



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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Hawthorn Chapter Officers

President
Nadia Navarrete-Tindall
2116 Grant Lane
Columbia, MO 65203
573.234.2088

Vice President
Christine Angelo
P.O. Box 305
Boonville, MO 65233
660.882.5242

Secretary
Jean Graebner
1800 Roby Farm Rd.
Rocheport, MO
573.698.2855

Treasurer
Sandra Kubal
2426 Highway 124
Fayette, MO 65248
660.248.1447

Chapter Representative
Judy Turner
4713 E. St. Charles Rd
Columbia, MO 65201

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

To be included in future publications, please send your articles, art, calendar events, poems, photos and drawings to:

Newsletter Editor:
Judy Ward
jward@nmsu.edu

Future Activities

January 9: Regular meeting, 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. We will have the election of officers, and a discussion of our future. Snacks and beverages will be available.

January 28: Newsletter items are due

January 26: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery, 816 Broadway. All are invited.

February 13: Seed Propagation Workshop led by Ann Wakeman.

February 15: Joint meeting with Columbia Audubon, 7:30 pm at the Environmental Research Center, 4200 New Haven Road. Presenter will be Paul Nelson, Ecology and Land Management Planner, Mark Twain National Forest. He will discuss his revised Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri, and will have books for sale and signing. Snacks and beverages will be available.

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

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Election for President and Secretary on January 9.

The board and other members met on November 17 at the Uprise Bakery in Columbia to create a nominating committee to select candidates for the president and secretary offices for the new 2006-2007 term. Laura Ellifrit (chair), Joan Whitley, and Paula Peters were selected and served on the nominating committee. The candidates selected by the nominating committee are Judy Ward for president and Jean Graebner (returning) for secretary. These two positions are two-year terms and can be re-elected for a second consecutive term. Field and Speaker committees of 3 members each will be appointed (or reappointed) by the new president or vice-president. The election will be held during our regular meeting on January 9th. After the election is over, we plan to discuss future activities. Please plan to attend. Cookies and hot tea will be provided.

---Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

American Bittersweet and Some of Its Temperate Relatives

By Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

I am sure many will share my fascination of American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) (See photo below) and its native relatives wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) and strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*). All produce delicate and colorful berries that are consumed by a variety of birds and other wildlife. Berries are produced in late fall and seed persist during winter, especially those of American bittersweet. These native plants belong to the Celastraceae family, a family of about 90-100 genera and 1,300 species of vines, shrubs and small trees. Although American bittersweet, wahoo, and strawberry bush are only found in temperate climates, the great majority of the genera are tropical.

American bittersweet is a woody vine climbing on trees or on old fencerows in search of sunlight and wahoo and strawberry bush are shrubs usually found under moderate shade in forest openings or woodlands. A common characteristic of all members of the Celastraceae is that their fruit covers split open revealing seeds covered with a red-pink-or-orange coat called aril. Berries are eaten by several species of birds including ruffed grouse, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, deer, songbirds, deer, rabbits, and squirrels (Kurz 1997). There are some look-alike invasive species that are more popular than these natives for landscaping because they are also attractive but more readily available in the trade market including burning bush (*E. alatus*), wintercreeper (*E. fortunei*), running strawberry bush (*E. obovatus*), and round-leaved bittersweet (*C. orbiculatus*).



Photo by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

These introduced species are invasive and are now considered problem species (Smith 2004), especially in urban areas where they have escaped from gardens to nearby natural areas encroaching upon native vegetation. For identification of each of these species mentioned above, you can check the book 'Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri' by Don Kurz which provides an excellent description and detailed diagrams for each species. In addition, color diagrams of both American bittersweet and round-leaved bittersweet can be seen in the November 2005 issue of the Missouri Conservationist with the article by Willoughby Johnson.

Propagation can be done from seed or cuttings. Seeds require moist-stratification to germinate. During trials at the University of Missouri, germination was 80% for seed stored for 10 weeks in a walk-in cooler at 5°C. To grow your own bittersweet plants, collect seed in December, place the seed in water to soften aril, detach aril by rubbing with your fingers, dry seeds on a towel and prepare a propagation tray with soil medium with good drainage. Moisten the soil and cover tray to protect from disturbance, and leave tray in your backyard under shade for 10 weeks or longer during winter. If you have access to a greenhouse, bring tray into the greenhouse at week 10 to induce early germination –or– leave the tray outside and wait for seedlings to germinate in the spring. Transplant seedlings (with well formed roots and at least 4 leaves) to individual pots and keep seedlings in pots for 3 to 4 months before transplanting to permanent location.

American bittersweet usually produce male and female flowers in separate plants, so it is recommended to plant 3 or more seedlings close to each other. The likelihood of obtaining a plant with female flowers when grown from seed is 4 out of 5. However, the only way to know for sure that you are getting a plant with female flowers is to grow this vine from semi-hardwood cuttings in the summer but be sure that you also plant males to provide pollen to your female flowers. Plants propagated from cuttings will start producing fruit the same year or the next while seedlings will take from 3 to 4 years to bloom after final establishment.

Selected references

- Kurz, D. 1997. Shrubs and woody vines of Missouri. Missouri Department of Conservation. Jefferson City, MO (*Available from MDC or our Society*).
- Johnson, W. 2005. Bittersweet morning. Missouri Conservationist. Nov. 2005. Jefferson City, MO.
- Payne Smith, J. 1977. Vascular plant families. Eureka Printing Co. Eureka, California.
- Smith, T.E. 2004. Missouri Vegetation Management Manual. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation, Natural History Division.
<http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/exotic/vegman/>.
- Website: http://landscaping.about.com/cs/groundcovervines1/a/bittersweet_3.htm

Highlights of 2005

By Judy Ward

A Time for Reflection

Ahh, the end of one year and the beginning of the next, a time for reflection . . . and looking forward . . .

As we say goodbye to 2005, we reflect on the accomplishments and activities of our chapter over the past year and to what degree they have met or advanced our purpose. We consider what traditions we would like to continue and what new activities we'd like to pursue. I suspect that each of our individual contemplations will differ reflecting our diversity that is our strength. Here, you will find the Chapter's purpose and an outline of what I perceived to be the highlights of 2005. I am impressed by what we have participated in and accomplished over the past year and apologize for any inaccuracies or exclusions. I hope this provides fuel for reflection and material for discussion at our January meeting. Happy New Year --Judy Ward

Our Purpose

"The purpose of the Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society is to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of flora native to Missouri, public education of the value of the native flora and its habitat, and publication of related information" (Bylaws, Article 1. Section 2).

Programs

The programs at our regular meeting provided an opportunity to learn about other conservation efforts and environmental issues. In January, we saw "MicroCosmos" which featured a view of the microscopic ecosystem in a meadow. In May, we learned about the conservation and restoration activities at Bradford Research and Extension Center (BREC) with a joint presentation by Tim Reinbott, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, and Brad Jacobs. Tim, the superintendent at the center, discussed efforts to create or restore wildlife habitat; Nadia described her Native Plant restoration research; and Brad, MDC ornithologist, spoke on the migratory and resident birds observed over the last few years at BREC. In July, Scott Hamilton, Urban Conservationist and president of Wild Ones!, presented the Hinkson Creek Watershed Restoration project including the role of residential rain gardens. For our September program, Dolores Clark relayed the history and current status of the Audubon Trailside Nature Center and Sandra Kubal proposed an opportunity for cooperation and increased public exposure via a demonstration garden outside the Center. At our final regular meeting in November, Jean Leonatti, co-chair of the field trip committee for Columbia Chapter of Audubon, expressed the enthusiasm of bird watchers and provided examples of the relationship between birds and their environment in a "Bird Crazy" presentation.

Festivals

Our participation in five festival/field days kept us rather busy while providing public exposure to the chapter. At Earth Day in April, our booth won 3rd prize during the Educational Display Contest. In June, we participated in the first Native Plant Field Day at Bradford Research and Extension Center which included guided walking and wagon tours to learn about practices and research to improve habitat for grassland birds and to promote the use of native plants for conservation and landscaping. In July, we had another first and continued to sell books and educational material at the Turf Research Field Day at South Farm. At the Heritage Festival in September, which is becoming a yearly tradition for our chapter, our booth attracted many festival goers with books and plants. And finally, our wreath making demonstration was a hit at the Chestnut Festival in October.

Field Trips and Outings

In between the festivals, we took some time to enjoy and study our state flora with six field trips and outings with an especially busy Spring. The Snow Trillium display on the Whitley's property in March provided the first opportunity to get out as a chapter. In early April, we visited the Ha Ha Tonak to see the savanna restoration and spring wildflowers. Later in April, we visited the Missouri Wildflowers Nursery and the Runge Nature Center to see Donna Brunet's butterfly photography exhibit. In May we joined with the St. Louis Chapter for an outing to Graham Cave led by Bruce Shuette, park naturalist, and to the Danville Area, led by John George, MDC regional biologist. Our summer and fall field trip schedule was relatively quiet. In June, we visited a three year old glade restoration on private property in Callaway County. In October, we caught the beginning of the autumn colors on our Fall Foliage Hike at Painted Rock State Forest.



Vanessa, Paula, Jim, and Laura enjoy the holiday party.

State Board Meetings and Field Trips

Judy Turner, Chapter Representative, continues to represent our chapter well at the State Board Meetings. Her reports on the board meetings and field trips are always fun and informative. In May, she visited St. Louis and Grafton/ Godfrey, Illinois for the board meeting and field trips. She toured the Garden's Monsanto Research Center library and herbarium in St. Louis, the Nature Institute in Godfrey, and Pere Marquette State Park. In June, she traveled to Kirksville for the state board meeting. She represented us at Prairie State Park in September and visited the Wah-Sha-She Prairie Natural Area and Treaty Line Prairie Conservation Area. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall filled in at the December meeting in Columbia as Judy was on her annual migration to Texas.

Workshops

Our workshops proved educational and enjoyable. In February, Ann Wakeman led our plant propagation workshop held jointly with Wild Ones! We were treated to another joint Wild Ones! workshop on Rain Gardens in April. In preparation, for the holidays, the wreath making workshop provided instruction, inspiration, and a setting to use natural materials to decorate our home.

Archives, Newsletter, and Webpage

We have some new developments on our archive, newsletter, and webpage. Nancy Brakhage and Jean Graebner have compiled historical materials including letters to and from the founders of our Society and a nearly complete set of newsletters for our Chapter Archive Project. These items are archived at the Missouri Historical Society in the Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus. Through an amendment to our by-laws, we now have a method to ensure that the set of newsletters will be updated monthly. Our newsletter is now available electronically for interested members. It features color photographs and comes as a PDF document in an email attachment. Email me (jward@nmsu.edu) if you are interested in learning more or receiving a copy. Our chapter website has been moved from the Columbia Missouri server to the Boone County library COIN server. The new address is <http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org>. New changes include: a color logo, a link to the membership form, and an updated map link. Thanks to Judy Turner and Paula Peters for all their hard work. Paula reports that we also have a "snapshots" link established and hope to add photos of workshops, fieldtrips, booths etc.... which will help personalize the site.

Relationships

We have continued to develop relationships with other local organizations. Our joint workshops with Wild Ones! and presentation by Scott Hamilton exposed us to their efforts. The program on the Audubon Trailside Nature Center and proposed demonstration garden was accompanied with a request by Bill Clark, president of the Columbia Audubon Society, for assistance in inventorying the native plants in the three natural areas that Audubon owns in Boone County. We are becoming increasingly familiar and involved in the conservation efforts on Bradford Research and Extension Center through the joint presentation by Tim Reinbott, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, and Brad Jacobs, bird and orchid surveys, and the Native Plant Field Day.

And Finally, Celebration!

We had an excellent showing at the holiday party in December at Randy and Nadia's home. All who attended had a great time as we sampled a diversity of foods, caught up on old friendships, and built new ones. The good time is evidenced by the photographs by Nadia that grace this issue. She reports that she is sorry not to have photos of all who attended.



Chris, Pam, Marge, Paula, and Nancy catch up.



Randy, the soup master, at work.

Scenes from our Holiday Party! *Photos by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall*



Don and Joanne



Blanca and Eric



Frank and Judy



The Feast



Sandra and Joanne



Blanca, Cheryl, and Nadia



Jean, Nancy, and Laura

Our Holiday Wreath Tradition Continues

When asked about the wreath-making tradition, Nancy Brakhage replied with the following reflection:

I believe the chapter held workshops from 1991 through 1996 to make wreaths to sell. These were hosted by Jean Graebner at her Christmas tree farm, also the main outlet for sales. Members would gather for an afternoon and make one wreath for themselves and one to sell. Guess who was gathering cedar? Jim Whitley. Pam Haverland and Paula Peters were key in teaching design and construction, and I remember at least one workshop at Pam's house after 1996, but with Jean's retirement we had lost our best sales outlet, and the activity faltered. It occurred in some years after 1997 just as a chapter activity for members to meet for an afternoon to make their personal holiday wreaths. I remember workshops at the Whitley's and at Marge McDermott's. I like the natural material of the wreath, the fellowship of the workshop, and that I have made it. I enjoyed hosting the workshop this year. -- Nancy Brakhage



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MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri Native Plant Society—Hawthorn Chapter



July 1 through June 30.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____
Day _____

Email: _____

Make check payable to Missouri Native Plant Society.

Send check and this form to:

Sandra Kubal
2426 Highway 124
Fayette, MO 65248

___ Student (\$11.00) ___ Regular (\$16.00)
___ Contributing (\$26.00) ___ Life (\$200.00)

Includes both Chapter and State dues.

Missouri Native Plant Society
Hawthorn Chapter
Judy Ward, Newsletter Editor
302 Maplewood Drive
Columbia, MO 65203