



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 9

September 2007

Future Activities

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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
beckyerick@socket.net

September 1, 2, 3 and 29, 30: Seed collection field trips. PLEASE RSVP = yes or no to Becky by email beckyerick@socket.net or by phone 657-2314.

September 10: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Gretchen Pruett, Doctoral Candidate in the Division of Plant Sciences will present "What Fungi Are." She will emphasize why they are separate from other organisms.

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

September 20: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway. Please note the change of location and the date. We now meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month. All are invited.

Sept 22 -23: 2nd annual Eco-ArtFest at Cooper's Landing. Please plan to help with our booth 2 pm until 6 pm. The music continues until 10 pm on Sat and 8 pm on Sun. This event is a fundraiser for the MO River Cultural Conservancy

September 24: Newsletter items are due.

September 29: South Farm Showcase. See article inside.

September 29 -30: Seed collecting for the Stadium Project. If you are interested in participating, call Becky at 424-4713

October 13: 5th Annual Chestnut Festival at the University of MO Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, MO. Please plan to help with our booth 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

November 12: Regular meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Shane Pruett, doctoral candidate in Fisheries and Wildlife, will share with us the results of research on wildlife in the bottomland hardwood forests of Southeast Missouri. He will compare the birdlife that is successful in that type of environment with the birdlife of Central Missouri.

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

January 14: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Dennis Stegall, camera manager at Columbia Photo, will present a program giving tips on photographing plants and flowers. The idea for requesting such a program came from a conversation at a Native Plant Enthusiasts gathering focusing on ways to improve photography techniques. If you have ideas for programs, please contact Jean Graebner and we will see what we can do.

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225

And Most Recent Stadium Update. . .

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

Stadium Project Coordinator

We usually visit wild places to see the plants blooming. But now we can learn the plants when they are ready to harvest.

We need to start harvesting seed for the Stadium Site. I am offering options of dates for you to come out to learn to identify native plants when they look dead. September 1, 2, 3 and 29, 30 are good dates to get started. I very much need for you to tell me if you will help with this effort or if you will not be able to help. So please respond by email or leave a message on my phone any time. If you tell me you don't want to help you will hear no more about seed collection activities. Those that I do not hear from will get all the notices along with the people who want to help.

There are 3 private properties we can visit: Ann Wakeman's just west of Fulton on F, Jim Whitley's near Silver Fork in N Boone Co, and "The Hole" at the intersection of 151 and 22 on the N Boone Co line. At the time of this printing, I am still waiting for permits for Three Creeks and for Bennitt. I am certain we will make trips to both of these conservation areas.

Just at this moment the site does NOT need *Ratibida pinnata* nor *Coreopsis grandiflora*.

I know at my house the *Chaemechrista*(*Cassia fasciculata*) needs to be picked over regularly as the pods turn brown because they will pop if left to harvest all at once. I have cut nearly all of my *Verbesina helianthoides* heads because the stems have lost the chlorophyll. *Vernonia* will be an excellent addition for mid-season color, but don't harvest until some of the tufts have opened like a dandelion.

I have seen some colonial sunflowers on roadsides lately that would be good candidates. If you see roadside patches of natives you want to pick from later when the fruit ripens, you need to contact the landowner or MODOT to request that they not mow before you harvest seed. I am going to attempt to influence MODOT to not mow on HwyY until mid-November.

When we get together for trips, I suggest you wear long pants and boots or sturdy sport shoes, a long-sleeved shirt, sun hat, if your hands are soft, you will need thin gloves. Bring water and sack lunch, insect repellent, clippers, several medium sized paper bags, marking pen and a good sense of adventure.

PLEASE ask me about amount needed, and storage of seed during the hot summer if you are collecting before we meet.

A Plan to Preserve Boone County

Tom Vernon

For several months the Land Preservation Subgroup (of the Development Topic Group) has worked within in the Visioning process to develop a plan to preserve some of the natural areas and agricultural land in Boone County for future generations. Several of the members of this group are also members of the Native Plant Society.

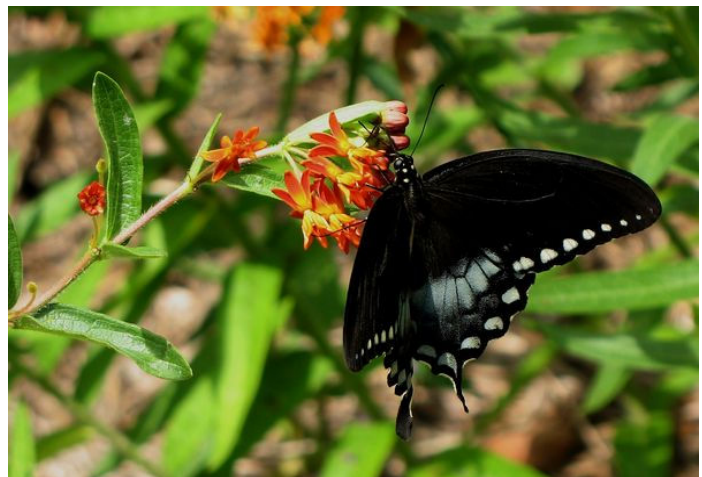
Our suggestions include: 1) creating a city-county organization to administer the land preservation process and to acquire land and property rights of land deemed appropriate for preservation, 2) evaluating potential areas for preservation, and 3) exploring possible funding mechanisms.

On September 13th there will be an opportunity for the public to evaluate these plans and the ideas of the other Visioning groups and subgroups. These evaluations will help determine the overall priorities of the various proposals. We hope as many members of the Native Plant Society as possible will participate in these evaluations and give us their suggestions.

Our preservation plans will be open to the public for review and evaluation on Thursday, September 13th between noon and 8 p.m. (Kimball Ballroom, Lela Raney Wood Hall, Stephens College. Located at 6 N. College Ave.)

To reduce potential parking problems, there will be shuttles running between Downtown (Tenth Street and Broadway) and Stephens on the 13th from 6 to 8 p.m.

You can park anywhere downtown and use this shuttle. This is Democracy at work; your opinion does count!!



Paula's Spicebush swallowtail (illustration for following article)

Ninth Annual Endangered Species Walk/Run Race

Carol Davit

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 13, to participate in the 9th annual Endangered Species Walk/Run Race. This event raises funds to help restore habitat, conduct research, and support education projects for endangered animals and plants in Missouri.

The race starts and finishes at the North Jefferson City Pavilion, located near the intersections of Highways 63 and 54. The race route includes a portion of the KATY Trail. New this year: The race route will be certified by U.S. Track & Field and chip timed! Timed races are a 5K walk, 5K run, 10K run. Awards will be given to winners in several age classes. Youth teams are encouraged with reduced registration fees.

This year's highlighted natural communities are bottomland hardwood forests and swamps, home to 10% of Missouri's rare and endangered species. The week of the race (October 7–13, 2007) will be "Missouri Endangered Species Awareness Week" to be proclaimed by Governor Blunt. Educational activities will occur at schools, Conservation Nature Centers, and State Parks around the state. A Youth Post Card contest will also be part of the activities.

This event is co-hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Jefferson City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry.

For more information, and to register for the race, visit http://www.mdc.mo.gov/programs/es_walkrun/.



Nadia found this Giant Swallowtail larva on her wafer ash; it as camouflaged as bird poop.

Gardening for Butterflies: Spicebush Swallowtail (*Pterourus troilus troilus*)

Paula Peters (our resident lepidopteron)

Butterfly Gardening is a natural extension of native plant gardening. If you plant native plants you will get visiting butterflies. However, if you plant host plants for the butterfly larvae, the butterflies will be enticed to stick around. Butterflies spend as much time seeking host plants as they do nectar plants.

Butterflies lay eggs on specific host plant families that the butterfly species has adapted to. The eggs hatch into larvae (caterpillars) which feed and molt into bigger larvae. Eventually they pupate and then emerge as adult butterflies. Larvae of some species have developed fascinating strategies to help protect them from predation. Some are camouflaged by mimicking plants parts such as seed pods. Others imitate bird droppings on a leaf, or they may hide in the leaves or flowers, and some even look like small dragons with startle behaviors designed to frighten away potential predators.

I had never seen a Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly until I planted Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), both important host plants for this butterfly. Now I see them frequently in my garden. If you have Sassafras or Spicebush, a close examination of the foliage may reveal larvae. They are very good at concealment, and do not stay out long to feed. The larva makes a shelter from the leaf by folding the leaf lengthwise up over themselves. When they are very tiny they use a tiny leaf, or cut into the leaf to make a smaller shelter at the tip. They grow rapidly, and are usually ready to pupate in 10 to 12 days in their natural habitat during the summer. They will usually leave the plant to find a protected spot to pupate.

It is fun to bring butterfly larvae, such as the Spicebush Swallowtail, inside for feeding and observation. You will need a clear container like the small "critter containers" from the pet shop, a few twigs with green foliage from the host plant, and some florist picks (small vials for water) to keep the foliage moist. They need to have the foliage changed every 2 or 3 days and excess fecal material removed from the container. Keep the container dry. Do not transfer the larvae by hand but instead place new foliage in contact with the old foliage, so that the larvae can move when they are ready. When they are full size they will leave the leaf and pupate on the screen of the container, or on the sticks placed inside.

Watch closely. When the pupa changes color and darkens, the adult is about to emerge. This will take between 10 and 14 days indoors at about 78 degrees F (less on a warm shaded porch or more in a cooler house). Be sure you have several sticks placed at a slant in the container for the butterfly to climb on when it emerges from the pupal case. Release the butterfly outdoors after its wings have hardened, preferably on a sunny day.

Monarch Nursery (...to continue Paula' line on feeding caterpillars) *Becky Erickson*

Because I often drop seed on the kitchen floor, I sweep it up and dump it around the vegetable garden so I can either kill or nurture whatever responds to natural conditions. Three years ago this *Asclepias incarnata* appeared. It was persecuted by deer and aphids, and it was in such a dry spot I really had little hope for its survival. But it came back the second year with 4 stems and I decided to water it if it was droopy. In spite of deer eating the flowers on the outer surface, the flowers inside the plant produced copious seed.

The wet winter and manure enriched garden soil inspired the plant to put up 15 heavy stems this year. I realized when it was 3 feet tall it would fall over in a stout wind so I trained it into a tube of 4-foot woven stock fence. At the date it bloomed, it was over 7 feet tall. As you can see in the top-center, mother Monarch had found a nursery for her offspring.



15 August 07

Five days after the first photo, there were over 50 larva and a pupa on the plant. Six days after that the milkweed was totally denuded and decorated with over 30 little green and gold ornaments.



There were still three larva searching for food among the bare branches so I transferred them to some potted swamp milkweed I had slated for sale in September. Although I did not get to see any butterflies spread their wings, as far as I can tell, all of the pupa emerged.



10 August 07



21 August 07

IT IS TIME TO PUT UP YOUR HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS!!

Orphan of the Month: A native plant garden available for adoption at South Farm.

It took three days of hard work, but Becky succeeded in establishing a new native plant garden by the office of the Turf Research Center at South Farm. Initially intended as a poverty grass demonstration area, that idea was discarded really fast after Melanie, Becky, and I planted a few seedlings, and the weeds grew faster than the poverty grass. We decided that we had to do something different.

The planting was done at the end of June to show the garden during the Turf Research Field Day in early July and on September 29 during the Showcase Event, both at South Farm. Seedlings of several species were established in groups for landscaping appeal. Some species included are manna grass (*Glyceria striata*), Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*), Canada wildrye (*E. canadensis*), waxweed (*Cuphea viscosissima*, a plant whose seeds are the source of an oil used in medicine and for cosmetics), river oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), black eye susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), blue flag (*Iris virginica*), blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*, once used to treat syphilis) wild senna (*Senna marylandica*), false wild indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*), slender and Virginia mountain mint (*Pycnathemum virginicus.*), coreopsis, stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*), golden aster-not a true aster, and partridge pea (*Chamaechrista fasciculata*), among others.

After establishing the plants, the site was mulched with city mulch to control weeds; however, yellow nutsedge seed was brought in the mulch so right now, we are fighting this aggressive weed. Plants have been watered once every week and seem to be doing fine.

Previous to planting, the area had a very invasive introduced grass, *Miscanthus*, several applications of herbicide were necessary to control it during two consecutive years. The grass is so aggressive that periodic observations should be done just in case new sprouts start showing.

This could be a great project for a student organization and the Native Plant Society could donate labels to identify every species. We will try to get the MU-Horticulture Society to help maintain this garden. They could possibly use the flowers for arrangements and collect the seed for sale. The management required involves herbicide applications and some hand weeding early in the spring, and again in late June and mid-September. Additional seedlings will be established next spring for planting additional open areas.

If you know of a youth group or students that may be interested in adopting this garden, please call Nadia at 289-2018 or email:navarreten@missouri.edu



September 20: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway.
Please note the change of location and the date. We now meet on the **3rd Thursday** of the month.
All are invited; please join us.

September Activity – EcoArt Festival

revised by Becky Erickson

Hawthorn NPS will be attending this new venue to present information about our local treasures such as the Missouri River, its ecology, and ways to preserve our natural resources on Saturday, September 22 and Sunday September 23 at Cooper's Landing. The Missouri River Cultural Conservancy (MoRivCC) will be presenting the 2nd annual EcoArtFest. The theme for this year's event is ***Our Local Treasures***. The Mission of the Missouri River Cultural Conservancy is to document, record, archive and foster awareness of the unique history and culture of the Central Missouri River Region. This is a fundraising event for MoRivCC.

What to expect: musicians to perform original music and the music of our past local treasures including Jerome Wheeler, Forrest Rose, Ken Shepherd, and Bob Dyer. Local artists of all types will show and sell their art. The event should draw a large crowd of all ages.

You can contact Melanie Cheney at catalpaflappa@hotmail.com for full programs.

October Activity - MISSOURI CHESTNUT ROAST

You are cordially invited to attend this event that will introduce the public to Missouri-grown chestnuts, pecans and black walnuts; Missouri wineries; Missouri value-added product producers; and will showcase the beauty of the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center and the Missouri River Hills.

The day's activities will center around the farm's Thomas Hickman House. The house, built in 1819, is one of Missouri's oldest standing brick homes and was recently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The Hickman House and grounds are under restoration to reflect the era in which it was built. *All activities will take place under tents for comfort rain or shine!*

- Missouri chestnut, pecan and black walnut producer booths with free tasting samples.
- Educational presentations and exhibits.
- Musical entertainment by the Ironweed Bluegrass Band.
- Children's activities.
- Guided bus and walking tours of the chestnut orchards and agroforestry research areas at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center and tours of the 1819 Thomas Hickman House.
- A chestnut roasting booth with free samples of fresh roasted chestnuts.
- Value-added food product producers will provide free tasting samples and products for sale, including Missouri wines, meats and nuts. Food concession stand will feature Missouri-produced grilled elk, buffalo, pork and beef products for sale.

5th Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast

Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center

New Franklin, Missouri

October 13, 2007 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free Admission and Open to the Public

Assistance Dogs Allowed - No Pets

For more information: contact Julie Rhoads at

573-882-3234 or email rhoadsj@missouri.edu

Please visit www.centerforagroforestry.org for a list of all of the participating producers and exhibitors and driving directions.

Memorial for Marge McDermott

Hawthorn NPS has decided to plant a tree (probably a tulip poplar) at Rocheport. So far we have collected \$525; we will likely need about \$600 to have a 6-8 foot tree planted properly and signed. Please send your donation to Paula or Jean (address in officer list).

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 contact one of the officers 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: _____

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

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