



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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Hawthorn Chapter

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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly. Send your submissions to:

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Future Activities

November 10: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Our speaker will be Chris Starbuck. He will discuss his research growing bare root plants in gravel. He finds them easily transplantable with a high rate of survival.

November 15: Wreath Workshop and Cook out at the Ellifrits on Cedar Creek. The Wreath Workshop will start at 10:00 am. We will start cooking food at 1:00 pm and plan to eat at 3:00 pm. **See details inside this newsletter.** Please let Paula (474-4225) know if you plan to attend either the wreath workshop or the cook out (or both).

November 20: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway. All are invited.

November-December: Impromptu hikes can be arranged. If there is a location, public or private, you would like to see or want to collect seed for yourself or for the propagation workshop, call Paula. These can be easily arranged. If you are not on the email list, please let Paula know you want to be called.

December 6: State Board Meeting in Columbia. All are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend.

December 13: Holiday Party at Nancy Langworthy's home. There will be an official election held at this party for Vice President, Treasurer, State Representative. We would like to have your representative vote and your dish at the pot-luck dinner, but read new Bylaws for absentee vote rule, and Nancy has a note inside to explain.

January 12: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. The January meeting speaker will be Bill Clark and he will give us a slide show of 'Dandelions from Around the World'.

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225.

Minutes of Regular Meeting 8 Sept

Submitted by Jean Graebner, Secretary

President Nancy Langworthy opened the Hawthorn Chapter regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, September 8, at the Unitarian-Universalist church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. She reported that the chapter made \$232 in sales of plants and books at the Eco-Art Festival held annually at Cooper's Landing on the Missouri River. We had a booth on the first day of the Festival which was held September 6th and 7th.

Jean Graebner reported on the progress of our plan for a memorial tree in honor of member Marge McDermott. Jean, Vanessa Melton and Nancy L. attended a meeting of the Rocheport City Council September 3rd to hear a report on the planned Pocket Park where the tree will be planted sometime this Fall. Plans for the park also include a memorial, created by regional artist Peggy Guest and Joe Guest, which is being sponsored by the Friends of Rocheport. Vanessa said that she was planning a meeting with Rocheport Mayor Brett Dufur and Diane Huneke, Rocheport resident and landscape designer, who will advise on use of native plants and problems of maintenance. Nancy warned that our chapter should be careful of assuming an overload of maintenance responsibility.

Nadia Navarrete announced the program for Bradford Farm Open House which will feature speakers and hikes at the area.

Nadia then presented the program—a pictorial journey to her native country, El Salvador, with emphasis on its native plants (many beautiful orchids, bromeliads and epiphytes) and highlighting a privately owned natural area which offers eco-tours. The area is managed by PRODETUR, and has many scenic trails, the Rio Sapó and other rivers for swimming, waterfalls, and native guides to answer questions about flora and fauna. The history of the country and its efforts to be free may be observed in a Revolutionary Museum and the Ruta de la Paz, the Peace Route.

**November 20:
Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!
11:30 am at Felini's,
700 E. Broadway.**

**We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the
month.**

All are invited; please join us.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Submitted by Nancy Langworthy, President

The nominating committee of Nancy Brakhage, Laura Ellifrit, and Ann Wakeman has announced the slate of candidates for this year's election of Hawthorn Chapter officers: For vice-president, Vanessa Melton (note that in January 2008 she was chosen to finish Nadia's term as v-p, left unfilled when Nadia stepped back up to be the interim president; this will be Vanessa's first real term); for treasurer, Paula Peters (her second term); and for her first term as chapter representative, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall.

The election for these posts will be held at the December 13th winter holiday party at Nancy Langworthy's house. Remember that absentee ballots were approved his summer with the bylaws' amendment. If you cannot attend the party, you may vote by calling or emailing any officer; in the case that unexpected bad weather or events cause you not to attend at the last minute, we will accept absentee votes through 5 pm December 13th.

Small Tracts of MTNF Slated for Timber Management.

Submitted by Nancy Langworthy, President
I saw this article in the Tribune Monday on the front page [<http://archive.columbiatribune.com/2008/oct/20081027news001.asp>] about some thinning and clear cutting of small tracts along Cedar Creek. I think it would be good for the membership to review the article and have a discussion at the regular meeting.

EXERPT:

"Public comment is invaluable," Dorst said, noting that the Forest Service does incorporate that input into management plans. "They've been very responsive to our comments and concerns."

The Forest Service is still accepting comments that will be considered in the decision process, spokesman and analyst Mark Hamel said.

"If there are any detrimental effects of what we're doing, that's what we're

looking for," Hamel said. "To solely say, 'I don't want to see clear-cuts,' we understand that, but that doesn't necessarily mean we are going to change our view. We are looking at what is best for the resource."

The final decision rests with District Ranger Elrand Denson, who is expected to make a decision in the next few months.

ON THE WEB

For details about the U.S. Forest Service's management alternatives for Mark Twain National Forest, visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/projects.

Cedar Wreath Workshop and Cookout – November 15

Submitted by Paula Peters, Treasurer

Laura Ellifrit will host a Cedar Wreath Workshop and Cookout, Saturday November 15. The wreath workshop will start at 10:00 am, and the cookout will start at 1:00 pm.

For the Wreath Workshop:

Bring a small spool of craft wire (about 26 gauge), pliers, hand pruners, a straw form or wreath base of your choice (12-14 inches), and gloves if you want them. Cedar will be provided. If you can, bring natural materials to share for decoration. Examples of these natural materials are any interesting dried seed heads of yarrow, grasses, sumac heads, dried flowers, multiflora rose hips, bittersweet, pine cones, lotus pods, etc. We usually work in Laura's garage so there will be cover if the weather turns misty or windy. Please bring a healthy snack to share at the workshop, and a beverage. Feel free to call if you have any questions. Laura Ellifrit – 442-0777 or Paula Peters – 474-4225.

For the Cookout:

Members, family, and friends should bring a well defrosted Cornish Hen (contact Paula immediately!! if you want to order an organic hen from Jim Whitley), a potato wrapped in foil (if desired), and anything else you want to try to cook on an open fire. Bring a side dish and beverage to share. Please arrive before 1:00 pm to get your chicken on the pole with the others. We plan to eat at 3:00 pm. Laura will provide utensils, plates, condiments, or you can bring your own. Beer and wine are welcome in moderation. Feel free to call if you have any questions. Laura Ellifrit – 442-0777.

Directions to Ellifrit's Place:

[This is only 10 miles from town] Take Hwy 63 South from Columbia to State Route AB (Deer Park & Deer Park Store with RED roof). Turn left (east) on State Route AB. After about 3 miles, state maintenance ends and the road turns to gravel and is called Barnes Chapel Road. Continue straight east on Barnes Chapel road for about a mile, until you come to North Millsite Road on your right (careful! The road appears just over a rise.). Turn right (south) on North Millsite Rd. about a mile or so until you come to three mailboxes and a sign with four addresses and arrows pointing left and right. Our address is 8804 and is to the left. Turn sharp left there and continue straight thru the gate and follow the driveway around the wetland and up the hill to the house. Laura 442-0777 or Paula 474-4225 or on the 15th, 573-881-4225 (Paula's cell).

2008 Nature Calendars

Submitted by Paula Peters, Treasurer

We will once again be ordering MDC nature calendars for the holidays. These make great holiday gifts.

I will accept orders from now until Nov 13, by phone (573-474-4225), at the November meeting on the 10th, and by email (pieridael@gmail.com).

The order will be made on November 14, and the calendars will be available at the Holiday party at Nancy's Dec 13, at the State Board meeting, the regular January meeting, or can be picked up at my home (2216 S Grace Ellen Dr, Columbia). The price for the calendars will be \$6.00. Paula – 573-474-4225.

... After the Rockbridge Hike

Submitted by Wanda Parscal

The natives make me feel closer to the land, especially out among them with the wind blowing. Everything is in harmony, I am at peace.

This is something that I knowingly cannot pass on to anyone, they must come into this by themselves. I can spark an interest and just maybe get a person out there in the fields but the rest is up to them. If a person will just take the time to observe, listen, smell, and feel - - - then they will understand native plants and will start landscaping with them for other purposes besides something to fill a spot in the yard.

I am fascinated right now in the discovery of each native plant, not just only the pretty blooming plants, but grasses, ferns, sedges, trees and all. It is an ongoing learning and enjoyable process.



B Erickson

Paula, Jean, Jim, Wanda enjoy a beautiful fall day at Rockbridge SP.

Questions About Our Activities

Submitted by Nancy Langworthy, President

A month ago via email I asked a number of questions of the membership, especially directed at those who rarely --- or even never --- attend our meetings or do anything with us. "Why did you choose to be a member; why continue being a member?" was the gist of the questions.

So far 13 people have responded [thank you!], and the responses have been interesting. If you are a member who gets the hard copy of the newsletter rather than an email version, please take the time right now to answer those questions. If you are one of those silent members out there who got the email version but haven't yet answered, again I ask you to take the time to tell me your story.

But, right now, I'd like to share one theme that is emerging. The Hawthorn Chapter is based in Columbia but draws membership from the farthest reaches of Boone County as well as the surrounding counties. Attending any event can mean traveling lots of miles and some real amount of time unless the events are actually within your general neighborhood. Some members work outside of Columbia and so can't easily attend events in Columbia or are simply too tired and busy at the end of their work commute to want to come out again.

Along with that theme a question has in turn been asked: Why not have meetings or lunches some place to the south like in Jefferson City or to the east like in Fulton? We have a number of members to the west and north, so why not a meeting in Boonville?

Well, personally, I'm not prepared to agree to move the site of our regular meetings or our 3rd Thursday lunches. The bulk of members is still close to Columbia or active members have no real problem with getting to town; Columbia is a central place, the "closest for the most-est." Moving an official event to Jefferson City, for instance, would inconvenience far larger numbers of members. So many fewer members would be able to attend. Our strength and vitality comes from joining together as a single group.

That said, we are a diverse group, and there's no reason we can't offer more things. Why don't those of you who spend so much time out of town put together your own events on the newsletter calendar? Work together with the events committee to set a date for a lunch in Jefferson City or Rocheport or some other site, or host presentations at a college; suggest more local botanizing hikes. Those of you who are really too far out of town to attend the Hawthorn functions, why don't you put together a small group of like-minded folks to occasionally have lunch or go on a walk; if you do, please tell us about your group and what you do together so we can relay it to other members through the newsletter---you won't feel so isolated and you will tie your subgroup back to us to help us all learn more.

I don't want to see Hawthorn Chapter splinter into ever smaller, more local groups but this is a way to be flexible regarding members' concerns while maintaining our coherence as a chapter. What do you think?

I really am asking for opinions. Email me nancylangworthy@hotmail.com or 573-874-2463, or one of the other officers (contact info on the first page of the newsletter). If enough members agree that this is an issue we need to take up directly, we can put it on the agenda for a regular meeting in lieu of a presentation.

(The following was sent out to members with email in September from President Nancy Langworthy)

As a member for only a bit over a year, I'd appreciate some help now from each of you. Fall seems a good time to reflect on our activities through the year and our outreach to our members and to potential members. In our efforts to reinvigorate established members and to attract new folks, sometimes we have found it hard to say just what it is we each get from membership in Hawthorn and the Missouri NPS.

I would very much like to know from **each of you** what it is that drew **you** to the group? What is it that keeps you paying the annual dues? Why did you feel so committed that you paid for a life membership? What made you chose NPS over WildOnes, or are you a member of both? Or of just about every naturalist organization there is? Why is that? What do you get that's different and special from Hawthorn Chapter of MoNPS? What can we tell folks who ask us about the advantages they will get from joining Hawthorn Chapter?

The statement of goals and purposes in our bylaws is dry and frankly unhelpful even though accurate----**we need some real words from the experiences of a wide range of real people.** You each came to Hawthorn Chapter with different backgrounds and interests so I'm sure you each get something different from the group. Tell us, please. There's no required format for this. It doesn't have to be a paragraph or even a sentence; it might be just a phrase that resonates for you. Maybe there's a whole list of things. It might be a bit of a story about an incident or something you learned from one of our activities or newsletters. **I'd like to hear it all** so we can share these thoughts and motivations with each other and with outsiders who are interested. Or, if you really can't get yourself to write words on an email or on paper, please call one of the officers and tell her so she can write it up using your words; that's another way to share. But, **please share**. [Contact info for all officers is on the first page of the newsletter.]

The flip side of this is also important to us. Why do you pay your dues yet almost never join us at a meeting, a

lunch, a hike, or at a booth? If you live too far away to be with us physically, why do you not share something for the newsletter, a story or a photo on native plants from where you are? Is there a different activity you would be attracted to participate in? **Please tell me.**

Why don't you sit down right now for a moment or two to think about these questions. Then, right now while it's on your mind, write your answers down or pick up the phone to call one of us. Please don't just put it off until the tomorrow which never really comes. Thank you very much. NL

Bill Clark's article about Nadia

Submitted by Jean Graebner

If you haven't already seen it in the Columbia Tribune (Page 2A Monday, Oct. 20) there is an excellent article about former chapter president, Nadia Navarrete-Tindal, by Columnist Bill Clark (also one of our founding members). The article identifies Nadia as the recipient of the Master Conservationist Award given by the Conservation Commission of Missouri. (ed. note: See February 2008 issue of the Hawthorn newsletter for a full description of the award.) Bill's article then goes on to relate interesting facts and events in Nadia's life.

Beginning with her early life in her native El Salvador and continuing through her education and professional career, the article is full of fascinating detail. It relates her first contact with the world of native plants: "She had never seen a prairie before coming to Missouri, and after visiting Paint Brush Prairie, she was hooked." It also lists all the various activities Nadia is involved in which help her to her goal as stated in the article "to introduce good conservation practices to all farmers in general and to the minority farmers in particular..."

Again, congratulations, Nadia, and thanks to Bill for letting the public know about Hawthorn Chapter's very deserving award winner and hard-working educator.

[Ed Note: This article was also brought to the attention of PCA. So, through the PCA list serve, it was brought to the attention of all the caring environmentalists around the country.]

In case you can't find the article in last week's paper stack or on line, here is a re-print:

TRIBUNE COLUMN

Native flora part of work for Columbia transplant

By Bill Clark, Published Monday, October 20, 2008

The Master Conservationist Award is given by the Conservation Commission of Missouri to people who make substantial and lasting contributions to conservation and to our state. In the 68-year history of the award, it has been presented only 55 times. The award is truly special, a ticket into the Missouri Conservation Hall of Fame. The most recent winner was chosen for "her accomplishment in outreach to her community, to children and to minorities. Teaching others about native plants, wildlife and conservation has earned her the respect of colleagues and natural resource professions from across the state." In presenting the award, Commission Chairman Chip McGeehan said: "The scientific study of fish, forest, wildlife and the habitats that support them is a core part of what we do. But it is the ability to influence the actions of the public that most dramatically" affect "the future health of our resources. Thank you for contributing so capably to our knowledge on both fronts."

The recipient was a native of El Salvador by way of Columbia - Nadia Navarrete-Tindall. Never heard of her, you say? Quite likely. She has been in Columbia for nine years and, until recently, could be found in the fields at Bradford Research and Extension Center, staffing activities for the Hawthorn Native Plant Society, making presentations at garden clubs and naturalist programs and working with Columbia Verde, a grass-roots group that educates Hispanics about the use of native plants on small farms, reducing chemicals and cutting the cost of farming. It is the basis for what she did for the Rural Sociology Department at the University of Missouri before moving recently to Lincoln University, where she is an associate professor and state extension specialist in native plants. Still Columbia-based, she now does bilingual work with minorities in St. Louis, Kansas City, Marshall, the Bootheel and Central Missouri.

The journey from El Salvador to her current position has been long and winding. Raven-haired Nadia was born in 1956 in the Salvadoran capital, San Salvador, the daughter of a lawyer and the secretary for the Salvador Supreme Court. Her family survived the long and brutal civil war that plagued El Salvador for decades. She and her two brothers were educated in a Catholic school and at the University of El Salvador. Nadia finished a degree in agronomy in 1983, then worked in horticultural research, first in grapes, then reforestation.

She came to Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1986 on a scholarship, first to learn English, then to earn a master's degree in forestry. Her brothers remained in Central America, where one is a computer analyst in El Salvador and the other is in banking in Honduras.

Nadia finished a master's in 1989, served as a teacher's assistant, married Randy Tindall in 1994 and finished

her doctorate in plant biology in 1996. Randy earned a doctorate in archaeobotany, studying ancient corn. Nadia was involved in research in her native country for two years, studying how legumes utilize nitrogen from the air through symbiosis. She and Randy taught for a year at New Mexico State University and landed in Columbia in 1999, where Randy accepted a position at MU in electron-microscopy technology. Here they remain.

Nadia wore many hats during the next eight years. She worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation in Ozark plant inventory, as an interpreter, in a savanna and quail restoration project in Callaway County and with Brad Jacobs at Bradford Farm. It was there she became involved with Missouri's native plants. She had never seen a prairie before coming to Missouri, and after visiting Paint Brush Prairie, she was hooked. A love affair with native plants was quick to blossom. One of her projects at Bradford Farm was the development of a demonstration center for 170 native species, including four orchids. Her love of native plants led to the presidency for five years of the Hawthorn Native Plant Society. Nadia's goal is to introduce good conservation practices to all farmers in general and to the minority farmers in particular; to leave a better environment for those who follow us as we maintain and improve our agricultural productiveness. Interesting, isn't it, where we find leadership in our nation? Congratulations to El Salvador's Nadio Navarrete-Tindall, Master Conservationist, Hall of Famer and our fellow Columbian.

Study Examines Human Transport of Plant Seeds

Tina Arons *Reprint from: The Daily Toreador, Department of Student Media, Texas Tech University.* Issue date: 10/16/08

Experts say plant seeds hitch rides on our shoes like free taxis that take them to places where they may not be welcome. But how far can they go? Some may find the answer surprising.

European researchers studied seeds from two wild plants found along a national coastal trail in southern England and they found seeds can ride on shoes for miles.

Matthias C. Wichmann, a lead researcher at the Center for Ecology and Hydrology in Wallingford, England, said in an e-mail that few studies relate to human population density or movement with plant species distributions.

Long distance dispersal has potential for introducing species into new habitats, said Mark McGinley, a professor of biological sciences at Texas Tech.

"If you bring in a new plant, it could compete with the naturally occurring plants," he said, "and it may not be as good of a food source for animals."

Wichmann said studying plant movements may help researchers understand and potentially direct the impact of humans have on seed dispersal, including invasive-plant species and species of conservation interest.

For the study, Wichmann and his colleagues set up experiments in which participants wearing hiking shoes or rubber boots stepped into mud and then into a tray containing a specific number of seeds. Participants walked from about 3 feet to a little more than 3 miles. Although more than half of seeds fell off their shoes within 16 or 17 feet, researchers found seeds regularly remained attached to shoes after three miles.

Wind generally disperses seeds within an 830-foot radius of their origin, according to the study.

Scott Holaday, a Tech biological sciences professor, said plant species with seeds that travel away from the parent plant, often called "pioneer" plants, utilize water, wind and animals to travel to new places to germinate. "They are normally strong competitors with other plants in the area," he said.

Several pioneer plants call West Texas home, Holaday said. Two of the most common are sandburs and goathead, which have sharp, spiny burs. "These seed dispersal systems have been devised to cling to animals," he said, "and we are just another animal."

Wichmann offered a general rule: More human movement in an area equates to a greater potential for human-mediated dispersal and all of its associated effects. Urban sites have higher potential and may often be the first place invasive species appear, but habitat suitability may be limited, he said. National parks and similar habitats often experience high visitor numbers that potentially makes them more susceptible than surrounding areas.

McGinley said human-seed dispersal occurs more easily in places without landscape maintenance.

"Many plants on campus are cut down before they make seeds," he said.

It also depends on the shoes, McGinley said. Footwear with mud in its treads is more prone to transport seeds than flat shoes. "I think hiking boots would be a classic example," he said.

According to the study, pedestrians may disperse seeds in other ways than walking. They also may facilitate other means of transportation such as cars, boats or airplanes and thus potentially may carry seeds across much longer distances. "The biggest problem is that we go everywhere now," Holaday said. "The animals of North America don't travel to Europe, but we do. We have the capability of moving things all over the globe, and it's only a matter of whether or not it can grow there."



B Erickson

Wanda, Jean, Paula taking in the inspiring scenery along the trail at Rockbridge SP



W Parscal

Study of autumn textures



B Erickson

Paula, Jack, Janice identify rare plants at Schwartz Prairie.



B Erickson

Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Please Step Forward For Service

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: _____

Do you want to receive email updates between newsletters?

Yes No

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:

(circle preference) **Email Regular mail**

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

Hawthorn Chapter Missouri Native Plant Society

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