

January – February 2013

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 28 No.1

“ . . . to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri. ”

MONPS Board Announces 2013 Fieldtrips

Rex Hill, Past President

At the Board meeting on December 1, three field trips were planned for the 2013 season. The spring trip is scheduled for **April 12-14**, in Pineville in McDonald County in the far southwestern corner of the state where we will visit Big Sugar Creek, Huckleberry Ridge Conservation Area, and the Buffalo Hills Natural Area. In the summer on the weekend of **June 14-16** we will travel to Ellington in Reynolds County to explore Kay Branch Fen on private property and Grasshopper Hollow Natural Area, the largest known fen in unglaciated North America. Our fall field trip is to be held on **September 20-22** in Kirksville in Adair County where we will visit Morris Prairie, one of the states more recently named Natural Areas and Union Ridge Conservation Area. As the dates of these field trips approach, more details will be made available such as convenient motel locations, times and meeting locations for each of our separate outings on the weekend, usually scheduled for Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. Many times there is an extra outing on Friday for those who can attend and we usually have a speaker for a meeting on Friday evening. These details can be found on the Society's website, **MissouriNativePlantSociety.org**, and in the Petal Pusher issued prior to the field trip. We hold the quarterly Board meetings on Saturday evening at each of these field trip events, and our winter meeting, with no field trip, will be held in Columbia at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium on **December 7** at 10:00 AM.

On a personal note, I want to encourage our members to make an effort to attend one or more of these weekend field trips in the next year, particularly when the trip is to an area near you. Many of our members make this a weekend event, staying at some nearby motel or campground, meeting and getting to know other members, benefitting from the expert knowledge of those in attendance, and learning something of the natural history and native plant species in the area of the fieldtrip. The Board attempts to vary the locations of the trips to allow members around the state to join us for the weekend or just for a day trip. Over the past thirty plus years, the Society has visited every corner of the state; and some more than once; exploring prairies, glades, springs, woodlands, rivers, swamps, loess hills, and every other natural habitat in Missouri – and some in AR, KS, and IL.

The following list shows the rich history and variety of these quarterly sojourns. Where only the town is mentioned, the field trips have taken us to nearby natural areas, state parks, conservation areas, and even private land where, with permission, we have gone to look at unusual habitats or plant species. These trips have brought Martha and me to places we would not have visited otherwise. We have met many wonderful, knowledgeable, friendly, and dedicated people and we have been afforded the opportunity to learn much more about the beautiful state in which we live.

Awe and Wonder *Submitted by Becky Erickson, Editor*

Are you rushing around taking charge of getting all the Holiday traditions lined out for the arrival of relatives, or the trip to visit relatives? Are you stressing out over balancing your personal budget while listening to Washington strut and flex over the same issue? Irony and Cynicism from these kinds of pressures break down Wonder. Without childlike Awe and an open mind to let the Wonder of the moment influence our spirits, we lose Curiosity and Creativity.

When was the last time you paused in Awe [total amazed focus] to watch a shooting star, study lichen on a shagbark hickory, be amazed at the depth of a canyon or the power of a river; to study bats stitching treetops to the sunset clouds; to notice a horned owl flying across a full moon, prairie chickens flying across a sunset, the details of a butterfly or beetle? Have you ever come face to face with a fox, had a fawn burst from under your feet, pet a bumblebee, found one cancer root orchid down in prairie grass, marveled at a whole field covered with *Dodecatheon*, or *Phlox*, or *Liatris*?

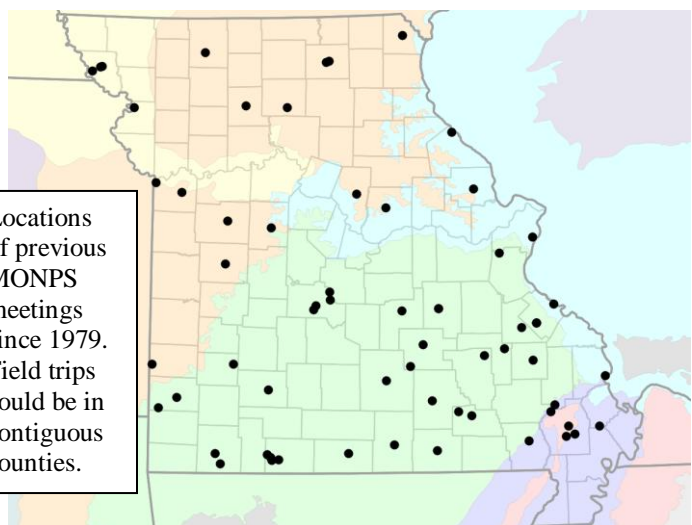
"...the psychological benefits to humans of green space are closely linked to the diversity of its plant life..." Jonah Lehrer. I make a challenge to you to go out and discover the positive psychological influence when you spend some time in a diverse green space; and you KNOW I don't mean a sidewalk through a mowed park. Start with one dedicated day per month, then one day per week, and more often as you look forward to your time off the trail. I think you will find your mundane details

become much less important than that new thing that will bring you Wonder and Awe in Nature and the resulting child-like Creativity in your life.

Peter Severinus, a 16th. Century Dane educator told his students: *Go my Sons, burn your books. Buy yourself stout shoes. Get away to the mountains, the valleys, the shores of the seas, the deserts, and the deepest recesses of the Earth. In this way and no other will you find true knowledge of things and their properties.* When you understand this principal you can pass this wisdom to others. This is what we offer on the MONPS Field Trips. They are not strenuous hikes; they are moseys. There are friendly, knowledgeable people with you to interpret and identify the diverse habitats we mosey through. **This is your engraved invitation to join us when we gather to find Awe and Wonder.**



Morris Prairie BE Photo



Spring Creek Gap BE photo

Field Trip History

1979 – Fulton (MONPS founding 6/2/1979), Montauk State Park (SP), Babler SP
 1980 – Point Lookout (School of the Ozarks), Lake of the Ozarks SP, Montauk SP
 1981 – Columbia, Rolla, Joplin
 1982 – Cape Girardeau, Warrensburg, Big Lake SP
 1983 – Alley Spring, Cuivre River SP
 1984 – Cape Girardeau, Columbia
 1985 – Springfield, Alley Spring, Lake of the Ozarks SP
 1986 – Warrensburg, Big Lake SP, Ste. Genevieve
 1987 – Holly Ridge, Cherokee Pass, Ted Shanks Wildlife Area
 1988 – Roaring River SP, Brookfield, West Plains
 1989 – St. Louis, Fulton (10th Anniversary Meeting), Springfield (Henning State Forest)
 1990 – Ha Ha Tonka SP, Stockton Lake SP, Van Buren (Big Spring)
 1991 – Rolla, Caney Mountain Conservation Area (CA), Dexter
 1992 – Steelville (Reis Biological Station), Lake of the Ozarks SP, Blue Springs
 1993 – Pickle Spring Natural Area (NA), Fulton (Prairie Garden Trust), St. Louis
 1994 – Cassville (Roaring River SP), St. Joseph, Joplin
 1995 – Van Buren, Chillicothe, Springfield
 1996 – Salem (Montauk SP), Cape Girardeau, Clinton
 1997 – Cuivre River SP, Stockton Lake SP, Poplar Bluff
 1998 – Columbia, Bethany, Kirksville
 1999 – Cassville (Roaring River SP), Houston, Ironton
 2000 – West Plains, Carthage, Salem (Presley Education Center)
 2001 – Columbia, Bethany, Kansas City
 2002 – Montauk SP, Warrensburg, Kahoka
 2003 – Springfield, Clinton, Cape Girardeau
 2004 – Caney Mountain CA, West Plains, St. Joseph
 2005 – Pere Marquette SP – IL, Kirksville, Prairie SP
 2006 – Cassville (Roaring River SP), Peck Ranch CA, Dexter (Mingo NWR, Crowley's Ridge)
 2007 – Oregon County (Springs of Missouri), Dexter (Mingo NWR), Ha Ha Tonka SP
 2008 – Harrison Arkansas, Mound City (Squaw Creek NWR), LaBarque Creek Watershed
 2009 – Sikeston (Big Oak Tree SP, Holly Ridge), Springfield (Prairies), Fulton (30th Anniversary)
 2010 – Farmington (Hawn SP, Pickle Spring NA), Chillicothe (Prairies), Kansas City (KC Wildlands)
 2011 – Joplin (Wildcat Glade, Prairies), Ironton (Johnson's Shut-ins SP), Sedalia (Prairies)
 2012 – Branson (Bull Shoals Field Station), Camdenton (Ha Ha Tonka, Ozark Caverns), Cuivre River SP



Liatris pycnostachya at Paint Brush Prairie BE photo



Hawthorn Chapter

John White, Chapter Representative

Several members enjoyed a wreath workshop and potluck at Nancy Brakhage's home on Oct. 27. Enough cedar boughs and dried native plant materials were available to make two wreaths each, and some great food dishes were shared for lunch.

Our regular chapter meeting was held Nov. 12 at the Unitarian Church on Shepard Blvd. Lorna Domke gave a presentation on Prairie Garden Trust, an area north of Bloomfield, MO. For over 25 years the family has been improving and expanding the area, which will eventually exceed 500 acres. The visitor center is being expanded with a new building and construction is starting on a maintenance center. There are mowed trails through the woods and fields, and a one mile paved loop trail is being designed. A Horticulturist, Jennifer Sieradzki, was recently hired. This area is reminiscent of the Ozarks with forests, streams, ponds, prairies and bluffs. It has a large variety of plants, some native, some planted, and a Blue Heron rookery. There are no invasive plant problems so far. Reservations are required to see the area at this time.

For information go to visit@prairiegardentrust.org. Lorna calls it "a place to experience the magic".

The Hawthorn Education Grant was again awarded to Rock Bridge High School. 160 students made the trip to Rock Bridge State Park October 11 and made species notebooks. Midway Heights Elementary School also applied this year and the chapter approved an additional amount to buy equipment needed for their *Pollinators and Monarchs* project. Rock Bridge students have greatly enjoyed the project of learning to identify 25 wildflowers and trees and create their own field guides, with photos and descriptions. It will be interesting to see how the second graders respond.

Ozark Chapter

Submitted by Liz Olson, Chapter Representative

At our chapter meeting on October 16th, Becky Estes presented a delightful program on Beginning Birding in the Ozarks. Becky is a Master Naturalist and member of the Native Plant Society. She shared her knowledge of birds and their habitats, and provided useful information for both beginning and experienced birders to expand our skills of locating and identifying the varied bird life in the Ozarks.

On November 20th, Melanie Carden-Jessen of the Missouri Dept of Conservation presented "Natural Dyes from Native Plants." Melanie's sense of fun and joy in creating art from nature shone through as she took us step-by-step through the process, from responsible plant harvesting, to creating a dye, to the actual dyeing of various fabrics. Many plants produce beautiful dyes such as black oak and Osage orange trees, and indigo and goldenrod flowers. We learned that dyes can be created from plant roots, leaves, and flowers, as well as from acorns and tree bark. Plant dyes can also be used for other craft projects; Melanie had samples of homemade seed-paper which she had colored with natural plant dye, and used for greeting cards.



Perennis Chapter

Submitted by Allison Vaughn, Chapter Representative

The Perennis chapter is looking for fieldtrip leaders located in southeast Missouri to lead short hikes through natural history sites. Fieldtrip sites tend to include those areas with natural integrity such as Trail of Tears SP, the sand prairies outside of Benton, other state parks in the area, Mingo NWR, and LaRue Pine Hills in Illinois. The chapter is looking for involvement from members to attend fieldtrips, provide input on desirable workshops and programs, and other activities which may be of interest. Please contact Allison at allisonjv@yahoo.com.

Southwest Chapter

Submitted by Brian Edmond Chapter Rep

The Southwest Chapter enjoyed the third annual hotdog roast and bonfire, traditionally held on the fourth Tuesday of October. The event marks the end of our annual calendar as regular meeting times in November and December give way to holiday events instead. More than twenty people attended the event this year. What a wonderful way to kick off autumn!

For most of our meetings during the growing season, we spend some time in the native gardens and the rain garden at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center. In the 2012 volunteer year, our members contributed more than 112 recorded hours of time to maintain the gardens. While the hours are small compared to the 8,000+ volunteer hours that go into maintaining the gardens (to say nothing of the Center staff), our group is solely responsible for the rain garden, prairie garden, fern/shade garden, and native shrub garden. Stakeholders with more than 100 hours of time are allowed to use the Center facilities at no cost.

Smallin Cave (<http://www.smallincave.com/>), located in Christian County MO just east of Ozark, is one of Missouri's newest show caves. Kevin Bright, owner and manager of the property, is interested in restoring the landscape to its former glory and has asked for assistance in identifying and removing invasive plant species. Michelle Bowe visited the site in November to get an idea of what will be involved. Look for more updates and opportunities to kill some non-natives in the upcoming months! As a side note, my family and I went on a cave tour last fall and we were lucky enough to have Kevin give us the tour. Kevin is a great storyteller and shared lots of history about the site. We were also treated to a Bristly Cave Crayfish sighting! I highly recommend the tour, especially if you can get Kevin to take you.

Due to several requests, we'll be concentrating on keying and identification activities during at least some of our monthly meetings in 2013. Our winter meetings will be dedicated to identifying winter twigs (January) and using dichotomous keys to identify plants (February). Hopefully, we'll be using our new skills within a few weeks for our spring field trip. Watch Facebook Events page for details!

Osage Plains

Casey Burks, Chapter Representative

Oct. 13th: Members of Osage Plains joined the Hi Lonesome Missouri Master Naturalists under the big tent at Dr. Wayne Morton's beautiful prairie in northern Benton County for Prairie Days. Evening activities were sponsored by the MO Prairie Foundation (free wine and cheese!). This was held in conjunction with the Octoberfest celebration in nearby Cole Camp. Even though the weather was raw and windy and eventually dumped buckets of rain, it was fun inside the tent. Those of us that were there before the storm got a treat: a carriage ride around the prairie pulled by gorgeous black Percheron horses. A special thanks to Theresa Cline for arranging the rides.



View from the horse-drawn wagon: fantastic fall prairie

CB photo

There were lots of games and critters for the children as well as a variety of prairie style crafts to learn such as spinning with wool dyed with native plants. A big topic of conversation was the restoration of Prairie Chickens; what more can we do to help this be successful. Several people mentioned that they had seen Ladies Tresses orchids.



Spiranthes CB photo



Regal frit on Liatris BE photo

Oct 28th: President Emily Horner invited us to have our October meeting in the Polo area where she and husband Paul live with their two sons, Owen and Samuel. Along with a large garden, they have worked at re-creating a natural prairie and glade area on their acreage. It was fun to try to name the plants in their "dry down" mode and explore the creek bed showing deposits of granite rocks and slabs of slate. Emily provided a feast which included pheasant from her dad in Nebraska, homemade jalapeno jelly and pickles, squash soup, apple pie, rose hip tea and gingerbread cookies made by Owen and Sam. It was a joyous gathering for the Osage Plains group.

Nov 19th: The guest speaker for our last meeting of 2012 was Donnie Nichols, a MO Master Naturalist who is an expert in Prairie History and Ecology. He gave an excellent overview of the changes that have occurred since the French settlers arrived on the continent and saw the vast prairie west of the Mississippi River. The word "prairie" means "meadow" in French. He explained that there are four types of prairie: wet, tall grass, mixed and short grass—the type being determined by rainfall. The original prairie in what became Missouri is classified as tall grass prairie. Henry Co. average rainfall is 36" per year providing the necessary amount of moisture for tall grass prairie ecology.

The original prairie in MO was 15,000,000 acres, but now there are only 75,000 acres. Factors that have led to the disappearance of the prairie include lack of fire, loss of the huge buffalo herds (which ate the forbs and made wallows) and introduction of farming methods including the plowing up of the deep-rooted native plants, and the loss of fire management. The Indians knew the value of burning since the buffalo and other wildlife loved the fresh new growth that emerged after a fire.

Donnie showed pictures of many native prairie plants and told of historical uses by Native Americans. He also commented on the disappearance of certain species because of the destruction of the plant or animal needed for its survival. The Prairie Violet is now so rare that the Regal fritillary butterfly that needs it for the nourishment of its larva is also rare. We could easily have listened to Donnie's information for several more hours. He certainly infused us with a desire to try to save what we have left.

After refreshments, the business part ensued with Planning for the Program Schedule for 2013. Brainstorming of ideas for topics led to lively conversation. One tradition for July is to always have a supper pot luck and meeting at Dale Jennings with a wagon ride through his wild flower fields. Elizabeth Middleton volunteered to present a program TBD in April. Dr. Morton invited the chapter to his prairie in early spring to observe prairie chicken booming. Theresa Cline volunteered to teach us how to propagate plants. Other suggestions for educational topics included: info on Tree City USA; MoDOT trash cleanup, Recycling, the Osage Orange tree, Armadillos, Aldo Leopold's teachings in "Green Fire", movies in the Sacred Balance series etc. Also we happily welcome two new members. It is wonderful to be a part of such an enthusiastic, eager to learn, eager to share, group! Thankfully, Dorothy and Jim Harlan will serve again as field trip coordinators so stay tuned for new adventures in 2013!

CHAPTER CALENDARS

Hawthorn

14 January, Monday, 6:00pm. – Regular meeting at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

17 January, Thursday, 11:30am – Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, Rag Tag, 10 Hitt St. (just south of Broadway).

21 February, Thursday, 11:30am – Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, Rag Tag, 10 Hitt St. (just south of Broadway).

Perennis

26 January Saturday, 10 am: Winter botany walk at Trail of Tears SP. Meet at the Visitor Center. We will decide on a trail to hike based on fire management activities in fall and winter (since winter botany isn't much fun in a burned landscape). For more details or weather restrictions and rescheduling visit <http://www.semonps.org/> or contact Allison at allisonjv@yahoo.com

Osage Plains

1 December Sat:10am, Columbia, MO. Winter MONPS meeting. Planning for 2013.

18 February Mon 2013: 6:30pm First Osage Plains meeting of 2013 Henry County Library Friends Room.

Regularly Scheduled Branch meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30pm, at the Henry Co. Library, Clinton, except for special dinner meetings. Please contact Emily Horner emily.horner3@yahoo.com, Jim & Dorothy Harlan jdharlan@socket.net or Casey Burks mobugwoman@gmail.com for current information.

Ozark

The Ozark chapter meets at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Missouri Department of Conservation Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains, MO 65775. The Ozark chapter does not meet in December or January.

19 February Tues: Bob Cunningham will present “How to manage your forest: the good, the bad, and the ugly.”

19 March Tues: our chapter secretary Betty Queen will present photographs from her trip to the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

16 April Tues: our chapter president Susan Farrington will present photographs from her recent vacation to Costa Rica.

Share Web Links Anyone who wants to share their own nature blog or nature business service link, or wants to share a link for an article or a good web site, please check it out, write a line of description and submit it to the Editor.

St. Louis Chapter Report

Rex Hill, Chapter Representative

Not much to report for this issue. I missed the October meeting, but I assume things went well – They always do. Every year this is the meeting where chapter members are invited to share their photographs from the past field season. Power Point presentations, digital images, and even old fashioned slides are welcome. Hope everyone has a happy and blessed holiday season.



Calendars continued

St Louis

Chapter meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3939 South Lindbergh Blvd.

23 January – 7:30 PM – Either **Steve Bost** of the Ozark Chinquapin will talk about **Ozark Chinquapin restoration** including historic information about its range in Missouri and other Ozark states, and the current status of the species in light of the Chestnut blight infestation and efforts to reestablish the trees with disease resistant seedlings. If he is unable to do it, this talk will be shifted to a later date and the January speaker will be **Richard Abbott** from Missouri Botanical Garden, who will give a talk about **Polygalaceae**.

27 February – 7:30 PM – Winter Botany: our presenters will be **Nels Holmberg and John Oliver**, who will give a hands-on demonstration of how the amateur botanist can identify plants even in winter condition. Specimens and photographs will be provided of twig identification of trees and shrubs, winter rosettes of plants often still visible through the winter, and dried remnants of last years stems, flowers and fruits which can be identified in the field. Members are invited to bring specimens of their own to be identified.

27 March – 7:30 PM – Allen Casey, of the USDA Plant department in Elsberry, MO will speak on **Pollinators and The Plants They Use**. Native plants are especially good sources of food to pollinating animals. Research suggests that native plants are four times more attractive to native bees than exotic plants. This presentation will discuss important considerations to provide flowers and plants that pollinators need and make the landscape, from small urban backyards to large natural areas, around us better for these animals. This will be a joint meeting with the St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association.

Kansas City

January 8th, 7:00 PM, MDC Discovery Center: 2013 Planning Meeting will be held at the, This meeting is where we identify all of the years field trips and work on coordinating the annual plant sales. Also, bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) continues to expand into rural areas of Ray County, Missouri. This will certainly affect the flora of the watersheds of the Crooked River and its tributaries.

Nominations Needed for Annual Awards due 1 April

Submitted by Malissa Underwood, Awards Chairman
The MONPS Awards Committee seeks nominations of people who have supported the preservation of Missouri's flora. MONPS offers five awards:

- 1) Erna Eisendrath Memorial Education Award, recognizing individuals who, through teaching, writing, or other activity have conveyed to others a significant appreciation and knowledge of Missouri's native flora.
- 2) Arthur Christ Research Award, recognizing an individual's significant contribution in furthering the knowledge of Missouri flora.
- 3) Plant Stewardship Award, recognizing an individual or organization for the preservation of important elements of Missouri's flora through purchase, registry, and/or management practice.
- 4) The John E. Wylie Award, recognizing individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Society.
- 5) Julian A. Steyermark Award, the Society's highest award, given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to any and all aspects of Missouri botany.

The deadline for nominations is 1 April. Nominations should contain the full name of the nominee and the name of the person making the nomination, and they should set forth the contributions of the individual or organization that merits recognition. Award recipients need not be members of MONPS. Please submit nominations to Awards Committee Chairman, Malissa Underwood, MDC, P.O. Box 180 Jefferson City, MO 65102 malissa.underwood@mdc.mo.gov

Keeping an Eye on Mother Nature

Elizabeth Pope in AARP Bulletin Apr 2012

Amateur naturalists are helping scientists answer questions about the shifts in season by observing things like the date a robin starts to build a nest.

It is a huge effort coordinated by the USA National Phenology Network. Phenology = the timing of seasonal activity of plants and animal activities, is the leading indicator of environmental changes. Scientists use this data to monitor invasive species, predict wildfires, and study how plants and animals adapt to climate change.

To track and compile data, professionals rely on more than 4000 volunteers who record their data online. "We need citizen scientists to help us take the pulse of the planet." Jake Weltzin, ED of the NPN.

For more information on how to help, log on to www.usanpn.org . [Ed note: there are other databases you can contribute data to: **Bud Burst, Monarch Watch, and Cornell Ornithology** offers several bird counts.]



Liatris pycnostachya sprouts



Monarda fistulosa sprouts
BE photos

Learn spring shoots of your native garden plants so you can report the sprouting, budding, blooming dates to Bud Burst. Sign up on the Bud Burst web site.

Information on joining Missouri Native Plant Society

Society Dues

Circle all that apply
[Chapter dues additional]
Student = \$5
Regular = 10
Contributing = 20
Life = 200

Chapter Dues

Columbia = \$6
Kansas City = 5
Osage Plains = 5
Ozarks = 5
Perinnis = 5
St Louis = 5
Southwest = 5

Contribution to Hudson Grant Fund _\$ _____

All contributions are tax deductible

Make checks payable to MO Native Plant Society

Mail to: Missouri Native Plant Society

PO BOX 440353

ST. Louis MO 63244-4353

Name _____

Address _____

9-digit zip _____

Sometimes activities are changed at the last minute so we need a way to notify you.

Phone _____

Email _____

Wonder of the Honey Locust

Submitted by John Richter; lives in Blue Springs, Missouri; specializes in environmental permitting and botanical inventories. To comment on this article please e-mail: jack_0_lantern@hotmail.com

After several hours of clearing trees out of the pasture I inspected my truck tires before the ride home. Near the bottom of the sidewall a thorn was buried in the soft rubber. I pulled it out hearing a sound that meant something was soon going to be flat.

For a year now, I have been slowly removing nuisance trees from an overgrown hay pasture. This battle was inevitable as the 35 acres of upland pasture was cleared over 100 years ago of the oak/hickory woodland which once covered this area of Ray County, Missouri. So in effect, I am borrowing 35 acres of woodland to grow a microcosm of Europe. Besides fescue, mustards and brome grasses come to mind. Maybe all those European weeds and grasses do so well here for the same reason they do so well there. In other words, European farmers have been plowing and grazing cut over woodlands for centuries and maybe bred some super weeds while doing so.

Several areas did not take the fescue as well. An area of exposed bedrock strata supports only the hardiest of plants that can tolerate life in the residuum. Most of this area is dominated by a mixture of native and non-native diminutive annual plants. There grows *Androsace occidentalis*, a little plant which blushes a great red color after flowering. This plant doesn't have a common name here [Ed note: it's a Primrose; in the west called 'rock jasmine']. Besides exposed bedrock there is an area of scattered broken limestone and heavy clay soils that stunts the trees and you can count 60 rings from an eight inch diameter walnut tree grown in full sunlight. Below the dwarfed trees, I find adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum Engelmanni*) among the limestone rock and fescue. For those of you with a copy of Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* the notes on this plant read that the isolated limestone glades in Ray County harboring this plant indicate areas not subjected to Pleistocene glaciations. Glacial erratics occur on the property. I will let this subject rest until I can research it more.

Honey locust [*Gleditsia triacanthos*] is a ubiquitous tree of my property, found along stream banks, floodplains, upland pasture, and everywhere in-between. I tried girdling some only to find the saw kerfs filled with a gelatinous brown honey substance several months later. I now chemically treat trees once girdled. The wood cuts easy. Fresh cuts reveal white sapwood and salmon colored heartwood often found with dark mottles. It is reported that lumber cut from honey locust can be used for nice furniture but it looks and feels like so much firewood to me. From the trees I cut down it seems that the heartwood is susceptible to rot and carpenter ants. I wouldn't use it for fence posts if Osage orange is readily available.

There is something coating those thorns that makes it hurt beyond a normal pain. I am talking a cramping, swelling, 8-hour pain from a good puncture wound. The tree punishingly defends itself as is its right, being a native species.



New thorns on a honey locust

FNA photo

In Ray County this tree alone could conquer most of the European flora in 50 years. Land recently reclaimed by these trees on my property now grows such natives as white avens, poison ivy, sedges, wild rye, and so on under the protected canopy. Go America! My local observations also reveal that a honey locust grown in full sun usually makes more thorns than one growing in the shade. Genetics is likely responsible as well as people have developed a variety of honey locust without thorns. I ask myself why.

So I wonder what large animal could have posed a threat to this tree that it maintains those thorns. I can only imagine some land scarred from nature's wrath and a pioneering honey locust makes a dynasty in the wreckage. Those mastodons had thick skin and always were hard on little trees, and I think I got it figured out enough to entertain myself. A wounded 2,500 pound Chevrolet and 35 acres of pasture is living on borrowed time. Maybe I should leave that hulk to rust out where it went down and let some future archaeologist dwell on the wonder of the honey locust.



Honey locust leaves and pods

WC photo

Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

29 September 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting

Cuivre River State Park, Troy MO

Submitted by Ann Schuette, Secretary

President Paul McKenzie(PM) called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. The agenda was approved. A quorum was present. John Oliver(JO) volunteered to serve as the recorder.

- The minutes from the June 2012 meeting were approved.
- Treasurer's Report – Bob Siemer reviewed the 2011/2012 annual financial report. He noted that the income less the expenditures for the year showed a net loss of \$44. The balance of the Hudson Fund has increased due to the donations received during the year as well as the income from the classes at Meramec Community College taught by Society members. Bob also noted that it would help if the Society changed its fiscal year from July 1 - June 30 to the calendar year. Bob moved and Max Towler seconded a motion to change the bylaws to accommodate that change. With over 2/3 of the board voting, the motion carried unanimously. Bob will write a short article for the Petal Pusher explaining the change in our fiscal year to match the calendar year, prepare an accounting and describe the mechanism for making the change at the December meeting.
- Donations to MONPS – Hudson Scholarship Fund – PM noted he received a request for an acknowledgement for a donation made to the fund in Steve Timme's memory. Rex Hill (RH) offered to send letters to the donors.

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

- Petal Pusher – Janet Haworth(JH) announced that the November/December issue will be her last as editor. She will put an announcement in the November/December issue seeking a volunteer to edit the publication. RH volunteered to contact Chuck Robinson about the possibility of taking the editorship again and whether shifting the publication dates would make it easier for him to do it. PM encouraged the chapter representatives to canvass their chapters to see if anyone would be interested in the job. A discussion followed concerning moving the publication to electronic only.
- Distribution Chairman – Bill Knight had nothing specific to report.
- Publicity Chairman – Kevin Bley was not able to attend the meeting. Bruce Schuette mentioned the possibility of giving a Blazing Star award to Bodine Aluminum for their help in Cuivre River State Park. He made a motion which was seconded by George Yatskievych(GY) to make the award. The motion passed.
- MONPS Website – JO announced that he and Brian Edmond(BE) now have control and administrative capabilities for the website. JO, BE and Michelle Bowe will confer and report at the December meeting about the possibility of migrating the MONPS website to another platform and the various free and low-cost options available.
- *Missouriensis* – GY has another volume put together. It has been formatted and sent to Doug Ladd for review. After review it will be sent to the printer. A discussion was held about the possibility of electronically issuing the publication in the future.

COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

- Membership – Ann Earley reported that we have 13 new members since the June meeting for a total of 344(57 life members). Updated rosters have been sent to the chapter representatives. The roster will be updated in December reflecting those whose dues are delinquent.
- Archives – Jack Harris was not present so no report was given.
- Awards Committee – PM noted that Lance Jesse's award has been forwarded to the Kansas City chapter to be presented by them. JO has Carl Darigo's award and hopes to present it to his widow at the St. Louis October meeting.

- Social Media Committee – The Southwest Missouri chapter has for the most part rolled their page over to the State's Facebook page. JO will put information on our webpage about how to sign up for Facebook in a relatively limited way in order to see our MONPS Facebook page. JH will excerpt information from the website for an article in the Petal Pusher.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

- Brochures – If any of the chapters need the new brochures, they may contact GY.
- MONPS tote sacks and orchid t-shirts – RH said there were still plenty available.
- Possible new chapter in St Joe – PM has talked with Steve Buback about the possibility of a new chapter, but no action has been taken.
- Comments on Grassland Management Strategic Plan – The Missouri Dept. of Conservation sent a thank you for the comments the Society contributed.
- MONPS sponsored workshops – As of now, there are no workshops/classes scheduled at Meramec Community College.
- Wildflower Poster Project with MODOT – Emily Horner sent an e-mail. She has photo submissions and will need volunteers to write the text.

CHAPTER REPORTS

- The written reports are available in the Petal Pusher.
- Susan Farrington of the Ozark chapter introduced Elizabeth Olson who will be their new representative.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PM noted that the emerald ash borer firewood quarantine area has been expanded.
- The winter board meeting will be held December 1, 2012 at the herbarium in Columbia. The meeting will start at 10am. JO will write directions to the location and put it on the website as well as send a copy to JH to be included in the Petal Pusher.
- PM thanked Bruce Schuette for providing the meeting location as well as leading the field trips for the weekend.
- JO reviewed the assignments.
- The meeting was adjourned.

Those in attendance were:

Michelle Bowe	Elizabeth Olson
Casey Burks	John Richter
Theresa Cline	Ann Schuette
Ann Earley	Bruce Schuette
Susan Farrington	Bob Siemer
Carl Haworth	Max Towler
Janet Haworth	Malissa Underwood
Rex Hill	Allison Vaughn
Bill Knight	John White
Paul McKenzie	John Oliver
George Yatskievych	Kay Yatskievych

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And more information
on our website www.missourinativeplantsociety.org

Stanton Hudson Memorial Fund

Student Research Awards — 2013

Submitted by George Yatskievych

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 Hudson fund, 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 2013, we anticipate awarding a single grant in the amount of \$1,000. At the conclusion of the project, grant recipients will be expected to prepare research results for publication in a scientific journal. Deadline for submissions is 15 February 2013, with funds to be awarded on about 15 April 2013.

Proposals should not exceed 4 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 Hudson 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 by mail (in triplicate) or preferably electronically as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat format. Letters from the applicant's references may be submitted as e-mail messages. Proposals will be reviewed by the MONPS grants committee.

Application materials should be sent to:

Missouri Native Plant Society, c/o Dr. George Yatskievych, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-9522; e-mail:

George.Yatskievych@mobot.org



Project Table for Sale

Hawthorn Chapter has a very sturdy table, hand-built by George Brakhage. This 3X8 foot table has a thick, varnished, plywood top with 3" skirting, heavy folding legs. So it can be folded and set up against a wall. We used it at our booth displays for many years, but it is too heavy for one person to move and truck beds are no longer 8'. It would cost much more than \$100 for the materials and the time it takes to build a comparable table [possibly \$400]. \$100 we are asking goes back into the NPS account. Please call Becky for viewing, sale, and pickup. 657-2314.

Welcome to New Members!



New Petal Pusher Editor

Becky Erickson has been an active member of Hawthorn since about 2002. She has been on several committees, always helps at the booth, grows and maintains the chapter nursery, and for the last 6 years has edited the Hawthorn newsletter. Because she won't be dropping any of her work with Hawthorn, it will make everyone happier and bring you the best possible publication if you would please follow these guidelines when sending submissions to her:

Send all communications to beckyerick711@centurylink.net.

Use MS Word for documents, Single line spacing, 11 point, Times New Roman, Single space after punctuation, Single space paragraphs, Indent using tab [don't use space bar].

"Title, and Submitted by" [Don't make me figure this out. It might not be what you want.] Have a friend proof your writing so you are sure it follows good logic and grammar rules. Check for typos like of/off, you/your, is/if, top/pot, for/fro, he/the/them/they and other flying fat finger flubs you might chronically do. Spell check will not catch these. And I need your permission to edit your piece. Otherwise it will go in mistakes and all.

Use J-peg [.jpg] format for photographs, 1 - 2.5MB is best.

I will reduce them to about 300KB. DON'T reduce them for me in case I have to fix them. Be sure they are good quality clear and sharp with distinguishable contrast. I can fix some technical problems but I need a photo of at least B quality to start with. Give me a caption/title/name.

ATTACH documents and photos. Do not embed photos.

The only way I will accept documents typed into the body of an email is if you do not have Word. If you do this – PLEASE – use HTML/rich text format according to the font and point requirements above. Word cannot change font and point from plain text email. So I have to type it all over again. When I pull a message off email and insert it into Word, there are odd little spaces and other formatting I must detect and correct.

Due dates. Just put it on your calendar now that your submissions must be finished and to me **before** the 27th of January, March, May, July, Sept, and two days after the December meeting. If you are writing an editorial or species account, don't wait – send it early. Write your chapter reports right after your last activity. Then send them to me. If you have a regular report due for PP, I will send a reminder around the 20th of the month, after that it's up to you to get your submissions in the Petal Pusher on time.



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