



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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July 2007

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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:

Temp. Newsletter Editor:

Becky Erickson
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Future Activities

June 28: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at Kayotea, 912 E. Broadway. All are invited.

July 1: 2007-2008 Dues are due! See renewal form in this newsletter.

July 9: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. We will visit the amazingly diverse Sonoran Desert in our southwest through slides and comments presented by Jean Everett, Ph.D. Jean is a Senior instructor, Department of Biology, College of Charleston (SC).

July 22: Newsletter items are due.

July 26: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at Kayotea, 912 E. Broadway. All are invited.

July-August: Possible impromptu field trips, depending on weather and interest, will be announced via email.

September 14 – 16: State Board Meeting. Ha Ha Tonka State Park

September 29: South Farm Showcase

October 13: Chestnut Festival at the University of MO Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in Franklin.

December 1: State Board Meeting. Dunn-Palmer Herbarium, Columbia, MO

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

Please renew your membership dues this month!!

News from Stateside . . .

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Missouri Native Plant Society was held June 2, 2007 in Dexter, MO. The purpose of the annual meeting is to present the MONPS state awards, to summarize the last year's activities, to provide an end of the year treasurer's report, and to elect state officers for the coming year. This took all of about 20 minutes as there were no MONPS state awards given, the treasurer and his report were absent, and all the officers were elected by acclamation. However, our illustrious president decided to liven up the proceedings with various prizes being awarded to individuals guessing the closest number to represent that prize. Everyone had a fun time and the prizes were really neat, too!

Following a short break, the group reconvened for the first quarterly board meeting of our new fiscal year. Since the previous quarterly meeting was only a month ago, not much had changed with the Society's business. (See last month's newsletter.)

- Here are a few updates: The *Petal Pusher* is in the mail, *Missouriensis* is still in progress; Fact sheets 1-5 are now available on our website.
- This is the month that dues are due for the coming year.
- As of this date we have 320 paid members, 9 of which are new, and 43 are life members.
- Jack Harris, the Society's archivist, has reclaimed all of the MONPS board meeting minutes except for September 1986 and April 1987. If anyone has either of these, please send Jack a copy. He would much appreciate it!

Of other considerations, the board is pursuing a joint meeting next year with the Arkansas NPS to be held in northern or north-central Arkansas with the agreement that we would reciprocate with a joint meeting near a prairie a year or so following.

After much discussion the board agreed to revisit the idea of having ball caps for a fund-raising project. Potential cap inscriptions and costs are being investigated. It was made clear that the chapters would be asked, but not required to sell them.

We also agreed to generate a consolidated plant list from each of the future state field trips. I currently have preliminary lists from Mingo NWR and Duck Creek CA. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

The next quarterly state board meeting will be at Ha Ha Tonka State Park September 14-16, 2007.

*Submitted by Judy Turner
State Chapter Representative*

Hawthorn June Meeting Report

Secretary, Jean Graebner

There was no regular meeting in June. Our next regular meeting is Monday 9 July at 7 pm at the Unitarian Church. Send your renewal dues to Paula or bring it with you to the meeting.

You Are Invited . . .

. . . to travel through slides to see the desert in bloom. I went in March, 2005, with daughter, Jean, and Gail, a friend, to spend five days exploring what was a fascinating new world for me. We visited the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson and the Visitors' Center at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to learn about the life and landscape of the amazingly diverse Sonoran Desert. Then we explored by car and on foot Sabino Canyon and parts of Saguaro National Park and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Rainfall in early 2005 exceeded normal. **Jean's program at the Regular Meeting (see calendar)** will show flowers we encountered, and probably will change your concept of what is a desert. I know seeing it certainly changed mine. Submitted by Nancy Brakhage



Bladderwort by Judy Turner

Cards for Sale at July Meeting

"Whoop Whoop Botanicals", an enterprise by Jean, will offer note cards @ \$2 at the July meeting. They feature digital images of native wildflowers, some enhanced, some natural. Some of them will be from the Sonoran Desert. Amounts of 10 can be purchased for \$15. They are printed on plain white stock, no message.

June Field Trips

By Jim Whitley, Ann Wakeman and Becky Erickson

The June newsletter was so full there was not room for one of the field trips so there is a need to catch up and report the high points on May 20 at four prairies in Pettis Co: **Paintbrush, Grandfather, Friendly and Drovers'**. Fortunately for those of us on this field trip Janice Bryan lives an hour farther west than most of us, so she forged ahead early in the day to scout the area and led us on shortcuts to all the interesting places. A few of the species in bloom were prairie senecio, paintbrush, phlox, larkspur, the shooting star were just fading, and Janice spied cancer root which is very small and very hard to find. Becky found a meadowlark nest and native loosestrife at Drovers'. We had lunch at a Cajun fish place in Sedalia. Thanks Janice for making the trip memorable for Jim, Paula and Becky.

Greg Gremaud – the MDC regional naturalist in Kirksville - hosted our field trip to **Morris Prairie**. We were all glad he drove a suburban to bus us up to the country. His hospitality was only surpassed by his ability to guide us to the best spots and interpret the prairie and its management history. He had burned the prairie last fall so it was lush with new growth. Morris Prairie, long grazed, was overlooked when MDC inventoried natural features during the early 1980's. With perseverance, the owners finally got Greg to come take a look and with management, the prairie plants re-appeared in splendid display forming this gem in north Missouri's rolling hills. Morris Prairie, the most diverse prairie remnant in north Missouri, boasts the recently rediscovered wood lily, which was just past flower when we visited. We saw goat's rue growing along side dwarf chinkapin oak, prairie phlox, wild quinine and sensitive briar. We found many specimens of Bunch flower, New Jersey tea, purple prairie clover, and great meadows of pale purple coneflower were in bloom. Although not yet blooming, the compass plant had bolted creating an impressive forest. At a lower lever was another forest of yet green prairie blazing star. We agreed it would be worth another trip in mid July to see the natural area dressed in pink and yellow.



Goat's rue



Indian paintbrush



Prairie phlox



NJ tea and Pale purple coneflowers at Morris by Mike Rues



Silphium forest with Ann Wakeman and Greg Gremaud

Goat's rue

Photos by Becky Erickson unless otherwise credited.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME TO SANBORN FIELD.

Many young plants have survived from the digging efforts of members and students who came to weed and thin out the native plant plot in Sanborn field. Some of them were already healthy enough to sell 21 June at the Native Plant Field Day at Bradford.

If anyone ever has the urge to volunteer assistance to any of Nadia's research projects or demonstration gardens, please come forward and call her at 234-2088 if you need more information.

Thank you, Nadia

Second Annual Nature Trail Side Expo at the Forum Wetlands June 2, 9 to Noon.

In cooperation with Parks and Recreation of the City of Columbia, the Native Plant Society-Hawthorn Chapter, and the University of Missouri arranged the second annual 'Nature Trail Side Expo' held at the Forum Wetlands on Forum Boulevard in Columbia. There were exhibits and demonstrations by several non-profit organizations and state agencies including Columbia Audubon, MDC – Forestry, Show-me Yards and Neighborhoods, Wild Ones, NPS-HC, and others. It started as a drizzly day and one shower deterred most visitors. About 30 folks came by and learned about our plants. Nadia and Becky planted blue lobelia, swamp milkweed, button bush, and river oats in the drainage next to our booth as a demonstration exercise.

Becky Erickson



Thalia bloom by Judy Turner

Third Annual Native Plant Field Day at Bradford Research and Extension Center June 21, 4 to 8 pm

Nadia gave interpretation on her research plots on a wagon tour. A neighbor to the Farm and hunting enthusiast George gave explanations of the best natives to use in quail habitat. Native plant gardens including a raingarden demonstration, an artificial glade and formal gardens were interpreted by Leslie, the Bradford Farm garden specialist. Dr. Trinkline explained about native plants that grow well in containers. Mervin Wallace brought a trailer-full of plants and the five NPS members who worked the booth were moving native plants and books out like hotcakes. Three seminars were offered during the event: John George talked about prairie history and grassland restoration, Becky Erickson gave a presentation about the importance of ecotypes, and Marilyn Odneal presented her work with native plants used in cut flower arrangements. Thanks to Laura, Janice, Jim, Judy, for covering questions and sales at the booth and it was really good to have Nancy with us again! Native Plant Field Day was quite worthwhile.

The efforts of the organizers shine with their presentations, tours of research being done at Bradford Farm, displays featuring different aspects of using native plants in the landscape. They aren't just for ecological restoration any more. If I had to choose, my high point was hearing John George's presentation on prairies. He is a true field ecologist and learns about ecosystems by working on them. A close second high point is networking and seeing so many friends I haven't seen in a while.

Becky Erickson and Ann Wakeman

And Most Recent Stadium Update. . .

When you are wandering your favorite public Area or a friend's native savanna/prairie planting, please take note of the plants you would like to see at the Stadium site. Make a mental note of the size and shape of the plant, the stem and leaf texture; if the leaves are alternate or opposite; if the flowers are exclusively terminal or scattered on the stem; what the bracts look like because when the colored petals fall off, that will be the primary means of identification. If the plant seems to be colonial it could be a good candidate as large areas of color are noticeable and they can compete with residual fescue and crown vetch.

. . . Future Stadium activities:

Late this summer I will obtain collection permits and maps of public and private areas where we can collect seed for dispersal on the project site. Please be scouting for good areas for seed collection. When the weather cools a bit in August we will take an all day field trip for seed collection training. If you collect before I get around to posting a training date, PLEASE ask me about amount needed, and storage of seed during the hot summer.

--Becky Erickson, 657-2314, beckyerick@socket.net

Stadium Project Coordinator

Membership Questionnaire

Over time membership in an organization changes with it, the vision and goals change. So the leaders of the Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society (NPS) can direct it along the path that the members want to take, the leaders need to know the vision and goals of the membership. So everyone will feel confident and included, please fill out this questionnaire in detail. The working group wants these opinions and ideas to be anonymous, so please do not put your name on it in any form. The working group will send out the results of the poll one month after disbursal of the blank forms; probably in the August newsletter. Please return yours by mail to Jean, or Paula, or in person to the next membership meeting.

1. Are you completely satisfied with the way NPS functions at present? Yes No
2. Is NPS meeting its purpose as directed through the Mission Statement and Bylaws? Yes No
3. Is there anything you have in particular you have thought through and have suggestions for improvement, change or elimination? (Some of the questions below might address your comment, so you might want to come back to this last.)(please write on back of page)

If any of the following topics inspire you, please include complete comments and expand on the idea:

NPS has one meeting on alternate months, one newsletter every month, one lunch meeting every month (which has evolved into a serious business discussion from finances to politics) and we have about 2 field trips during each of the spring and fall months.

4. Do you think this schedule and amount of communication serves your desired involvement? Yes No
5. If a list serve were set up, would you use it? Yes No
6. Would you participate in a phone-web or list-serve if we needed to get out word of spontaneous activities or change of plans? Yes No
7. If you are a new member would you like to be reminded of activities for a few months? Yes No
8. NPS has about 14 active members, if you are not one of those, what kind of activity would increase your interest? (please write on back of page)
9. How do you think we could promote NPS and recruit motivated members. (please write on back of page)
10. Would you be interested in discussions and research on environmental issues and assisting in writing opinions to appropriate political representatives? Yes No

One of NPS present goals is to educate about native plants and their habitats. In the last 3 years the financial account has had some spare change, so there has been discussion about offering scholarships.

11. Would you be in favor of a committee to develop, promote and evaluate one scholarship each year to a deserving student in the natural sciences or to one of our members? Yes No

There was a request last year to find new places to go on field trips. The Field Trip committee spent quite a few days researching several new options. Some field trips were well attended and some were not. The committee wants to offer the kind of trip that will win your attendance.

12. What was especially attractive about the trips you went on and what was unappealing about the ones you did not attend? (Please write on back of page)
13. What is a location you want to go where NPS has not offered?
14. Which day is usually best so you can schedule field trip attendance? Saturday Sunday
15. Would you like to be reminded of the field trips during the week before? Yes No
16. Do you think we should take and keep reservations for field trips? Yes No

Usually NPS has about 4 educational events where we set up the booth and need volunteers to talk to people and to sell books and plants. This year we have had 5 events.

17. Have you helped at any of these events? Yes No Why or why not? (please write on back of page)
18. If you disagree with the number of events where we participate, how many would you prefer and which ones?

If any of these issues have inspired your opinion on an area not covered here, please go back to question 3 to elaborate. (please write on back of page)

Please Step Forward For Service

There is a need for a few inactive members to step forward to fill spaces temporarily filled by a few hard working folks who cover several duties each.

We are in need of a president, a newsletter editor, and a person who knows how to manipulate a web site. Please come to the July open meeting ready to volunteer a little time to a very good environmental and educational service.

___ Student (\$11.00)

___ Regular (\$16.00)

___ Contributing (\$26.00)

— Life (\$200.00)

Includes both Chapter and State 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 1 through June 30.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day (or cell) _____

Email: _____

Do you want to receive email updates between newsletters? **Yes** **No**

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:

(circle preference) **Email** **Regular mail** **Both**

(Email delivery brings you color photos and it saves NPS money)

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