NEXT MEETING

Thursday, Feb 13th 6:30 PM MU Extension Building
"Mid-Missouri Local Food & Urban Agriculture"

Adam Saunders
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA)

Adam Saunders of the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) will join us to talk about the exciting developments in the Mid-MO food system, trends to keep an eye on, and ways to get invest with your time, treasure and topsoil. CCUA has been working to improve the food system since 2009 primarily focusing on helping people establish garden at home and workplace, as well as showcasing urban agriculture to school and social groups at their 1.3 acre educational Urban Farm in central Columbia. Also at this meeting, we will present our certification, recertification, and service hour awards. See you soon!

Please don’t forget to bring your cup & plate & utensils!
Drinks: Emily Wilson    Dessert: Sally Swanson    Non-dessert: Pat McDonald

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Sitting here looking out my window, watching the birds enjoying the sunshine before the cold weather returns tomorrow, I remembered that I have a pair of binoculars that I have only tried to use once. In the training classes, binoculars are one of the items that are suggested you might want to have. So, after a little research, it seems that the first thing you need to know is, how you use them will determine how to choose them. To start with, to use the binocular, one must know and understand the numbers. For example, if your binoculars are 7x35, what does that mean? The first number, 7, stands for the power of magnification. The item you are viewing through the binoculars is seven times larger than if you were looking at it with just your naked eye. The second number is the diameter in millimeters of the objective lenses. The larger the lens, the more light that is allowed in and the brighter the image. The larger this lens is, the heavier the binocular. So you will need to decide what kind of tradeoffs you would want to make. At the next meeting, see if you can find a chapter member who can tell you about adjusting the eye cups on your binoculars if you are wearing glasses.

-Emily Wilson, President, Boone’s Lick Master Naturalists

Info from B. R. Hughes, Birds & Blooms magazine.
Cool Weather Phenomenon: Snow Rollers

Hungry Snowy Owls Visit Missouri
http://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/snowy-owls-visiting-missouri

Winter Catch-And-Release Trout Season in Missouri (weekends through mid-February)
http://mdc.mo.gov/media/video/winter-catch-and-release-trout-season

Ever Lower Migrating Monarch Butterfly Numbers

Eye on the Tiger: Satellite Images a New Tool For Conservation

Enjoy taking nature pics? Submit a picture to MDC’s Annual Discover Nature Photo Contest in 2014

9 Things You Didn’t Know About Groundhogs

Watch a Fox Hunt Field-Mice in the Deep Snow in the Black Hills

Watch a Baby Black Bear Learn the Ropes in Wyoming

Former Boy Scout Leaders Charged For Toppling Ancient Rock in Utah

Mysterious Rock Found By Mars Rover

Cool Weather Phenomenon: Ice Disk Spins in River
2014 Master Naturalist Spring Training Course Begins in March!

It’s time to train a new class of Master Naturalists! Orientation will be on Tuesday Feb 11th. Classes will meet Tuesday evenings at the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area Headquarters beginning March 4th and ending May 13th. Three Saturday field trips are included. Enrollment fee is $95. More information and application packet here: http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/masternaturalist.aspx

The Public Relations Committee is looking for your help in spreading the word about Missouri Master Naturalists!

Do you know of any events or programs that would benefit from having a booth or table or speaker sharing information about the Missouri Master Naturalist program? This year we hope to have a bigger presence at events and programs that reach lots of people, e.g. Earth Day Festival. Please share your ideas in an email to mmnpublicrelations@gmail.com.

Calendar Contest Winner for February

Jeanie Scott-Pillen

Killdeer Nest in Master Naturalist Garden

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area
UPCOMING EVENTS

Wild & Scenic Film Festival - Sunday, Feb. 9. The Blue Note, Columbia, MO. Sponsored by Missouri River Relief. Please call 573-443-0292 or visit http://www.riverrelief.org/

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

For updated information on advanced training opportunities, please see the online Chapter calendar at http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/masternaturalist.aspx. To submit an opportunity for advanced training consideration, use the form on the chapter website and email it to MMNATrain@gmail.com.

Introductory Water Quality Monitoring Class offered by Missouri Stream Team: Saturday April 26th in Jefferson City -- also note that workshops are offered during other times/locations, please check the calendar at the link below for more information. The workshops are free and consist of six hours of classroom instruction and 1-2 hours on a stream. Register to attend here: http://www.mostreamteam.org/wqintro.asp

STATEWIDE ADVANCED TRAINING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Missouri Master Naturalist state website periodically posts advanced training and volunteer opportunities offered throughout the state and open to all MMNs. To view these postings, go to the state website at http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/masternaturalist.aspx and click on the link “Volunteer Opportunities.” State Advanced Training is also posted on our chapter calendar.

SAVE THE DATES: “Celebrating Nature in the City”: 2014 Missouri Naturalist Advanced Training Conference in Kansas City, Friday May 30th to Sunday June 1st. Osage Trails Master Naturalists invite you to join them for a weekend of celebrating nature in the city and ten years of Master Naturalist in Missouri. Pre-conference field trips, two days of top-notch training sessions and fun-filled networking opportunities await you. All Master Naturalists currently active with their chapter are welcome to attend. Topics include: Archery and atlatls, Botany, Bird calls, Dragonflies and damselflies, Glades, Rattlesnakes, Survival skills...and much more! Save the date and make plans to join us. More information coming soon!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer for Blue Bird Box Monitoring: Columbia Audobon Society

Volunteers Needed March to September: Help monitor bluebird boxes once a week from March through September along the bluebird trail at each of three Columbia Audobon properties. The monitoring would include checking for the presence of eggs, counting the eggs, looking for signs of predation, counting hatchlings, and species nest and egg ID. Time commitment: 1 or 2 hours/week. Code for Timesheet = CAS. Contact Bill Mees 573-445-7781 or jandbmees@mchsi.com

Volunteer for Discover Nature School Field Experiences: Missouri Department of Conservation

Volunteers Needed in April & May: Provide support and assistance during nature-based field trips in Mid-Missouri. The program partners with schools to provide curriculum and hands-on experiences for kids. We need volunteers to assist us with groups as they explore and learn about nature. More information at http://mdc.mo/gov/education/discover-nature-schools. Code for Timesheet = MDC. Contact Betsy Blake at Betsy.Blake@mdc.mo.gov.
2014 Officers

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NEXT MEETING
Thursday, March 13th 6:30 PM
MU Extension Building
INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

Learn about the fascinating life of European honey bees with beekeeper Valerie Duever. She will show you the tools of the trade and a preview of the basics of beekeeping along with what’s involved in establishing your first hive. Learn how honeybees can help your prairie or garden and why you might want to keep them.

To promote awareness and citizen stewardship of natural resources through science-based education and community service.