

November-December 2007

Vol. 22, No. 6

Missouri Native Plant Society

Calendar of Events

Hawthorn Chapter

Monday, Nov. 12: Regular meeting at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Shane Pruett, doctoral candidate in fisheries and wildlife, is scheduled to share with us the results of research on wildlife in the bottomland hardwood forests of south-eastern Missouri. He will compare the bird life that is successful in that type of environment with the bird life of central Missouri.

Thursday, Nov. 15: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 a.m. at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway. **Please note the change of location and the date.** We now meet on the third Thursday of the month. All are invited.

Saturday, Dec. 1: State Board Meeting. Dunn-Palmer Herbarium, Columbia, Mo.

Saturday, Dec. 8: Holiday party at Nadia and Randy's. Come about 6 p.m. Please bring a dish or favorite drink to share.

Monday, Jan. 14: Regular Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Dennis Stegall, camera manager at Columbia Photo, is scheduled to present a program giving tips on photographing plants and flowers.

Thursday, Jan. 17: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 a.m. at Felini's, 700 E. Broadway. Please note the change of location and the date. We now meet on the third Thursday of the month. All are invited.

Kansas City Chapter

Saturday, Oct. 13: Field trip to Maple Woods Conservation

Area to see the fall colors and small fall-blooming orchids.

Thursday, Nov. 15: Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Discovery Center, between KFC and Brush Creek, at 4750 Troost..

Osage Plains

Monday, Oct. 15: We may do a sharing of native plant recipes in October but this is still in the planning stages. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Clinton Conservation Department classroom.

Monday, Nov. 19: Mary Lou Philpott will be the speaker. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Clinton Conservation Department classroom.

December and January: No field trips or meetings planned

Ozarks Chapter

The Ozarks Chapter will not be meeting during November or December. Our regular meetings will resume in January. For more information, contact Susan Farrington at (417) 255-9561 x 307.

St. Louis Chapter

Wednesday, Oct. 24: Chapter meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend) at 7:30 p.m. This month is member's night, when you are invited to share your slides or other photographs from the year. Bring whatever photographs, slides, or PowerPoint pictures you think are interesting. If you need a slide projector, please contact George Yatskievych at george.yatskievych@mobot.org and let him know you will need one.

November and December: No chapter meetings planned.

Have we heard from you?

by Ann Earley, membership chair

Have we heard from you regarding your membership dues renewal?

Please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20070630, we have not received your dues for our new membership year,

which begins in July and ends in June.

Unless we receive your dues renewal soon, this issue of the *Petal Pusher* will be your last.

To renew, please use the form on the inside back page of this newsletter.

If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Ann Earley (see back page for contact information).

NEW MEMBERS:

Del & Cherry Taber, Pomona, Mo.
Nancy Langworthy, Rocheport Mo.
Margaret Keister, West Plains Mo.
Evelyn Vetter, Pomona Mo.
Betsy Windmiller, Columbia Mo.
Priscilla Farrall, Austin, Texas

Award cites city's ordinance changes, utility's efforts

The St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society has bestowed two Blazing Star certificates this summer.

Regional MONPS chapters are encouraged to applaud efforts to promote the use and protection of native plants in Missouri by awarding Blazing Star certificates.

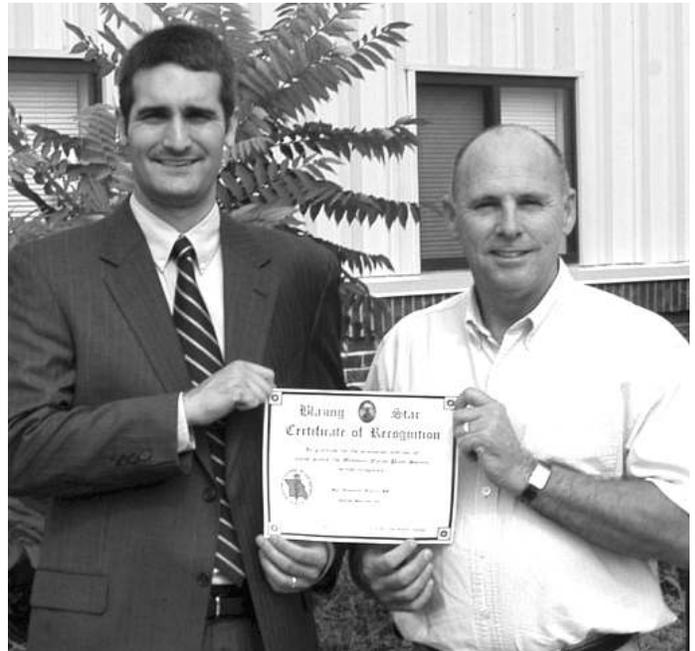
Civic leaders in Creve Couer, Mo., were given Blazing Star certificates for ordinance changes that may encourage homeowners to use more native plants in their landscapes.

Among the changes to Creve Coeur weed ordinances:

- Adding specific text into the weed ordinance to allow for native planting and to restrict invasive plants.
- Modifying the weed ordinance to allow for ornamental grasses and native plants taller than 7 inches. (Certain exclusions exist. For example, the plants cannot obstruct sight distance and must have a 5-foot set back from neighboring properties.)
- Modifying the desirable list of street tree species to promote diversity and increase the use of native trees.
- Allowing alternative low-impact stormwater techniques in commercial development.
- Creating an appeals process regarding the weed ordinances.

The Blazing Star certificate recognized the efforts of several people for their involvement in making this change:

- Mayor Harold Dielmann
- Creve Coeur Recycling, Environment and Beautification Committee and its chairwoman, Fran Cantor
- Creve Coeur City Council
- Perry Eckhardt, urban watershed conservationist in St. Louis for the Missouri Department of Conservation
- Judy Pass
- Doug Wolter
- Sue Bassely
- Amy Cutrell



MONPS Publicity Chairman Kevin Bley presents a Blazing Star Certificate to Dan Albanello of Ameren UE for using native plants in recent landscaping projects.

UTILITY COMPANY PROJECTS

MONPS and Grow Native members met with Dan Albanello from Ameren UE's Forestry Division to encourage the use of native plants in landscaping plans.

Albanello was so encouraged by the quiet passion of the meeting goes that he decided to purchase and use native plants in two of his most recent landscaping projects. One is at 12121 Dorsett Road in Maryland Heights.

Additional native plantings are expected in the future since, as he said, "this summer the plants looked beautiful."

To recognize his efforts, Albanello was given a Blazing Star certificate.



BALL CAPS

The ball caps approved at the June meeting have been produced. The final cost was \$10.28 per cap. Chapters may obtain a quantity of these caps at cost and resell them for an amount determined by each chapter. The St. Louis Chapter is planning on selling them for \$12.

Your order, personal or chapter, can be delivered to the December meeting or they can be shipped but postage will have to be added to your cost.

Thanks to George Yatskivych and Pat Harris for putting in the time to design and acquire these caps.

State board meeting set for Dec. 1

All Missouri Native Plant Society members and friends are invited to attend the Winter MONPS State Board Meeting on Saturday, Dec. 1 in Columbia, Mo.

If you want to have a voice in your Society, now is your chance. This is a business meeting, so plan to stay all day. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. and will end no later than 4 p.m.

We will be meeting at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium (see directions).

We will be ordering lunch in, or you may bring a lunch if desired.

We will be planning the field trips associated with the quarterly board meetings. If you have a favorite site you would like to visit with the Society, join us in Columbia or contact an officer or board member before the meeting with your ideas.

DIRECTIONS TO DUNN-PALMER HERBARIUM

From the east: Drive west on I-70 to U.S. Hwy. 63 South (Exit 128); head south towards Jefferson City to the Stadium Blvd. exit; turn right (west) and go to the fourth traffic light (street at this intersection is called College Avenue. to the north and Rock Quarry Road to the south); turn left (south) and go about 1/8 mile on Rock Quarry Road; turn right into the driveway of the Museum Support Center (parking in front or along side driveway).

From the west: Drive east on I-70 to Stadium Blvd. exit (Exit 124); turn right (south); stay on Stadium Blvd. as it goes south and then turns east, past the MU football stadium and the Hearnes basketball arena; turn right (south) on Rock Quarry Road (stoplight here); drive south about 1/8 mile, turn right into the driveway of the Museum Support Center (parking in front or along side driveway).

Where is your favorite destination?

By Rex Hill
MONPS president

One of the major purposes for the Winter Board Meeting, to be held Dec. 1, in Columbia, is to plan the field trips for the next year. I am writing this short note to ask that any of our members, who have ideas about where they would like the MONPS field trips to take place in 2008, please let us know.

In the past, the suggestions of the board members along with those of a few of the regular field trip attendees get filtered into selections for the three field trips, Spring, Summer, and Fall. There are only a few considerations.

We try to schedule the trips for reasonable weather times and times that coincide with something of interest, usually flowering periods, i.e. Spring – April, Summer – June, and Fall – September. We do try to spread the locations across the state, so that no one chapter is burdened unduly with travel time or expense for all trips. The only other consideration is that we avoid the weekends when some major local event will prevent some of our chapter members from one area or another from attending the field trip. It is, of course, impossible to avoid all events, and we do what we can. Remembering that variety is the spice of life, I've enclosed a list of some of our recent field trips.

We have our spring trip scheduled in April as a joint meeting with the Arkansas Native Plant Society. The exact weekend is yet to be determined. Remember, too, that even though we may not select one of your suggestions for 2008, they provide valuable ideas for future years.

Please submit both your suggestions for field trip locations in 2007 and any dates you would like us to avoid to:

Rex Hill, MONPS president
4 Grantwood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63123
Email: rexhill@earthlink.net

1992-2007 spring, summer & fall trips

1992 Steelville (Reis Biological Station), Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Blue Springs (joint meeting with the Kansas Wildflower Society)

1993 Pickle Springs, Fulton (Prairie Garden Trust), St. Louis (joint meeting with the Eastern Native Plant Alliance)

1994: Cassville (Roaring River State Park), St. Joseph, Joplin

1995 Van Buren, Chillicothe, Springfield

1996: Salem (Montauk State Park), Cape Girardeau (joint meeting with the Illinois Native Plant Society), Clinton

1997: Cuivre River State Park, Stockton Lake State Park, Poplar Bluff

1998: Columbia, Bethany (joint meeting with the Iowa Native Plant Society), Kirksville

1999: Cassville (Roaring River State Park), Houston, Ironton

2000: West Plains, Carthage, Salem (Presley Ed Center)

2001: Columbia, Bethany, Kansas City

2002: Montauk State Park, Warrensburg, Kahoka

2003: Springfield, Clinton, Cape Girardeau

2004: Caney Mtn, West Plains, St. Joseph

2005: Pere Marquette (joint meeting with the Illinois Native Plant Society), Kirksville, Prairie State Park

2006: Cassville (Roaring River State Park), Peck Ranch CA, Dexter (Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Crowley's Ridge)

2007: West Plains (Oregon County Springs), Dexter (Mingo National Wildlife Refuge), Camdenton (Ha Ha Tonka and Lake of the Ozarks state parks).

Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Judy Turner, chapter Representative

Our chapter started off September with a seed collection field trip for our Stadium restoration project to Ann Wakeman's property and then on to Jim Whitley's property. Five hardy souls braved the heat, the ticks, and the chiggers to gather about 10 bags of seed pods. An OK start, but lots more will be needed.

We felt that we were rewarded for our collecting efforts by the discovery of the state listed (s2) *Agalinis auriculata* (earleaf false foxglove). Four plants were found initially.

On a subsequent visit a total of nine plants was found. This finding was discussed at the September quarterly state board meeting. Several other board members also reported finding the *Agalinis auriculata* in places where it hadn't been found previously. At the fall state board meeting Tim Smith volunteered to pull together all the findings for an article in the next *Missouriensis*. We will be looking forward to reading it! We continued our seed collections on several other field trips in September and October.

At our regular program meeting Gretchen Pruett, doctoral candidate in the Division of Plant Sciences at University of Missouri, presented a very informative program on fungi. She started off with explaining the various aspects of a fungus and why they are different from other organisms. Then she presented detailed differences between look-alike edible and poisonous mushrooms. I think most of us decided not to try any of them unless we were 100% sure!

Four of our members journeyed to the September MONPS field trips at Ha Ha Tonka and Lake of the Ozarks state parks. All agreed it was well worth the effort and that there wasn't enough time to see everything. Each member of our group had a favorite part of the hike. For one it was the red sink area off the Turkey Pen Hollow Trail because of the ferns, jack-in-the-pulpits, and possible champion slippery elm tree. The topology was so different from anything else that we saw. The fen at Coakley Hollow was a great hike also.

Our September monthly lunch get-together drew a good crowd with several new faces. One of the highlights was a copy of a self-published manuscript on Native Plant Propagation by Jan W. Midgley, whose "Southeastern Wildflowers" book was quite popular while it was in print. Many of us were eager to take the manuscript home to study. No such luck! We will have to order our own copies.

Our chapter participated in the second annual EcoArt Festival at Cooper's Landing on the Missouri River the week-end of Sept. 22-23. We sold about six books, but lots and lots of plants. We got to visit with each other, other native plant enthusiasts, hang out by the river, and eat good Thai food. What a nice way to spend the weekend!

Two field trips are scheduled for October. One will be to view what Fall foliage may be found on the Shooting Star Trail, in the Gans Creek area of Rock Bridge State Park. Another will take us to Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area. Our hikes are not all about plants as we try to have a good culinary experience after our hikes. Another planned activity for October is our participation in the fifth annual Chestnut Festival at the University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, Mo. We usually give away lots of educational materials and sell lots of plants and books.



Susan Appel

On Saturday, Sept. 22, members of the Kansas City chapter hiked at Jerry Smith Park in south Kansas City. Part of the trekkers: Sue Hollis, Lance Jesse, Greg Nedblake and Tom Schroeder.

Kansas City Chapter

Daniel Rice, chapter representative

Thursday, Sept. 20, was the first of the fall/winter meetings for the Kansas City Chapter. After Dave Alburty and Carol Pranulis gave us an update on the status of the \$500 grant the chapter awarded them for further work at Tickwood Ranch, we quickly dispensed with the other chapter business. This was so our speaker would have as much time as possible to talk about sex!

Professor Elmo Law gave a very spirited (and graphic!) presentation on sexual reproduction in the lower vascular plants. He stayed primarily with the ferns and liverworts, but did through in some slides of conjugating algae! The ways plants reproduce is mind-boggling!

Saturday, Sept. 22, was the chapter's field trip to Jerry Smith Park.

Members of the KC Wildlands seed collectors group joined us in searching for the fringed gentian, eared false-foxglove, and other fall-blooming plants known to be there. After the great field trip, several members went to a local barbecue restaurant for lunch. Of course, the topic of discussion was the field trip and the plants found (and not found).

We have another field trip planned for Saturday, Oct. 13, to Maple Woods Conservation Area to see the fall colors, along with some small fall-blooming orchids.

Our next chapter meeting is on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Mo. The topic hasn't been determined yet, but I know it will be an interesting one! Please feel free to attend if you happen to be in the area.

Osage Plains Chapter

Marlene T. Miller, chapter representative

June 18 our speaker was Dr. Jay Raveill. His topic was *Desmodiums* and *Lespedezas*. He reviewed some of the recent taxonomy changes. He did a brief review of how to key out plants. We practiced plant identification using a key. He

also reminded us of the importance of using scientific names.

Our new officers for the year:

President Emily Horner;

Vice President Brian Mohr;

Secretary Marlene Miller;

Treasurer Larry Lewis;

Board Representative Marlene Miller.

The field trip to Fewell Conservation Area on June 30 was canceled due to rain,

On July 7 we met for a covered-dish meal and plant tour at Dale Jennings home. We also had a brief meeting. A total of 11 members and 6 guests attended. Beyond butterflies and rabbits, 45 native plants were identified on Dale's property

July 28 there was a field trip to the Mohr property near Osceola. Fifty wildflowers and grasses were identified on the natural prairie and glades. It was especially exciting to find an orchid, the Great Plains ladies' tresses. A history lesson followed as an old cemetery and home site are also located there.

The most recent field trip was to 25-Mile Prairie on Aug. 25. This is a treeless prairie, which on this day was shaded by cloud cover. There were 27 plants identified on this day after further examination with references at home after the trip.

Since the state board meeting and field trips were so close to us this time, we were fortunate to have several of our members able to attend at least one day of field trips at Ha Ha Tonka State Park on Sept. 15, and we all had a great time.

On Sept. 17 we met for our regular meeting and the topic was Botany 101 taught by amateur botanist Emily Horner. It was a terrific review of divisions, structures and shapes and included a very thorough and well prepared handout. At the end we each took a plant sample and had to identify at least three of its characteristics.

Our next meetings will be Oct. 15 and Nov. 19. Both will be at 7 p.m. in the Clinton Conservation Department classroom. We may do a sharing of native plant recipes in October but this is still in the planning stages.

In November, Mary Lou Philpott will be the speaker.

We have no more field trips planned and there are no meetings in December or January.

Ozarks Chapter

Susan Farrington, chapter representative

Our August meeting featured a program about planting native plants in the fall. Our September program was presented by Jack Singleton, who gave us an inspirational talk about how to get kids involved with nature and plants through butterfly gardening.

Thanks, Jack, for traveling up from Arkansas to meet with us!

Our September field trip was well-attended: we viewed the peak bloom of thousands of rough blazing star plants (*Liatris aspera*) on the glade at the property of Dan Drees and Susan Farrington in Eminence, Mo. We also got to see two pygmy rattlesnakes coiled up next to each other and a tarantula burrow on the glade. (No snakes, spiders or people were harmed on this field trip, and a good time was had by all!)

Up to now, we have always met in West Plains, but we are considering rotating our monthly meeting locations to include occasional meetings in Winona or other locations. We would greatly appreciate any comments or suggestions regarding this idea.

St. Louis Chapter

Martha Hill, chapter representative

At our regular meeting on Aug. 22, George Yatskievych, who is noted foremost for updating and rewriting Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri*, and secondly because he is the St. Louis Chapter president, presented his findings on his search for the elusive 'Little Hermit' in Guerrero, Mexico.

George spent a week in August searching the mountains of southwestern Mexico for a new parasitic plant not yet identified in the plant kingdom. He and other scientists from the region were able to find a couple of localities where this plant was blooming near host trees in the *Chloranthaceae* family (related to the *Magnoliaceae*), called *Hedyosmum mexicanum*. The proposed name for this find is *Eremitilla mexicana*, which means "little hermit." If this is indeed a new taxa, it will be written about in a peer-reviewed article and an official name will be given to it.

On Sept. 1, Nels Holmberg organized a group of avid native plant enthusiasts to visit and work on a plant list at the LaBarque Creek watershed area with our guide, Kim Scott, from the Wild Canid Center. LaBarque is a unique sandstone landscape on which the Center is located. About a dozen of us met at the Hilda Young Conservation Area and were not disappointed as we were led around a hilltop and lake, observing several interesting plants, despite the noticable lack of rainfall this year. Some of the plants we identified were gerardia (*Agalinus tenuifolia*), late boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), pink wild onion (*Allium stellatum*), false foxglove (*Aureolaria grandiflora*) and goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis* — not in bloom) just to name a few. Of course, asters and goldenrod are starting to show their colors, and it was a fun walk ending with Kim giving out peacock feathers from their two feathered friends to anyone who wanted some.

Once again, Nels has put together a very interesting continuing education class, this time on the LaBarque Creek watershed, along with co-instructors Jack Harris and Mike Arduser. Our classroom time was on Sept. 18, with all three instructors lecturing and showing slides of the plants, wildlife, and topography. Mike is a regional biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Credit is also given to Pat Harris whose beautiful pictures of wildflowers were part of the slide presentation and to her technical expertise in helping keep the projector working. We had our first field trip on Saturday, Sept. 29, to the watershed and about 20 people enjoyed the beautiful weather and interesting walk through the woods and creek.

The regular monthly meeting was on Wednesday, Sept. 26, with Paige Mettler-Cherry from Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Mo., giving a talk on "The Ecology of *Boltonia decurrens* in the Illinois and Mississippi River Floodplains." This *Boltonia* is a federally threatened plant, and the talk focused on studies made tracking the ecology of this particular plant in the floodplains of parts of the Illinois River.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, several people met with Mettler-Cherry near Pere Marquette State Park to look at two of the area's populations of *Boltonia decurrens*. The weather has been so dry this past year, that the areas are usually either under water or wet, but this year it was dry. We walked through a soy bean field to reach one of the populations and it was worth the effort to see these beautiful plants in their natural habitat. Afterwards, we retreated to the Lodge and enjoyed finishing off the morning with a luncheon buffet.

Fall field trip highlights



↑ Sue Hollis and Nels Holmberg traverse a tricky trail on the island near the springs at Ha Ha Tonka State Park.



↑ Jamie Leahy, son of Mike Leahy and Carol Davit, finds his way along the trail on the Turkey Pen Hollow area at Ha Ha Tonka State Park.

Photos taken by John Oliver and Brian Chadwick.

⇒ Rex Hill leads a cadre of hikers, with Larry and Nancy Morrison behind and Jack Harris getting drawn off the path at Ha Ha Tonka State Park.





⇐ Mike Skinner, biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, answers queries in the red sink area of Ha Ha Tonka. Skinner worked at nearby Lake of the Ozarks State Park in the 1980s..



↑ Malvastrum hispidum, or hairy false mallow (hispid refers to hairy or bristly), is widely found in Missouri and especially on the Ozarks plateau, but less commonly outside the state.

⇐ One of the prizes awaiting the crew trudging through the woods was *Solidago riddellii*.

↓ *Tragia betonicifolia*, or betonyleaf noseburn, is a member of the *Euphorbiaceae* (spurge) family.



⇐ Marlene Miller and other hearty hikers climbed through sticks and brambles in the red sink area of Ha Ha Tonka.



INFORMATION ON JOINING THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SOCIETY DUES

(Chapter dues additional)

Student dues\$5
Regular\$10
Contributing\$20
Life\$200

CHAPTER DUES

Columbia\$6
Kansas City\$5
Osage Plains\$5
St. Louis\$5
Ozarks Native Plant\$5

Make checks payable to Missouri Native Plant Society

Mail to: Missouri Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 20073
St. Louis, MO 63144-0073

(Circle all above that apply)

Do not publish my name and address in the membership list.
\$_____ Contribution for student research award (Hudson Fund)

*** All contributions are tax deductible ***

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Inside This Issue:

- Have input on 2008's field trips.
- Two Blazing Sar certificates awarded.

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