

**NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

November-December 2011

Vol. 26, No. 6

*"Dedicated to the conservation and study of plants growing wild in Missouri"*

**Menaces in Our Yards and Gardens**

by Susan Farrington

It's not easy to nurture trees for eight years, watering them through our hot and dry summers, pampering them so they can take hold in what little soil they can find in our rocky Ozark ground. But it's even harder to do all that and then cut them down and yank their poor roots out of the ground with a tractor, knowing that all your hard work of the last eight years has been wasted! Who would do such a crazy thing? My neighbors, Karen and Herman Lorenz, and they are to be commended for their actions! On a recent Sunday, I visited their place for the first time. Their property has a commanding view of the "hills and hollers" along the beautiful Jacks Fork River in Shannon County. They also border a piece of Rocky Creek Conservation Area. Their house and yard is beautiful, and Karen has planted a number of trees to provide shade and fruit for the animals. Unfortunately, four of the trees she had planted and nurtured were callery pears, sold to her as the "Cleveland Select Ornamental pear."

The original cultivar of ornamental pears, the "Bradford" pear did not produce any fruit, but was very weak branched. Many newer cultivars were developed to address this issue, but they have cross pollinated one another, and the result is fruit-producing trees.



photo - Wikipedia  
Callery pear fruit

Karen's thriving trees were absolutely covered in tiny cherry-sized pears, just the size a bird would love to eat. That might be great for the birds, but it's a menace for the natural integrity of the surrounding woodlands and forests. Callery pears are appearing in natural areas throughout the state, creating a white haze of blossoms in the early springtime. They leaf out far earlier than our native trees and shrubs and hold their leaves longer in the fall, shading out and smothering many of our native wildflowers. They sprout and grow very rapidly in either shade or sun, outcompeting our native oaks. In sunny areas, like old fields or prairies, they rapidly become a monoculture.

These ornamental pears are extremely popular, and are sold widely throughout the country. Even the fruitless trees are a problem: when their weak branches inevitably break apart, they re-sprout from the rootstock, creating a thorny, fruit-producing tree. Karen was very sad to hear that her trees were such a menace, and no doubt didn't want to hear heartless me tell her to kill them! She might have hesitated, but then the feed store owner that she talked to the next day confirmed my opinion of the trees, telling her what a scourge the trees had become on his property. She and Herman cut them down and yanked them from the ground that very afternoon. She also removed two small mimosa trees that she had nurtured (another seriously invasive exotic tree).

Thank you, Karen and Herman!

So beware of what is sold at your local garden center, and ask for native plants whenever possible. It isn't wrong to have a few exotic plants in your garden (I still have a lilac bush which reminds me of my childhood home, and bearded irises that remind me of my grandmother's garden.) But if the exotic you are growing produces fruit or berries that are carried away by the birds or the wind, it doesn't matter how far you live from a natural area. Your vine, bush or tree has the potential to start a serious problem and threatens our native wildflowers. Be brave, and yank it up and plant a native!

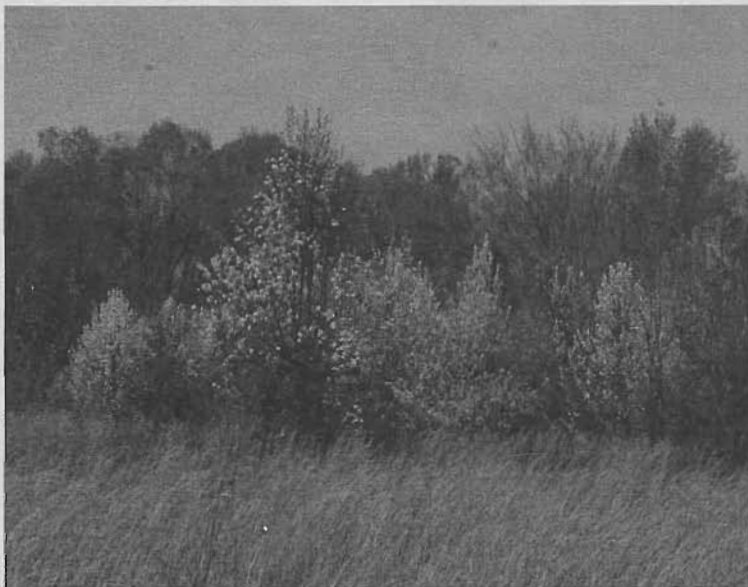


Photo courtesy of: David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

## Chapter Reports and Calendars

### Hawthorn Chapter Report

Combined Reports for Sept/Oct & Nov/Dec

John White, chapter representative

On Thursday, June 16, our booth at the Quail and Native Plants event at Bradford Farm brought in \$459.00 from plant and book sales. Excellent weather and a good turn out for the tours and workshops helped make this well worth our efforts on a weekday afternoon.

Due to my missing two events in June, I will include the following excellent account of these trips by Vanessa Melton, our chapter President, from the Hawthorn newsletter:

June has been a busy month for our chapter. We had the camping trip at Hawn State Park at the beginning of the month which was an excellent time even if it was a little hot. Every morning we were awakened soon after dawn by vireos, towhees, robins, wrens. Breakfast was camp eggs [scrambles with several veggies] and coffee. We saw amazing views of Hickory Canyons and Pickle Creek which runs through the Park. There were lots of wildflowers blooming along Pickle Creek Trail and Whispering Pine Trail, and most notable were pencil flower, new jersey tea, Indian physic, climbing milkweed, wild hydrangea, skullcap, and farkleberry [high bush blueberry]. Saturday night's dinner was tinfoil stew or brats, cheese cake with berries.

The water in Pickle Creek was cool and temperatures were hot, so we had fun playing in the water. While playing in the creek we were treated to seeing a midland water snake (a subspecies of northern water snake) going through the falls of Pickle Creek.

And at Hickory Canyons Natural Area we saw partridge berry in bloom. This plant is very rare in MO. And there were many rare ferns. It was a great trip overall and we are already planning our next camping trip which will be next May when we can catch yellow lady slippers and azaleas in bloom. You won't want to miss it!

The end of the month provided a field trip to Mule Shoe Conservation Area south of Camdenton. Who doesn't love hiking in 100% humidity in the summer? Despite the short thunderstorm at the beginning of the hike we had a great time exploring the area. John showed us several glades and fens and saw scurfy pea, purple and white prairie clover, prairie phlox, Indian plantain, purple and yellow loosestrife, bunchflower, prairie blazing star and queen of the prairie which were not blooming yet.; We also saw a red-eared slider laying eggs on a glade, several scorpions, a copperhead, a narrow-mouthed toad and a long-horn cow! It was a great day!

Our regular chapter meeting was held Monday, July 11. A report was given by Rock Bridge High School, recipients of the Hawthorn Educational Grant, discussing new activities that could be incorporated into the program.

Hawthorn Chapter, cont'd

All those responsible for organizing and teaching native plant identification and ecology at Rock Bridge have done an excellent job, resulting in high student interest. The students enjoy using what they have learned in their class work and projects, and applying it in the field, such as making their own field guides and using them to help identify plants during their field trip. It is a good feeling knowing our chapter grant helped make such a project successful and hope- fully will continue to aid future grant recipients.

On August 20 about seven members visited two locations in Lake of the Ozarks State Park. I had never been to these areas, but if you haven't been to them, and are in the lake area, they are well worth spending some time there.

The first is Coakley Hollow, which includes Ozark Caverns and Coakley Hollow Fen Natural Area. The trailheads are near the caverns visitor center and parking area. The trail is a one mile self-guiding interpretive loop to access the natural area, with a boardwalk across a portion of the fen, which along with the caverns is part of the Karst topography in the area. A few of the many plants seen include *Salix caroliniana* (wards willow), *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush), *Lendera benzoin* (spicebush), and *Monotropa uniflora* (Indian pipe).

The other location is Rocky Top Trail. Access the park from the entrance just west of the Grand Glaze Bridge; follow the road around the south- west side of the cove to the trail head at the end. The trail is two loops, joined, so you can make it a one or a two mile hike. This trail climbs to one of the largest glades in the park. There was not an abundance of plants blooming but there appeared to be great diversity. A few plants noted were *Helianthus occidentalis* (western sunflower), *Buchnera Americana* (blue hearts), *Carya texana* (black hickory), and *Hypericum hypericoides* (St. Andrew's Cross). I hope to return in the spring.

Approximately seventeen members attended our September 12 regular meeting. Tentative fall field trips were discussed. Denny and Ann will work on the Rotary Club rain garden agreement. Beck Ericson gave an informative presentation on Butterflies, larva (caterpillars), and the plants associated with each species. Included were the Giant, Spicebush, and Black Swallowtails, Silvery Checkerspot, Pearl Crescent, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Great Spangled Fritillary, Monarch, Checkered Skipper and Little Blue butterflies.



photo Wikipedia  
Great Spangled Fritillary

Sunday, Sept. 18, our booth at the Sustainable Living Fair brought in \$183.00. Not good considering the time and effort involved, and a \$20.00 booth fee. Rain and poor advertising did not help. (to page 3)



## Hawthorn Chapter Calendar

22 October, Saturday: Mosey to a local wild area. Meet for carpools at 9am. Sign up with Paula and make a suggestion for your favorite destination.

5 November, Saturday: Wreath Workshop at Ann and Mike's. 10am to 2pm. See article inside Hawthorn October Newsletter for directions, page 3.

14 November, Monday: Regular Membership Meeting 6:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Sheppard Blvd. Program tba. Note the time change due to change in Daylight Savings time back to Standard time.

17 November, Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts: 11:30 RagTag, 10 Hitt St., Columbia.

11 December, Sunday: Holiday Party at Vanessa and David's. Noon to 4 See Invitation inside Hawthorn October Newsletter.

21 December, Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts: 11:30 RagTag, 10 Hitt St., Columbia

## Southwest Missouri Chapter Report

Brian Edmond chapter representative

Besides our regular maintenance of the rain garden, native shrub plantings, and other native gardens at the Springfield Botanical Center, we had two great speakers for August and September.

At our August meeting, Stan Parrish, president of the Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF), talked about the organization and also the challenges of managing Missouri's diverse prairies.

The MPF celebrated its 45th year in 2011 and has been responsible for the purchase and / or management of more than 4000 acres of prairie. According to Stan, prairies in Missouri and elsewhere in the Midwest face three major problems: a) brush, b) tall fescue, and c) sericea lespedeza. Thanks to constant vigilance from both Stan and Richard Datema, Prairie Operations Manager, brush and other woody debris are mercilessly controlled on all MPF. Several "before and after" aerial photographs of MPF prairies dramatically show the difference between overgrown and restored prairies.

Tall fescue is constantly managed with burning and spraying.

Unfortunately, lespedeza is more difficult to control and continues to be an issue on several prairies.

Casey Burks, a member of the Osage Plains chapter of MONPS, presented at the September meeting. She covered many aspects of Missouri's milkweeds, including the plight of Meade's Milkweed. We learned that monarch caterpillars can decimate single plants within hours and will sometimes even raid patches of the diminutive four-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*). Casey obviously loves milkweeds and showed us many great photographs and fruiting stems during her time with us. We were excited to host her for our monthly meeting and hope to return the favor to the Osage Plains chapter soon.

On Tue 27 September 2011, a group led by Larry Wegmann planted more than 160 species of spring wildflowers and ferns in the native shade garden at the Springfield Botanical



Southwest Chapter, cont'd.

Center. A dozen volunteers spent more than three hours arranging, planting, and labeling the garden. The plants were a donation from the Linda Hall Library of Science Engineering and Technology, a privately funded institution. Sue Hollis made the donation. She personally developed and maintained the garden at the library but could no longer maintain it at the Kansas City location. Our chapter is very pleased to host and maintain the collection at the Botanical Center.

## Southwest Missouri Chapter Calendar

25 October, Tuesday, 2011 - Be sure to mark your calendar for the second annual bonfire, potluck, and seed exchange - at Michelle Bowe and Brian Edmond's house. Watch your e-mail for more details and driving directions.

23 January Monday, 2012: Monthly meeting. Topic TBD. Note: We will not have monthly meetings in November or December.

## St. Louis Chapter Report & Calendar

John Oliver Chapter Representative

26 October, Wednesday, 2011: 7:30 PM — Our annual Show and Tell Session, where members share their best photographs of the year's botany trips. The program will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwood Road, Kirkwood, MO.

November and December are the traditional "dormancy period" where we forgo chapter meetings that would fall close to Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will be back January 25, 2012 for a New Year of programs and meetings. See you then!

## Osage Plains Chapter

Casey Burks, chapter representative

September:

Several chapter members attended the 9/9-9/11 Fall MONPS Meetings held in Sedalia. Friday evening, Osage Plains Chapter President Emily Horner gave an update on Meads milkweed populations and the continuing challenge of obtaining seed. The new t-shirts featuring beautiful orchids were available for chapters to sell for \$15.

Sept. 9th: Saturday's weather was joyously cool for the field trips. In the morning we visited Paint Brush Prairie and saw the seedheads of hundreds of liatris plants—what a sight it must be to see them in bloom in July!

This time in September, we enjoyed seeing an abundant variety of native prairie plants in bloom including: gaura, ashy sunflower with smooth leaves, rosinweed (looks like ashy sunflower but has rough leaves), goldenrod, hogwort, prairie dropseed, big and little bluestem. We also studied the differences between native slender lespedeza with pink flowers vs the bushy, nasty invader sericea lespedeza. After a quick trip to bustling Cole Camp for a lunch/meeting, we rejoined the group at Hi-Lonesome Prairie. (to page 4)

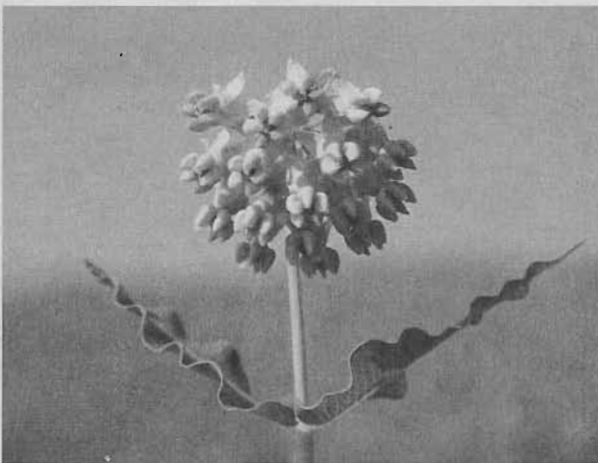
The highlight of this area was the sea of blooming purple sage and watching the pollinators. At Saturday evening's meeting, MONPS President Paul McKenzie covered over 30 topics in the agenda. Emily volunteered to take the lead in developing the MONPS-MODOT brochure of native and non-native plants commonly seen along the roadway. Allison Vaughn reported on damage done at Big Oak CA due to prolonged flooding caused by a levee breach. Big Oak has now re-opened but much sediment remains and all paw-paw trees were killed.

Another problem is Japanese chaff flower which is a serious invasive perennial, spread by flooding, that displaces native bottomland flora. Paul McKenzie gave information about another invasive, Japanese stilt grass, which is a serious problem in Ripley County. The original infestation is thought to have occurred possibly 100 years ago from shipments from Asia that used it to pack porcelain. Stilt grass forms dense carpets that choke out native tree seedlings.

Sept. 10th: Sunday: nineteen of us headed South to the Big Buffalo Creek CA to study plants associated with a spring-fed meadow, termed a fen. Horsetail and Christmas ferns were abundant and for the first time, I saw obedient plants, jewel weeds, wild poinsettias and a "muscle tree".

George Yatskiyevych pointed out examples of different parasitic dodders.

Sept. 27th: Casey enjoyed visiting the South West Branch in Springfield to share her "Milkweeds for Monarchs" presentation along with Emily's slides on Mead's Milkweed populations. This enthusiastic and knowledgeable group works at the beautiful Botanical Center an hour or more before their meetings and is very involved with Mead's Milkweed studies.



Mead's Milkweed photo courtesy of MDC online

## Osage Plains Calendar of Events

October: Preparations for presenting plant and MONPS information at the Octoberfest/Prairie Days (Sat October 8th) in Cole Camp. The October chapter meeting will be at the Henry County Library Friends room 6:30pm, Oct. 17th. Guest Rick Swopes will present his photographs of the prairie.

November: Chapter meeting at the Henry County Library Friends rooms 6:30pm, Nov. 21st. Elzie Berry will lead members in making terrariums. Emily Horner will send out a list of needed supplies.

No chapter meetings during December/January. However, members are encouraged to attend the Dec. 3rd MONPS meeting in Columbia and bring ideas for prairies to visit in 2012 and dates that avoid major conflicts with other meetings.

20 February, Monday, 2012, 6:30pm. The Osage Plains chapter begins the New Year. Regularly scheduled meetings are the 3rd Monday evening of each month at the Henry County Library Friends Room.

## Ozarks Chapter Report

Susan Farrington chapter representative

We had another successful plant id night for our August meeting, attracting almost 20 people, including several new folks. In September, Scott McWilliams presented an interesting program about the recent reintroduction of Missouri to our neck of the woods. So far, the elk appear to like their new home at Peck Ranch, and are seldom leaving its confines (even though they are free to do so if they wish). A few of our members also joined members of the Missouri Prairie Foundation for a tour of Coppermine Hollow Glade and Susan and Dan's "Blazing Star Glade." It was a great hike despite the threat of rain (which thankfully held off until the last fifteen minutes or so).

## Ozarks Chapter Calendar

15 November, Tuesday - 6:30 pm. Chapter meeting. Susan Farrington will present a program about how to control exotic invasive plants. Come learn different methods for eradicating our least wanted plants, and the best times of year to attack the different species. MDC Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd., West Plains, MO. Contact Susan Farrington for more info (contact info on back).

The Ozarks chapter takes December and January off, resuming our regular chapter meetings February 21.

## Perennis Chapter Events

15 October, Saturday - Join Chris Crabtree at the recently reopened Big Oak Tree State Park for a guided hike at 10:00 a.m. Contact the park office with any questions: 573-649-3149

Please visit [www.semonps.org](http://www.semonps.org) for impromptu hikes and gatherings with fellow native plant enthusiasts



**Kansas City Chapter**

*Daniel Rice chapter representative*

The Kansas City Chapter had a great Autumn meeting on 09-02-2011. We met in the conference room of the Discovery Center and, after our business meeting, we had a great speaker, Caleb Morse. Caleb works in the McGregor Herbarium at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. Caleb is acquisitions manager for the herbarium. He spoke on how to prepare herbarium specimens, from pressing to mounting and labeling.

Caleb started off with a little background of the McGregor Herbarium. It contains around 400,000 specimens covering 25,000 to 30,000 species, focusing on the plants of the Great Plains region. While not as large as that of the Missouri Botanical Garden's, the McGregor Herbarium is on par with other University herbariums.

He next discussed collecting the plant specimens. You should collect as many defining characteristics as possible, i.e. leaves, flowers, fruit, roots, etc. Press the collected specimens between newsprint sheets using a plant press, or heavy books or bricks; you want to keep the specimens flat. A fan blowing over them will assist in the drying. Check them often for mold. Also, the specimen should be no more than 12" by 15", and can be bent to fit.

When you collect the plant specimens, you should make note of the habitat, geology, flower color, it's size, whether it is a tree or shrub, any odors both floral and foliage, the year collected, and any other data you feel may be important. This will go on the label that is attached to the mounting board for the specimen.

When the specimen is dry, it can be mounted on the standard size paperboard. You can glue it with a high grade white glue, use linen tape, or sew it on with linen thread.

Kansas City cont'd

Caleb passed around a number of mounted specimens, one that dated back to 1842. He also explained that for plant parts that wouldn't press flat you can use archival boxes. And for aquatic plants, ethanol filled vials are used. Caleb then passed around vials of Azolla and Wolffia.

It was a great talk, with great instructions on how to properly collect, press, mount, and label plant specimens.

**Kansas City Chapter Events**

21 November, Saturday, - 7:00 p.m.: Chapter meeting at the Discovery Center in Kansas City. The Discovery Center is located at 4750 Troost Avenue. Program is to be determined.

**Notice to All Roadside Photographers**

The final list of plants to include in the Missouri Roadside Wildflower brochure/poster is being completed this winter. In the meantime, start pouring over your photographs of plants that are common along the road, with emphasis on those that are recognizable at 65 mph!

Here are a few that are sure to make the final cut: goldenrods, sunflowers, sericea lespedeza (booo), Silphiums, prairie blazingstar, spiderwort, henbit (yes a few exotics too) and milkweeds to name a few. We will be soliciting your photographs and utilizing them in the brochure. As more information about the brochure becomes available we will post in on the MONPS website.

Thank you, the Roadside Wildflower

**Welcome New Members**

Patrice Albert, Columbia; Quinn Long, Eureka; Anita Randolph, Jefferson City; Roxane Magnus, Cape Girardeau; Bonnie Goldberg, Parkville; Sunny Stevens, Columbia; Patricia Stevens & Larry Burch, Aldrich

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**INFORMATION ON JOINING MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**SOCIETY DUES**

**CHAPTER DUES**

Make checks payable to Missouri Native Plant Society  
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(Chapter dues additional)

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- Regular . . . . . \$10
- Contributing . . . . . \$20
- Life . . . . . \$200

- Columbia . . . . . \$6 Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Kansas City . . . . . \$5 Street: \_\_\_\_\_
- Osage Plains . . . . . \$5 City, State \_\_\_\_\_
- Ozarks Native Plant . . . . . \$5 9-digit Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
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(circle all above that apply)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution for student research award

(Hudson Fund) **\*\*All contributions are tax deductible\*\***

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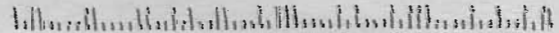
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