PETAL PUSHER

November-December 2020 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 35 No.6
"… to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri."

In this issue

Missouri Trees.....1

Winter Board Meeting....3

Hudson Research Grant .4

I Think that I Shall Never See 5

MONPS Awards! 6

Thank You.....7

Dues are Due.....8

From the editor.....8

Donate to MONPS When You Shop!.....8

Ironwood by Another Name Might be Clearer ..9

Chapter Updates.....10

Join Us! 11

Seasons of Missouri Trees

by Rex Hill

There is nothing that I can say that could improve or elaborate on the tree information presented in the book *Missouri Trees* by Don Kurz and illustrated by Paul Nelson. Unfortunately, that book is out of print and any influence any of our members might have with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to get it reprinted would be of immeasurable service to Missouri's citizens. The companion volume *Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri* by the same authors is equally valuable and still available. Both books cover identification, detailed characteristics of plant structures, history, utility, and many miscellaneous facts associated with each species. For years we only had Carl Settergren's book Trees of Missouri with a forester's viewpoint as a field guide to trees. Both of Kurz's books have pocket size companions, useful as field guides, but they are limited in scope and lack the detailed drawings provided in the larger, more complete volumes. One other free publication from MDC is a pamphlet titled *Fifty Common Trees of Missouri* which is useful as a beginning field guide to trees.

We are blessed in Missouri to have the four distinct seasons of the year to bring out

Winter hike at Hawn State Park. Photo by Rex Hill

different qualities in the landscape. It starts in the spring with our anticipation of a new year and several trees highlight the beginning of the growing year. Along the ridgetops grows the service berry (*Amelanchier arborea*) with its ragged white flowers being one of the first showy trees to bloom in the spring. To find something blooming earlier, you might hike along a stream bed and the spicy aroma wafting through the air in February would announce the Ozark witch hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*). The redbuds, dogwoods, and wild plums in a flowering sequence that lights up the woods and are all but gone by late April or early May. Other trees like the hickory or buckeye produce a showy emergence of new leaves particularly if some of their lower branches are at eye level.

Ha Ha Tonka State Park. Photo by Rex Hill

As summer approaches, the deciduous trees leaf out and the woods fill in, obscuring the topographic details of the landscape. No longer will you be able to easily discern an upcoming valley or hilltop on a walk in the woods. In the Ozarks, the forest is thick with oaks and hickories, something I learned to be the typical climax forest species in Missouri. We did, however, at one time have an abundance of short-leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), our only native pine, but heavy cutting after the Civil War and into the early 1900's eliminated most of the thick stands and attempts to restore this tree to prominence have met with mixed success. The magnitude of this effort was remarkable and the mill at Grandin, Missouri was one of the largest in the country during its heyday. Not much remains at Grandin but some vacant areas, a depression in the land where the old mill pond was located, and an old hotel that served as a rooming house. There is a remaining stand of virgin pines along MO Hwy 19 just south of Round Spring that has been protected by the LAD Foundation.

Some miscellaneous observations: At Vilander Bluff Natural Area, a disjoined part of Onondaga State Park, there are some eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) growing that are purported to be over 300 years old. You have to really want to see these, as they are on a steep bluff adjacent to the Meramec River, and let's face it, cedars in Missouri don't have the best reputation and are generally considered an invasive plant. Although native to the state, they are one of the first tree species to grow in an area no longer maintained or burned such as old fields or open glades.

When I first read about the farkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), I was intrigued by the unusual name. This tree may be more commonly known in other parts of the country by the common names tree huckleberry or sparkleberry. It is indeed a tree form of the blueberry, but the fruit is not the greatest, being somewhat dry and not as sweet as the blueberries we are familiar with. Being in the Heath (Ericaceae) family it is partial to acidic soils found readily at places like Hawn (sandstone) or Sam Baker (igneous) State Parks. Besides recognizing the tree in fruit, it is most easily identified by its very 'appealing' bark.

Oak in winter, Photo by Rex Hill

Glades are always interesting and unique places to visit. As the glade tops out where the low forbs grade into shrubs and trees there is almost always a short scrubby oak growing, blackjack oak (*Quercus marilandica*). For me, this tree will always recall fond memories of a class I took from Jon Hawker, the first MONPS state president. This was before I had heard of MONPS and when I knew nothing about native

plants. He referred to this tree as "the camper's best friend" because the dead lower branches remained affixed to the tree, held off the ground making easily available dry firewood when snapped off the tree. I often check the glade for this tree and the presence of these branches even though I have never had to resort to their use. On the subject of fires and fire starting, remember that the oils in river birch (*Betula nigra*) bark make this an excellent tinder for fire starting, even when wet. I had a friend who once dumped his canoe on a winter float on the Current River and was able to dry out after building a fire using birch bark as tinder.

Trick naturalist question: What Missouri tree has the largest leaf? Answer: the Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) with a twice-compound leaf up to three feet long by two feet wide. Several places in the state are favorites of mine to visit in the fall. The leaves of the oaks in the savannas along the Turkey Pen Hollow Trail at Ha Ha Tonka State Park can be brilliant red and orange. The maples and beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) trees at Trail of Tears State Park along with the mix of other trees can be outstanding with their bellows and oranges. And no year is complete without a trip to Taum Sauk Mountain in late summer to see the striking red leaves of the black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Finally, after the fall, I think my favorite tree in winter is the sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) with its bare white branches exposed high in the landscape. For me it is the announcement of a stream somewhere close to the trail I am hiking and many times causes me to change my path to see the watercourse.

This rambling monologue is mainly my observations and reminiscence of trees I have seen in Missouri and the effects they have had on me. I realize that my discussion of many of the trees and places is influenced by proximity to my home base in St. Louis County. I don't get out nearly enough to SE and SW Missouri. For example, I've only once seen the smoke tree (*Cotinus obovatus*) in bloom and have never seen the fall colors that are described as brilliant orange and red. In southeast Missouri, the buttressed trunks of the bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and the water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) are always fascinating, but I've made only a few canoeing trips to places like Mingo NWR and Otter Slough Conservation Area to observe them up close. I have so much more to see and experience on future trips and I hope that whatever is said here might serve to get the reader to some of the places I've talked about.

Lake of of the Ozarks State Park. Photo by Rex Hill

Winter Board Meeting

Our winter board meeting will be held via Zoom this year. Anyone is welcome to attend, but you must register in advance.
When: December 5, 2020 10:00 a.m. CST
Note: the meeting will open at 9:45 a.m. to allow participants time to download, configure, and log in with the Zoom software

Never used Zoom? Never fear! Use the info below to get set up. This is the link to download Zoom: **https://zoom.us/download**

This is the link to test your Zoom software: **https://zoom.us/test**

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwudeiuqz8vGdy0b-URCm_CUwWevFlQtLFH

After registering, you will receive confirmation emails containing information about joining the meetings.

MONPS is Now Taking Applications for the 2021 Stan Hudson Research Grant

Deadline for submissions is 15 January 2021

The Missouri Native Plant Society announces the availability of funding for research projects conducted by college or university students under the supervision of a faculty member. This award honors the late H. Stanton Hudson (1921–2002), a longtime member of the Missouri Native Plant Society whose passion for the flora of Missouri and its conservation inspired his friends and family to create a small grants program in his memory.

To qualify for the Stan Hudson Research Grant, research must involve Missouri native plants in some way, but may have as its primary focus any pertinent subject-area in plant biology, including conservation, ecology, physiology, systematics and evolution, etc. The grant may be used for any non-salary expenses relating to the proposed research, including travel, equipment, and supplies. For 2021, we anticipate awarding two grants in the amount of $1,000 each. At the conclusion of the project, grant recipients will be expected to prepare research results for publication in a scientific journal, and present their research at the MO Botanical Symposium during the year following the award.

Proposals should not exceed 5 single-spaced typed pages and should include:

1. Description of the project;
2. How the project relates to native Missouri plants;
3. Estimated completion date;
4. Overall budget for the research;
5. How an award from the Stan Hudson Research Fund would be used;
6. A list of other funding received or applied for toward the project.

Applicants should also include a current curriculum vitae. In addition, two letters of reference must be included, one of these being from the student's faculty advisor. Materials may be submitted electronically as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format. Letters from the applicant's references may be submitted as e-mail messages. Proposals will be reviewed by the MONPS grants committee. Deadline for submissions is 15 January 2021, and announcement of winners will be made by 1 March 2021, with funds to be awarded by 1 June 2021.

Application materials should be sent to:
Malissa Briggler at **malissa.Briggler@mdc.mo.gov**

Bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, in the basin at Missouri State University. Photo by Michelle Bowe

I Think that I Shall Never See

by Rex Hill

My interest in trees goes back to when I was an engineering graduate student, relatively new to St. Louis. After a number of visits to Tilles Park in Saint Louis County, I had observed the wide variety of oak trees growing there and my first attempts at separating and identifying them met with limited success. At least, I could separate red from white oaks, but as I began to look at other trees without the lobed oak leaves, they all blended together. I knew nothing about simple vs. compound or opposite vs. alternate leaf patterns and I looked around for some guidance. Help came in the form of an afternoon class at the Missouri Botanical Garden taught by a man named Ken Peck. I would break off from my duties at the computer lab and attend the class that I described as me and the purple-haired ladies learning about trees. It was here that I was introduced to the concept of a dichotomous key using leaf characteristics to separate the species. This opened a new world to me and, very possibly, laid the groundwork for my interests that led me later in life to MONPS.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

This first line from the whimsical poem "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer has stuck with me for a long time. It is the basis for this rambling series of articles for this issue of the Petal Pusher. The idea for these articles started as a suggestion I made at a board meeting to have as a newsletter theme the use and ambiguity of common names when identifying or describing a plant. Be careful what you suggest, you may end up with unanticipated responsibility. I had written an article for the Petal Pusher in 2008 that discussed the use of the name Ironwood for many different trees. That article is repeated later in this issue. When considering how to expand on that topic, I realized that it was the subject of trees that fascinated me more than common names and that it was probably that interest that prompted me to write that article more than ten years ago. During the intervening time I have had the good fortune to travel, explore, investigate, and partially satisfy my curiosity on the subject of trees, particularly the unusual. What I also find interesting in reading and exploring are the connections that surface and lead to further exploration and understanding.

First, in my naivety, I always assumed Joyce Kilmer was a female. Actually, his full name was Alfred Joyce Kilmer, the name Joyce coming from the last name of an Episcopalian family minister. In his short life, he was a teacher, poet, war correspondent, husband and father of five children, and was tragically killed at the age of 31 by a sniper's bullet in 1918 while serving in World War I. His poetry has been criticized as being overly simplistic and has been parodied by the likes of Ogden Nash.

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.

Sounds like Mr. Nash may have travelled from St. Louis to Kansas City on Interstate 70. Nevertheless, that opening line of Kilmer's poem has left its mark in history, and certainly stuck with me. Some other interesting connections that surfaced for me are repeated here. His father, Dr. Frederick Barnett Kilmer, long-time company scientific director, is credited with the invention of Johnson and Johnson baby powder, a product that continues to make the news even today. His pamphlet, Standard First Aid Manual, released in 1901 on first aid and the treatment of wounds was the first of its kind and a classic. The Johnson and Johnson museum in New Brunswick, New Jersey bears his name as the "Kilmer House". The man with whom Joyce Kilmer had volunteered for the fatal scouting mission in 1918 was Major "Wild Bill" Donovan, later to be credited with founding the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) during World War II, the forerunner to today's CIA. There is a "Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest" in North Carolina just south of the Smoky Mountains in the Nantahala National Forest and Martha and I had the good fortune to visit there on a somewhat rainy day. It was not the best time to observe the many trillium species that grow there, but we were able to negotiate some slippery trails and see some of the massive, old growth tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) for which the area is noted.

Martha Hill with old growth tulip tree. Photo by Rex Hill

From Rex Hill, continued...

I have repeated Kilmer's short poem here in its entirety for your reference.

Trees

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer, 1913

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Becky Erickson educating on Invasives. Image from a mystery photographer.

Photo by Malissa Briggler

MONPS Awards!

We are delighted to announce this year's MONPS awardees Here is a summary from nomination letters.

1. The **Plant Conservation and Preservation Award** was given to **Becky Erickson** of Hawthorn Chapter:

Her contributions to the preservation of native plants in Missouri is both immense and undeniable, and her relentless enthusiasm and generosity to spread the 'native plant gospel' has touched many.

For the past several decades Becky worked enthusiastically to establish native plant communities in Mid-Missouri, and to educate the public about the importance of their role in preserving a healthy ecology for plants, animals, birds, and insects, and thus for us humans. In 2009 Becky helped to design and choose the right species for the first phase of the Native Plant Outdoor Lab at Lincoln University. At that time she was one of the very few native plant specialists with expertise in native plant garden design. Many of the plants used in this design were grown by her.

She helps local groups like Wild Ones and the Ashland Library to establish and maintain roadside, school, and community native gardens. She's also worked with larger projects such as the Columbia Audubon Society in establishing a prairie planting at the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary, a 90-acre preserve for native plants and animals which is now used extensively by a nearby elementary school for place-based nature studies. She worked to make it possible for a local non-profit group, the Greenbelt Land Trust, to acquire a 100 acre property in northern Boone County that contains excellent examples of high quality prairie, woodland and forest communities so that it would be available for nature study and enjoyment. She continues to donate her efforts towards the stewardship of the property, including conducting two prescribed burns on it as well as labor in invasive species control.

Becky seeks a wide range of opportunities to encourage, teach, and share the import role of native plants in the ecosystem. Years ago, she developed the Native Plant Propagation Handbook while running the MDC-Ecotype program. She was involved in the development of the Wildflowers of Missouri Roadsides poster published by MODOT and MONPS. She encourages people to adopt native plants in their own gardens by teaching one-on-one at every opportunity possible either during native plant sales, by offering workshops and seminars, as editor of the Hawthorn Chapter

newsletter, and formerly as Petal Pusher editor.

At her home Becky maintains the Hawthorn Chapter's non-profit native plant nursery of very low cost, ecotype-appropriate, quality natives which the Chapter sells to the local community at several annual festivals; the proceeds of these sales go to support the Chapter's K-12 school grant program focused on native plants. She is tireless in using these sales to educate and advocate for natives, and in being available to advise the school groups. She stays abreast of news and is quick to share information on the latest issues and ideas related to native plants and biodiversity.

Basically, as one Hawthorn member put it, "Becky is one heck of a [native plant] servant and there's an endless list of things that could be used to illustrate this."

2. **The Plant Stewardship Award** was given to the **Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri**, whose mission is to conserve the streams, forests, grasslands, and farmlands that represent our distinctive landscape for present and future generations.

Greenbelt was founded as the Greenbelt Coalition of Mid-Missouri in 1993 by Jeff Barrow, Marion Mace, Rebecca Schedler, Tom Lata, Mariel Stephenson, and Mark Stevenson, and various folks who have contributed at high levels include Fred Young, John George, Barbara Hoppe, Dee Dokken, Gene Gardner, Janet Hammen, Roger Still, Mike Powell, and Mike Hood. They accepted their first conservation easement in 1997 - the Marshall property on Rock Quarry Road - and their first nature preserve - Hinkson Valley Nature Preserve - in 1999, and the organization renamed itself in 2004.

After Mike Powell was hired in 2015, Greenbelt went from protecting three easements and two nature preserves, totaling about 98 acres to 687.1 acres across 10 properties. Greenbelt's biggest project started in December of 2018 when, with an anonymous donor, Greenbelt acquired Hundred Acre Woods Nature Preserve: 102 acres of forests, woodlands, a stream with cliffs, and prairie in northern Boone County. Jim and Joanne Whitley owned the property for decades, managing it and protecting its considerable natural resources. After their passing in 2009 and 2010, the property was tied up in a legal dispute and neglected, allowing woody invasives to encroach badly on the property's 40 acres of prairie – the largest remnant prairie in Boone County. In 2019, Greenbelt removed woody invasives from approximately 25 acres of prairie, and reseeded with native seed collected locally. This was followed up with prescribed burns in the winter and spring of 2020.

The plan this year is to continue that work, clearing invasives from the remaining 15 acres and spot treating any re-sprouts in the previously cleared areas. This work, led by John George, Greenbelt's Stewardship chair, and Mike Powell, Greenbelt's Executive Director, as well as a large cast of volunteers and contractors, will restore the prairie to a healthy, maintainable state, while continuing to protect the property's many other natural amenities.

Mike Powell, Executive Director of the Greenbelt Land Trust of MidMissouri, accepted the Plant Stewardship Award on their behalf. Photo by Malissa Briggler.

Thank You

From Becky Erickson

At the 25 Sept MONPS Zoom meeting, when it was announced that I was awarded the Plant Conservation and Preservation Award, I was tongue tied by the complete surprise. I didn't give an appropriate verbal response that expressed my gratitude. So the best I can do now is post it here:

With deep appreciation - I want to thank the core members of Hawthorn: Nancy Langworthy (Committee Chair), Lea Langdon, Glenn Pickett, Ann Wakeman, John George, Michelle Pruitt, Nadia Navarette-Tindall, Paula Peters, Cindy Squire and Sue Bartelette for interviewing and amassing facts about my efforts for this nomination. They all kept it a secret for six months! And I want to thank Malissa, Michelle, and the MONPS Board for agreeing with Hawthorn's nomination. I will feel worthy of this award, that my work is making a difference, when several others in mid-MO know enough ecology and are inspired to carry on teaching and active conservation work here.

Dues are Due

By Ann Earley, Membership Chair

Membership renewals for the July 2020-June 2021 year are due. If you receive your newsletter by postal service delivery, please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20200630, your dues are now payable. When renewing, please remember to include your contact information including email address, and your society and chapter dues preferences. Membership renewal online is also available via our website at **www.monativeplants.org** which offers the option of online payment via PayPal.

For those members receiving their newsletter by email without a mailing label, or for others with questions about their membership status, please **use the "Have a Question?" feature** on our website for information about your membership expiration date. We value our members and urge you to renew today!

New Members

Hawthorn

Mary & Frank Reuter, Columbia
Susan Woods, New Bloomfield

St. Louis

Pam Proffite, St. Ann
Emma Armbruster, Webster Groves
Donna Bruner, St. Louis

State Level Membership

Phyllis Speer, Mountain Home, AR

amazonsmile

Donate to MONPS When You Shop!

AmazonSmile is an easy way to support MONPS. Every time you shop on **smile.amazon.com**, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of your purchase of eligible products to MONPS.

Simply visit **smile.amazon.com** and search for Missouri Native Plant Society Inc. After you finish shopping, Amazon will automatically donate to MONPS. You may also click the AmazonSmile link on **monativeplants.org**.

Make sure to navigate to **smile.amazon.com** each time you shop. The default **amazon.com** will not result in a donation, and your smart phone application may not support AmazonSmile. Visit **About AmazonSmile** to read more about the AmazonSmile Foundation.

From the editor

Apologies for this issue being so late! Let's blame it on it being 2020. Thank you for hanging in there! Thank you to Erin Skornia and our proofreading team (especially Pam Barnabee); Malissa Briggler, Dana Thomas, and other board members. Thank you authors, chapter representatives, and other contributors--especially Rex Hill!

Please consider making a submission for a future Petal Pusher! Here is some information for submissions:

A. The theme for the next issue is "Ecoregions of Missouri" but feel free to deviate from this.

B. Send ONE email saying "here is my contribution," and attach (don't embed) the following:

1) an article in Word format with photo captions at the end (no photos in the Word document).

2) Two to 3 images, preferably in JPEG format

C. Use only one space between sentences

D. Even short notes with pictures would be great!

E. Send to: **mbowe@missouristate.edu**

Thank you so much,
Michelle Bowe

Ironwood by Another Name Might be Clearer

By Rex Hill

(Reprinted from Nov-Dec 2008 Petal Pusher)

When I am walking with people who may be less familiar with Missouri flora than many of our members, I have a tendency to try to use common names, maybe followed by the scientific name, when pointing out a plant. It's always a fine line between being precise, and frightening off potential new members. Such was the case recently at our fall Saturday fieldtrip at the La Barque Creek watershed near St. Louis. In one of the sandstone canyons were growing two understory trees that are often found in close proximity in creek bed areas. One, *Carpinus caroliniana*, is most often found there because of the wetter soils, the other can be found growing up dry slopes adjacent to wet areas, but, because seeds travel downhill, like so many other things subject to gravity, *Ostrya virginiana*, is also found in these drainages. I referred to both of them as "Ironwoods". Chuck Robinson, our inquisitive editor, was curious about my use of this common name.

Indeed, the use of common names for our plants can be deceptive, ambiguous at best. If I were to use "Ironwood" in the southwestern deserts that Martha and I frequent, I would be referring to the desert shrub, *Olneya tesota*. But in the west, I have also seen this common name used for New Mexico olive, *Forestiera neomexicana* (edited to add that the accepted name for this is *Forestiera pubescens* var. *pubescens* Nutt.), and birchleaf cercocarpus, *Cercocarpus betuloides*. This can be very confusing, particularly when trying to accurately name a plant. However, common names have been given to plants because of characteristics that served usefully to describe the value or use or appearance of a plant. The name ironwood was used for all of these woody plants in reference to the perceived toughness of the wood. Indeed, in Missouri, the wood of *Ostrya virginiana* is second only to that of the dogwoods for strength and durability. In fact, its wood and that of *Carpinus caroliniana*, are at, or about, 50 pounds per cubic foot (lb/ft3) dry weight. White oak, Quercus alba, weighs in at 48 lb/ft3 and tulip poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, at 28 lb/ft3. Water, by the way, is 62.5 lb/ft3 in density. Were it not for their relatively small size, these trees would be much more valuable for their lumber.

Ostrya virginiana, ironwood, or hop-hornbeam. Photo by Rex Hill

Carpinus caroliniana, musclewood. Photo by Rex Hill

As you can see from the species epithets for each of these Missouri trees, they are eastern species, probably named early in the history of our country, by people who relied on plant features and qualities for their existence. The common name, musclewood, is used for *Carpinus caroliniana* because its smooth-barked, fluted trunk resembles the sinewy limbs of a muscular person performing some difficult task. This bark is such a distinguishing characteristic, that it brings a sense of comfort when hiking in a creek bed, in that, all is right with the world and things are in their correct place. It is also called American hornbeam, blue beech, and smooth-barked ironwood, a common name listed in one of my favorite tree references, *A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America*, by Donald Culross Peattie. This book and its companion on western trees were my first introduction to trees and his vignettes on each species are short stories of the tree's value and importance in earlier times.

Ostrya virginiana has been dubbed with the common names eastern or American hop hornbeam, the "hornbeam", in the case of both trees, being a loose equivalent to "hard tree". The "hop", in the common name of this tree, refers to the fruit which resembles that of hops (*Humulus*, Cannabaceae). For me, this tree has special affinity, because it holds its leaves well into winter and a late season hike almost always has the dry, brown leaves of this tree in one's sight.

This tree also has the common names eastern ironwood, and rough-barked ironwood, its bark appearing in longitudinal, stringy plates along the trunk. Both trees are members of the birch, Betulaceae, family and produce small nutlets that provide food for wildlife, but are not sufficient in size to be of much value to larger mammals, such as humans.

These two trees were the source of much mystery, or at least confusion, when I was first trying to separate one tree from another. Both have simple, alternate, somewhat oval leaves. They have relatively fine, or multiple teeth, and could easily be confused with the elms were it not for the relatively symmetric base of the leaves in both cases. Were I put in a room with samples of leaves from each of these two trees, I could easily confuse them. It is the other characteristics, the smooth, "muscular appearing" bark in one case, and the stringy, longitudinal plates, along with the persistent winter leaves in the other that help me to separate these species from others in the Missouri woods.

Carpinus fruit. Photo by Rex Hill.

Chapter Updates

HAWTHORN

Michelle Pruitt, Chapter Representative

At our September monthly meeting via zoom, Hawthorn member Emily B. presented before and after pictures of her Columbia yard as she removed invasive plants, recruited her neighbors to help, and planted a wide variety of shrubs and wildflowers in the mostly shaded property backing onto a creek. Her presentation was illustrated with her own excellent close-up photographs of the many wild creatures that have been attracted by the native plants, including a family of foxes and many pollinators.

Our October meeting was a presentation via zoom by Columbia artist and Master Naturalist Meredith Donaldson on "Nature Journals: Bringing the World into Focus." Meredith discussed different types of journaling, suggested techniques for observing and recording, and recommended books and journaling resources to help enrich journaling or be motivated to start one. The session was open to all members of MONPS and twenty-two people from across the state attended.

Upcoming events:

The **Hawthorn Chapter** plans to host a speaker via zoom each month during the winter months and the invitation will be shared with all MONPS members. We will offer zoom presentations 2nd Monday of December 2020 and January 2021 at 6:30pm.

The **St. Louis Chapter** is planning on virtual meetings for 2021. At our first meeting of the year, on January 27th, Dr. Richard Abbott, Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, will give a presentation titled "Artificial Plant ID Motifs: Simple and Useful Patterns for Field Identification of Plants". Zoom Webinar links will be published in early January.

Join Us!

You may become a member online at **https://monativeplants.org/membership/,** or you may fill out this form and mail to:
Missouri Native Plant Society
PO BOX 440353
St. Louis, MO 63144-4353

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Street _____
City, State ZIP Code _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Company/Organization _____

Membership Status Choose one: ☐ New member ☐ Returning member

State Membership
(Choose one):
☐ Student ($5.00)
☐ Regular ($10.00)
☐ Contributing ($20.00)
☐ Life ($200.00)

Chapter Membership
In addition to society dues:
☐ Empire Prairie (Saint Joseph) (+$5.00)
☐ Hawthorn (Columbia) (+$6.00)
☐ Kansas City (+$5.00)
☐ Osage Plains (Clinton) (+$5.00)
☐ Ozarks (West Plains) (+$5.00)
☐ Paradoxa (Rolla) (+$5.00)
☐ Perennis (Cape Girardeau) (+$5.00)
☐ Saint Louis (+$5.00)
☐ Southwest (Springfield) (+$5.00)
☐ None

Optional Contributions:
Hudson Fund:
I wish to donate an extra amount to the Hudson Research Grant Fund.
$_____
Other Contribution:
I wish to donate an extra amount to general Society business.
$_____

Newsletter Delivery:
☐ I wish to receive the complimentary email newsletter
☐ I wish to receive my newsletter by postal mail (+$10.00)

Total Membership/Donation Amount: $_____
Make check payable to: Missouri Native Plant Society

Missouri Native Plant Society
PO BOX 440353
St Louis, MO 63144-4353
monativeplantsociety.org
monativeplants.org

Please recycle!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

President

Dana Thomas
1530E Farm Rd 96
Springfield MO 65803

Vice President
Malissa Briggler
10297 CR 371
New Bloomfield, MO 65063

Secretary
Pam Barnabee
34653 White Oak Rd
Plato, MO 65552

Treasurer
Bob Siemer
74 Conway Cove Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Membership
Ann Earley
P.O. Box 440353
St. Louis, MO 63144-4353

Past President
John Oliver
4861 Gatesbury Dr
St. Louis, MO 63128

Board Members

Justin Thomas (2017–2020)
1530E Farm Rd 96
Springfield MO 65803

Mike Skinner (2017–2020)
167 South Peachtree
Republic, MO 65738

Bruce Schuette (2019–2022)
678 St. Route 147
Troy, MO 63379

Rick Gray (2018–2021)
6 Montauk Court
St Louis MO 63146

Steve Buback (2018–2021)
MDC NW Regional Office
701 James McCarthy Dr
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Aaron Floden (2019-2022)
Missouri Botanical Garden |
4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110

Missouriensis Editor
Doug Ladd
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63110

Petal Pusher Editor
Michelle Bowe
901 S. National
Springfield MO 65897
417-836-6189
Mbowe@MissouriState.edu

Distribution Manager
Rex Hill
4 Grantwood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63123

Assistants: Emily Horton, and Joan Featherston

Editorial Committee
Lisa Hooper
Jay Raveill and Tim Smith

Archives
Rex Hill
4 Grantwood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63123

Webmaster
Jerry Barnabee
34653White Oak Rd
Plato, MO 65552
www.monativeplants.org
www.monativeplantsociety.org

Environment and Education
John Oliver (Past President)

Chapter Representatives

Empire Prairie
Steve Buback (Board Member)
701 James McCarthy Dr
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-271-3111

Hawthorn
Michelle Pruitt
1305 Overhill Road
Columbia, MO 65203

Kansas City
Cécile Lagandré
6040 Wornall Rd., KCMO 64113

Osage Plains
Casey Burks
1080 SE 915P Rd
Deepwater, MO 64740

Ozarks
Susan Farrington,
Interim Rep.

Paradoxa
Jerry Barnabee
34653 White Oak Rd
Plato, MO 65552

Perennis
Andrew Braun

Saint Louis
Unfilled
Interested?
Contact Dana Thomas!

Southwest
Michelle Bowe
901 S. National
Springfield MO 65897

To contact the Missouri Native Plant Society, please **click the "Have a Question" link** on our website.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."
—Aldo Leopold