



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly. To be included in future publications, please send your submissions to:

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Future Activities

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

November 30: Visioning Process for Columbia's future Big (**I**dea **G**athering) Meeting #2. See article inside.

December 2: State Board Meeting. 9 AM – 4 PM, Dunn-Palmer Herbarium, Columbia, MO. Lunch will be ordered. See November-December 2006 Petal Pusher article (page 2) for additional details.

December ?: Seed collecting trip in preparation for the Seed Exchange and Propagation. Date to be decided based on weather and windows between hunting seasons. These windows are December 4-8, 18-22, and week between Christmas and the New Year. Contact Paula 474-4225 or prpeters@prpeters.com if you are interested in participating and you will be notified of plans and last minute changes. You can also check the website <http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org/> for collection notices.

December 9: Holiday party, 6:00 pm at Nadia and Randy's. Article inside includes directions.

December 22: Newsletter items are due.

December 28: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery, 816 Broadway. All are invited.

January 8: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Topic to be announced. Elections for vice-president, treasurer and chapter representative will be held.

January 29: Seed Exchange and Propagation Workshop led by Becky Erickson at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Workshop will run about 2 hours. See article inside.

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

Meeting Minutes: November 6, 2006

-- Jean Graebner

President Judy Ward called the regular meeting to order at 7 pm Monday, November 6, at the Unitarian Universalist church. The meeting was held one week earlier than the regular second Monday date to accommodate our speaker, Dr. Jean Everett. She was visiting her parents, George and Nancy Brakhage at that time and agreed to give us a program.

Judy Ward brought members up-to-date on her growing family: She and her husband have a baby boy, Marcello Antonio La Sorte, born October 10. We look forward to his first visit to a meeting. Judy then introduced our speaker.

Dr. Everett teaches courses in plant taxonomy, botany and general biology at the College of Charleston in Charleston SC. She gave us a very organized and informative presentation on the "Basics of Native Plant Identification."

The most common stumbling block to "keying out" a plant to determine its identity is terminology, she said. She presented a series of slides very helpful in learning names and location of plant parts and correctly labeling floral arrangement, fruit and leaf characteristics. Leaf variation is a good example of the complexity. Each part of the leaf has its own name and the possible arrangement and shape of the leaf are many and varied. "There are about a billion terms to describe leaf shape," she said.

Dr. Everett distributed complete illustrated handouts of all areas she covered and concluded with the advice to use your powers of observation to improve your ID skills by carefully noticing details even though they are minute and hard to find and identify.

After the question and answer segment, the president called a break for refreshments.

She then opened the business meeting by presenting Matt Gray with a lifetime membership badge. (ed. note: Matt was president of our chapter in 1988 and 1989 and also edited the newsletter during that time.)

Minutes continued.

Paula Peters announced that our chapter will have a booth at the Columbia Farmers' Market to sell wreaths and books on November 11 (rain date November 18.) She said that the Heritage Festival was a big success financially taking in \$716 in sales of books, plants and wreaths. She also reviewed several activities that were held in September and October: A very pleasant picnic on the deck overlooking the Missouri River at the home of Marge McDermott, a combination wreath-making and cook-out at the home of Laura Ellifrit, and a hike at Painted Rock followed by lunch at the winery near Jefferson City. She said that they saw many late-blooming asters and a few Lady Tresses orchids on that hike and also got a look at the areas that are under restoration to glades.

The president reminded members that by-laws call for election of pertinent officers in October. This year we must select the vice-president, the treasurer, and the chapter representative. Vice President Nadia Navarrete said she would accept that office again and Judy Turner said she would continue as chapter representative. Both said they would relinquish their posts if any member desired to serve. President said she would contact Sandra Kubal, treasurer, to learn her feelings. (*ed. note: We are still looking for nominations/candidates for treasurer. Now is your chance to get more involved in the organization!*)

Judy Turner referred to her article in the November newsletter which asked for comments on areas of concern as specified by the State Board.

Meeting was adjourned.

More on plant identification from Everett! --Jean Graebner

A hands-on workshop for native plant identification could be in our future. Dr. Jean Everett will be visiting her parents, George and Nancy Brakhage, from time to time. The possibility of coordinating a workshop with one of her spring visits was discussed at a dinner meeting with Dr. Everett prior to her presentation on native plant ID at the November meeting. Those attending were the Brakhages, Don Garvin, Jean Graebner, Marge McDermott, and Judy Turner.

MU takes a swing at poverty grass on golf courses:

MU Division of Plant Sciences receives grant to study use of poverty grass on golf courses

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Teenagers may consider poverty grass the secret to liberating them from weekly lawn-mowing chores. After all, poverty grass is naturally short and can survive in just about any soil.

Even under the best conditions poverty grass won't grow taller than 3 or 4 inches, said Brad Fresenburg, University of Missouri Turfgrass Specialist.

Here's the catch: poverty grass isn't much to look at. Its fine curly leaves don't compare to the beauty of the plush green foliage most people expect from a lawn.

But Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, a MU native plant research scientist, wasn't willing to give up on the humble, cool-season grass. Surely, someone would find value in a rugged, low-maintenance grass that can survive with little attention or water.

Someone did: The United States Golf Association.

The USGA recently awarded Navarrete-Tindall and the MU Division of Plant Sciences a \$30,000 grant to be used in a three-year study of the advantages of using poverty grass in the rough areas of golf courses - those nasty areas of the course where the soil is tough and the grass scragglier. To also help fund the study, the United States Department of Agriculture chipped in a one-year \$10,000 grant with the possibility of \$15,000 more in the second year of the study.

Fresenburg said the grants will be used as "seed money" to get the project off the ground.

Poverty grass has never been evaluated in a controlled plot. Navarrete-Tindall said she hopes the study will include other native species that grow well with poverty grass and could make a golf course more attractive.

"I have been working with native grasses for the past four years," she said. "As its name suggests, poverty grass grows in very poor soil and in a wide range of soils. It is very short and very drought-tolerant."

Fresenberg said the study also will include evaluating poverty grass's seeding rate, germination percent and tolerance to different herbicides, traffic and shade.

"It's a grass that has never been put into a situation where it has been managed as a turfgrass," he said. "We have to figure out how it will react."

--Sara Agnew, Senior Information Specialist
Extension and Ag Information, University of Missouri
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2006 Holiday Party

--Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Native Plant Society members, family and friends:

The holiday season is here again! It has been a very eventful year and we have to celebrate!

Bring your favorite snack or favorite drink. We are providing at least a soup, drinks, and Randy's famous 'nosweat' bread. I guarantee that you'll the recipe so we'll make copies for those interested. We hope to see you there!

When: December 9th at 6 pm to ???

Location: 2116 Grant Lane, Columbia at Randy and Nadia's, directions below.

Directions:

From Stadium, go south on Forum to Chapel Hill Road. Turn right (west) on Chapel Hill and keep going past two stop signs. After the 2nd stop sign at the top of a hill, keep going straight---there will be a fire station and a church on your left. After the church, take the 3rd left onto Grant Lane (Grant is Cunningham Road on the north side of Chapel Hill, so be careful to look at the street sign on the south side). Our house is on the left side of the street. Look for a white mailbox covered with native plants.

From Broadway, you can come in on Stadium, as above, or take Broadway across Stadium going west until you reach Fairview Road (1st stoplight past Stadium). Go left on Fairview and go all the way to Chapel Hill Road. Turn right on Chapel Hill and see directions above.

From the South, both Nifong and Greenmeadows intersect Forum Blvd. Turn north on Forum and go to the first stoplight. Turn left on Chapel Hill and see directions above.

For more information call Nadia or Randy at 234-2088 or 289-2018

Seed Exchange and Propagation Workshop: Note on materials

--Becky Erickson

Please bring any seed you have collected in a bag marked with the species name. If you want to start seed in a flat instead of a small pot, please bring your own with dirt. Also this would be a good time to bring containers you don't want and pick up ones you can use. But be sure to take home all of yours which no one else decides to claim.

Please see calendar if you want to participate in seed collection trips.

Visioning Process underway! --Judy Ward

The Visioning Process to define the plans for Columbia's future has gotten underway with 2 Big Meetings on Nov 28th and 30th. It may not be too late to attend the 2nd meeting and let your voice be heard for Columbia's future!

Big (Big Idea Gathering) Meeting #2

Thursday, Nov. 30, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Performing Arts Auditorium
Rock Bridge High School
4303 S. Providence Rd.

I attended the first meeting on Nov. 28th in which about 250 people broke into groups of about 12 and, led by a facilitator, brainstormed and provided their ideas on 'What we can do now to make Columbia the best in can be in the future'. This small group approach seemed very open and equitable and not intimidating. Based on which ideas are voiced at these **BIG** meetings, the focus areas for the visioning process will be determined.

Look for past articles, communications, and updates to the visioning process in the newsletter or on our webpage at:

<http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org/>

Or check out the city's website: <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com>

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Happy Holidays!