel here](#).

[MPF Native Grassland & Woodland Management Training recording on UTube](#)

If there is anything different you want to participate in, please give us ideas for new activities.

Paula found a new Wildflower ID site!

People who need color photos will like this one. [I prefer line drawings because they show better details of field characters.] Hope this helps you learn different species and their preferred habitats. With So Many species to cover – it will forever be a work in progress. It seems a good chart on asters and goldenrods is almost complete.

Use this to compliment MissouriPlants.com below

JULY

- Thurs July 11, 6pm Hawthorn In-Person Meeting at Lincoln University's Greenhouse and Native Plant gardens
- Thus July 18, 11:30 Hawthorn lunch at Uprise Bakery
- July week day, Mosey of Sedalia area prairies (Godley Prairie, Friendly Prairie, or Prairie Home Prairie) *The date is To Be Determined for this event since the weather can get hot in July!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to announce our deepest gratitude to Carol-Leigh for serving as our librarian and hosting our beautiful t-shirts and sweatshirts. She is very active with Weavers Guild and River Relief, so let her know if you can help. If you haven't gotten one of the new t-shirts we ordered this year, you can contact Carol-Leigh to see them. They are going fast and you don't want to miss this chance. Call her for details: 573-874-2233.

Thank you to Emily and Elena for organizing the mosey calendar, and Cindy for the invitation to state field trips.

Big Thanks to all the members who helped with our three booth and plant sales this spring. It all takes a coordinated effort to bring about success. And We attracted several new members.

Please think about getting more involved with Hawthorn by volunteering to help Becky with some of her many duties including helping her care for the plants or work at the greenhouse.

Or maybe you have always wanted to write for the newsletter but you haven't done it. Just let us know. There would not be so much good information in this newsletter without our wonderful members. We would love to post your thoughts and contributions.

Don't forget we have elections coming up this December for president and secretary so if you have thought about running for office, this could be your chance!

Ha Ha Tonka State Park

On June 1, we will mosey at the Ha Ha Tonka State Park. The Missouri State Park website explains that this park is "a geological wonderland featuring sinkholes, caves, a huge natural bridge, sheer bluffs and Missouri's 12th-largest spring." Because of this varied landscape, we should get to see some native plants we might not see closer to home.

Here is a link to the state website for the park: [Ha Ha Tonka State Park | Missouri State Parks \(mostateparks.com\)](#)

This second link shows you all the trails in the park [Ha Ha Tonka State Park Trails | Missouri State Parks \(mostateparks.com\)](#)

If you are interested in carpooling it is essential to call Elena or Emily by Friday evening so we don't leave you behind. There is a commuter lot at Highway 63 and New Haven Road where it is easy to park and meet to carpool. We will leave this lot at 8:30. The second carpool spot is the North end of Moser's parking lot in Ashland. We will depart this location at 8:45. If you drive yourself, we will meet at the HaHaTonka Visitor Center [see map] at 10. Call anyone from the Mosey Committee (Elena, Emily or Becky) if you have any questions. After a tour of selected areas of the park we can eat lunch at Camdenton. Or you may bring your own food.

Excerpt from the June PP
The organization of MissouriPlants.com

is designed to accommodate users ranging from neophytes to experts. For the latter, there is a full listing of species links according to scientific name, and also a listing organized by family. For the beginner, there are pages organized by flower color and leaf arrangement, similar to the organizational concept of most wildflower books. These links will quickly transport the user to the relevant species page. All species pages maintain a navigational pane at the left to facilitate movement within the site. It is truly So Simple!

Very Bad Critter:



Oriental Mantis

As leaves fall off sticks, look for blobs of tan foam about the size of a golf ball. These are oriental mantis egg cases.

Adults are bigger than hummers; they eat ALL insects and small birds.

PLEASE! Gather these for destruction: put all into a jar for at least a year so when they hatch they will die. Or pour something volatile on them and burn them. Do not ever throw them whole into a landfill.

**Bumble Bee Atlas:
A Nationwide Buzz**

The Bumble Bee Atlas project creates nationwide buzz in quest to protect and promote habitat for native pollinators. Hawthorn

2024 MONPS State Field Trip Dates -State Rep Cindy

Here is your chance to get in on your MONPS benefit. Our primary mission is education and this is your chance to learn from the best. The field trip dates have been released. Get your calendars out and start the planning

Help your native garden. This is an opportunity to see native plants where they grow naturally. When I place plants, I wonder about their care. You can do the research, and follow all the guidelines and still not be successful. Seeing natives in their natural environment can clue you into what they require to grow successfully for you.

Don't want to go alone? Bring a friend, spouse, or family. Invite them on your eco-tourism journey! These hikes are open to the public and you don't have to be a member to attend. Or, you can **contact Cindy** and we can go together. I love having company. This is a good way to involve those folks who haven't quite gotten the bug for native plants. (Maybe convert them in the process.) You don't have to know a lot about these plants, just have a passion to learn. There are many knowledgeable attendees who love to help beginners! The pace is slower as to view plants, so this is not an invitation for a marathon through nature. We stop and really look to appreciate our surroundings including birds, insects, and geology.

Typical itinerary. The first hike is usually Friday at 1pm, after which we check into our accommodations. Most of the time we descend on an unsuspecting business for dinner and then there is very interesting lecture in the evening. Usually we select a hotel with breakfast so we can get an early start for our morning hikes. We tend to caravan and carpool on Saturday to keep us together and save fuel. Lunch is at a picnic site so bring a lunch for Saturday. We have an afternoon hike and it is back to the hotel. We group descend on another eatery for dinner. The MONPS business meeting is Saturday night, you are welcome to attend or you can rest or gather with other attendees at the motel. Refreshed, we have a Sunday morning hike and we say our good byes till the next field trip.

June 21-23: For Summer, we'll be headquartered in the southeast part of the state. Among the unique sites we may visit are Sand Prairie Conservation Area, Big Cane Conservation Area, Mingo Swamp, and Sand Pond Conservation Area.

September 20-22: On our Fall trip we'll head north to Kirksville. Some of the sites we may botanize in that part of the state are Spring Creek Ranch Natural Area, Morris Prairie Conservation Area, Dark Hollow Natural Area, and Rocky Hollow Natural Area.

LEARNING AND SHARING THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Contact Cindy cysquire@me.com to learn more about volunteering at our Hawthorn Adopt-a-Spot!

Cindy, Hawthorn members and other volunteers will be working from 9:30 to 11:30 each following Friday mornings:

May 31, June 14, July 12, Aug 16

These work dates are a great opportunity to earn your volunteer hours for the Missouri Master Naturalist Program. Our work has resulted in great improvement to this spot, taking it from a messy wet area to a beautiful wetland of native plants. Stop by sometime to admire this project if you haven't seen it yet.

has two members who have collected data for this effort.

Citizen scientists are being begged to collect and report data not only for bees but for plants [BudBurst], birds [Cornell Ornithology Lab], many insects [Xerces Society]

Paula wants to share this good [information on identification of ticks](#), which ticks carry which diseases, and how to tell how long a tick has been attached by the size of the tick. All important information for the doctor to know if you are sick.

Here is a summary of news and upcoming MPF events:

–Register Now for [MPF's 13th Annual Prairie BioBlitz](#) on June 1 (2024 National Prairie Day) and June 2

–May & June MPF Guided Hikes: [Linden's Prairie](#), [Bumble Bee Atlas Training & Pettis County Prairie Tour](#), [Ozark Fen](#)

–MPF Job Opening: [Event & Communication Coordinator](#)

–June 5: [MPF Webinar: Documenting Pollinators through Photography](#)

–June 5: [MPF Seed Collection Volunteer Work Day, Pettis County](#)

–June 8: [Grow Native! Gardens of Excellence Open House](#)

–Status of [Missouri House Bill 2412](#) and [Missouri Senate Bill 1281](#) to prohibit the sale of five invasive plants



Offered by Lea

Volunteering to help at one of the many native plantings around the Columbia area in parks, trails, and in local schoolyards can be a service to the community, but it can also be a great way to learn more about native plants, as well as about invasive species which are becoming a significant threat to our ecosystems. From pollinator gardens and rain gardens to prairie, woodland, and trail-side areas, there are many different types of local plantings, and they all require some maintenance in order to thrive and remain useful for wildlife and as places of learning.

Lea helps coordinate volunteer opportunities in these areas, by collecting and sending out a bi-weekly (or so) email listing of upcoming coordinated gardening efforts. Lea organizes many of them; some are posted by others. At schools, we sometimes work with students, doing “Service-Learning”. Other times we work without students. We help maintain habitats and gardens so that students can come in to plant, or explore the wildlife that is there.

Many Native Plant Society members attend these work parties. By working alongside other native plant enthusiasts, you can learn by doing, and you can ask questions or share what you know with others. What’s that plant? What conditions does it thrive in? When should it be planted? What’s the problem with invasive species and what can we do about them? Etc.

If you have questions, or would like to join in these activities contact Lea to get on her email list. Leaslist@gmail.com or text or call 573-864-7647.

Book Review: The Light Eaters

[Posted in NYTimes 19 May 24.](#)

Zoë Schlanger was a reporter covering climate change — a daily onslaught of floods, fires and other natural disasters — when she started wading into botany journals to relax.

There, she found something that surprised her: Researchers were debating whether plants might have an intelligence of their own.

Take corn, for example. It is one of several types of plants that can identify a caterpillar’s species by its saliva and send out plumes of chemical compounds into the air, summoning the insect’s predator. Alerted to the caterpillar’s presence by these compounds, a parasitic wasp arrives and destroys it, protecting the corn.

“One of the big debates is whether or not there’s any form of intention with plants and whether you need intention for something to have intelligence,” Schlanger said. “But one could argue that it doesn’t even matter if you can find intention in plants. What matters is watching what they actually do. And what they do is make decisions in real time and plan for the future.”

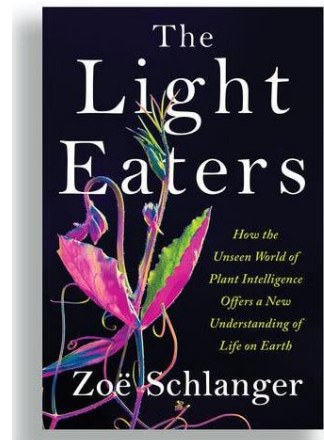
Schlanger spent the next several years exploring plant behavior for her book, “The Light Eaters,” which was published this month. On a recent walk through Central Park — past hydrangeas, hellebores, hyacinths and a Broadway softball league game between team “Hamilton” and team “The Lion King” — Schlanger described some of the astonishing things plants can do, and how learning more about them has informed her work reporting on climate change, which she now does for The Atlantic.

This interview has been edited and condensed for length and clarity.

What are some surprising things plants can do?

I am most drawn to the ways that plants manipulate animals to their benefit.

Yellow monkey flowers are able to lie to bees about how much pollen they have in their flowers to dupe them into showing up. Bees have this screening process where they’re sampling the volatile chemicals coming off the flowers, and those chemicals will indicate how much pollen is there for them. The monkey flowers have come up with a way to not have to go through the very expensive,



energetic work of making all this pollen, but just emitting the volatile chemicals. The bee shows up and there is nothing there for it, but the flower gets pollinated anyway.

Or there's the whole world of sexually deceptive orchids, which I think is so cool. There are some that grow one really unusual petal: this long strand, with a little bulb at the end of it. Male wasps will arrive and cling to it because it's exuding almost the exact same pheromone as a female wasp.

I like it when they summon a predator. That's just crazy.

Back in the '90s, researchers realized that corn and tomatoes were able to sample the saliva of the caterpillar eating them, and then synthesize chemicals that summon the exact parasitic wasp that would come and inject the caterpillars with their larva. So the wasp comes, puts loads of larvae inside of the caterpillars. The larvae hatch and eat the caterpillars from the inside out and then glue their cocoons to the outside of the caterpillar. So then you just have these husks of caterpillars, covered in wasp cocoons.

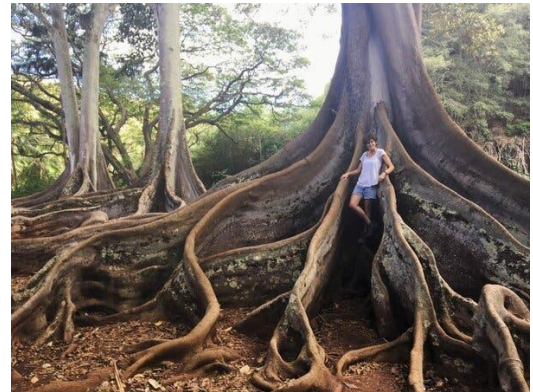
Ack!

Yeah, it's a very creepy, bristly image. But the plant is trying to save itself. It's eliminating a certain number of these caterpillars by summoning the exact predator to come destroy them. You can think of that as a plant using a tool. I mean, I don't know about your feed, but mine is full of videos of things like crows using sticks as tools.

The algorithm has found you!

Absolutely. And obviously these crows are brilliant for doing that, but then what does it mean when plants are doing essentially the same thing, but to living organisms? They're releasing chemicals that cause an animal to do something. Does that animal believe it's doing this of its own free will? Is this a zombification of other animals, or is it more of a collaborative mutual exchange where the wasp gets something out of it? It's hard to tell the difference between manipulation and collaboration in nature.

"I did not realize that my houseplants could feel me touching them," Schlanger said. "I say 'feel' — what I mean is, they sense the signal of my touch as an assault" *Image Credit...Gloria Dickie*



When scientists talk about “intelligence” in plants, what do they mean?

There are all of these calculations plants are constantly making by taking in every aspect of their environment and adjusting their lives accordingly, and it starts to look an awful lot like what we might consider intelligence — in a totally alien life form. That's kind of how you have to treat it. Intelligence won't show up in the way we expect ourselves to be intelligent. It'll show up in ways that are evolutionarily appropriate for plants.

So no one is saying the plant is going to write a poem or do your math homework?

Not yet! Although researchers who study plant communication talk about syntax in [plant communication](#) and, in a way, sentence structure. But they're talking about chemistry, chemical compounds floating in the air that have meaning.

What about the way plants sense the world? Do they interact with sound?

There's some research happening now where scientists are playing tones for plants and realizing certain tones make plants produce more of certain compounds. There's a tone that, if played for enough time, will make broccoli ramp up its antioxidants. In alfalfa sprouts, other tones will cause the plant to produce more vitamin C. One could see how — if they figured this out better — you could adjust the nutrition content of crops just by playing tones.

There's also a whole world of playing tones to plants that causes them to produce more of their own pesticide, which is interesting when you think about [how much pesticide we use](#) to grow our food crops.

Have you changed your own behavior after spending so much time thinking about this? Do you have trouble eating salad now?

Obviously we're animals that need to eat plants. There's no way around that. But there is a way of imagining a future with agricultural practices and harvesting practices that are more tuned into the life style of the plant, the things it's capable of and its proclivities.

This opens up the world of plant ethics. What does our world look like if we include plants in a moral imagination? There are lots of cultures that are already based on this. [Robin Wall Kimmerer](#) (author of "[Braiding Sweetgrass](#)") writes a lot about this, how Indigenous science leaves a lot more room for questions about plants that are centered on respect and mutual interest.

What do you want people to take away from this book?

In thinking about plant intelligence, what we're really thinking about is how much plants are active participants in their own life. They have some sense of agency, even if it doesn't look anything like our own agency. I think that is really humbling. Everything wants to keep living. That has really helped me come back to climate reporting with more of a sense of what we stand to lose from climate change. Every single species is this ingenious biological feat that would be so foolish to extinguish.

Topics for This Years' Petal Pusher
the state MONPS newsletter

Petal Pusher Topics for 2024

| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Due date</u> | <u>Pub date</u> | <u>Theme</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>March/Apr</u> | <u>Feb 20</u> | <u>March 1st</u> | <u>Funny Botany</u> |
| <u>May/June</u> | <u>April 20</u> | <u>May 1st</u> | <u>Plant Terminology</u> |
| <u>July/Aug</u> | <u>June 20</u> | <u>July 1st</u> | <u>Plant ID Motifs</u> |
| <u>Sept/Oct</u> | <u>Aug 20</u> | <u>Sept 1st</u> | <u>Missouri Native Plant Nurseries: Origin Stories & Operations</u> |
| <u>Nov/Dec</u> | <u>Oct 20</u> | <u>Nov 1st</u> | <u>Volunteers Working for Native Plants</u> |
| <u>Jan/Feb</u> | <u>Dec 20</u> | <u>Jan 1st</u> | <u>Kids & Native Plants</u> |

Send submissions attached in Word format.
Send photos attached separately in jpg format.

To: Pam Barnabee pamela.barnabee@gmail.com

You don't need to be an expert. but if you have good repeatable experience as a naturalist on any of these subjects, you are welcome to offer your knowledge to the rest of us.

If we have members who are curious about any of these topics, Michelle Pruitt [michelle.pruitt@gmail.com] is willing to do an amateur proofread for you if that would be helpful. Send to her early!

ALWAYS - 20th of even numbered months. If you don't understand subjects, parameters, or submission format, contact Michelle Bowe, PP editor MBowe@MissouriState.edu.

- Potential Emerging Invaders. **Have you seen a new plant invader?** Someone from MoIP as contributor: Malissa Briggler volunteered. Any one of us could study invasive plants: MPF Journal featured invasives during 2020. Just search 'invasive plants' and pick one to report on.
- Favorite Natural Areas. Suggested to also have chapters solicit articles from their members. **This means YOU can write about your favorite Natural Area**

- Better Know a Genus. **These are species accounts.** You observe/research a species or genus and describe the whole life cycle including preferred habitat and vectors/predators.

Regular Recurring Columns:

Conundrum Corner Contributors needed!

Invasive Tip of the Month Tips to identify and eradicate invasives, with a different species in each issue. Contributors needed!

Other Recurring Columns: **Casey's Kitchen** Casey Burks

Name Change of the Month Justin Thomas. Other volunteers welcome.

Poetry Corner or Quotation Corner Send suggestions for poems or quotes for inclusion. Note that for poems, we must have permission from the publisher.

Where are we going Features we will see on the next field trip. Malissa Briggler?

And here's where you can become newsletter famous by submitting your questions: <https://monativeplants.org/ask-a-question/>

Ask a question Questions from website, answered. Facilitated by Jerry Barnabee.

Please Step Forward For Service

Please contact one of the officers 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, to man our information booth at events such as Earth Day and Bradford Plant Sale, and to care for native gardens in public places.

MEMBERSHIP FORM
Missouri Native Plant Society
Hawthorn Chapter

How were you attracted to join MONPS?

Membership runs from the date you join. You must be a member of the State Missouri Native Plant Society (MONPS) in order to join a chapter. You may send state and chapter dues to our membership chair Jayne Young or sign up on the MONPS site and pay by Paypal.

Please check membership category you desire:

Minimum required annual membership per household is \$10 for students or \$15 for non-students [state+chapter]

*These amounts include both state and chapter dues

Student \$10.00*

Goldenrod \$15.00*

Sunflower \$30.00*

Blue Bell \$55.00*

Blazing Star \$105.00*

Surcharge for paper state Petal Pusher by mail (+\$10.00)

Chapter only \$5.00 – this option is for members who already belong to State and another chapter

Amount Paid

Make checks payable to:

Missouri Native Plant Society

Mail payment and this form to:

Jayne Young

803 Park de Ville Place

Columbia MO 65203

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Home _____

Cell _____

E-mail: _____

Chapter newsletters and messages will be sent by email