NEXT MEETING
Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

NOTE LOCATION CHANGE!!
The Planetarium at Rock Bridge High School
4303 S. Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203
Melanie Knocke, “Forces of Nature”
This program by National Geographic focuses on Earth and its ever-changing surface. Follow scientists as they study earthquakes, volcanoes and tornadoes. A star tour will also be part of the presentation.

NOTE: No refreshments will be provided because of the site change.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS
Emily Wilson

As I look out my window at the snow and the birds at the bird feeder, I think of Spring. Spring cleaning; my windows need to be cleaned. Another item that needs to be handled in Spring is bush honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*. There are two species of what we call bush honeysuckle in Missouri: Morrow’s and Amur. These honeysuckles are native to Asia. Bush honeysuckle is spread by birds. As this snow melts and the temperature starts to rise, so will the honeysuckle. The best way to remove seedlings is to pull them up while the ground is moist. Larger plants need to be dug or cut with herbicide applied to the stump. Check out the MDC web site for more information about bush honeysuckle control. Another site for information is [www.fosc.org/RIP/BushHoneysuckle.htm](http://www.fosc.org/RIP/BushHoneysuckle.htm)
Pallid Sturgeon Efforts Are Held Up

Sharks Had Better Watch Out For This Seal
http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/blog/50917/shark-eating+seal+among+rare+and+stunning+scenes+documented+off+south+africa/

Full Moon Beauty

Dolphins Help People Fish
http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2013/01/fishing_with_dolphins_symbiosis_between_humans_and_marine_mammals_to_catch.html

Adorable Baby Bats
http://now.msn.com/bat-babies-are-adorable-video

Not Something You See Every Day

A Brave Little Mouse

A Call for Backyard Biodiversity
http://www.americanforests.org/magazine/article/backyard-biodiversity

Stunning Photos from Arizona
http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/blog/51199/bucket+list+capturing+light+color+and+texture+in+antelope+canyon+arizona/

Can You Spot the Critters?

How About Now? Can You Spot the Critters Now?

Bad News for Butterflies

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Spring is coming! See you soon! Photo credit: Nancy Bowles
A Reason To Be Glad For All The Snow

Melting Snow Means Better Habitat for Frogs and Toads
By Rock Bridge State Park Naturalist Roxie Campbell

While we may or may not have enjoyed the snow we’ve received, it is welcome moisture that will benefit wildlife such as frogs and toads that need ponds for laying eggs and raising young. With the severe drought, the June, 2012 frog and toad survey had little to report … except, that is, for three bats, one barred owl, six lightning bugs and the flyover of the international space station! Statewide, reports from those who monitor frogs and toads indicated fewer numbers, especially for the June survey, and reported species calling several weeks earlier than usual March through May. This year’s surveys may reveal more about the effects of the 2012 drought as we suspect that fewer frogs completed metamorphosis and that some adults may have died from lack of moisture and food. Here in April, 2013, we should start hearing Northern spring peepers, Western chorus frogs, Southern leopard frogs, pickerel frogs and American toads. Each can be identified by its distinct call. Pickerel frogs, whose call sounds like a snore, are detected at only 1% of statewide survey locations, but are usually detected at several Rock Bridge ponds – probably because pickerel frogs overwinter in park caves in addition to finding suitable habitat in park ponds. Helping conduct frog and toad surveys on three nights in spring and summer is just one task that volunteers do. If you’d like to help, contact Roxie Campbell at Roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7400. Or, just for fun, listen for frog calls on warm evenings (above 50 degrees F).

And Now For Some Hope of Spring

Thanks to Suzanne Wright for this submission:

In the Late Season
by Tom Hennen

At the soft place in the snowbank
Warmed to dripping by the sun
There is the smell of water.
On the western wind the hint of glacier.
A cottonwood tree warmed by the same sun
On the same day,
My back against its rough bark
Same west wind mild in my face.
A piece of spring
Pierced me with love for this empty place
Where a prairie creek runs
Under its cover of clear ice
And the sound it makes,
Mysterious as a heartbeat,
New as a lamb.
Congratulations To Boone’s Lick MMN Members For Recent Recognition!

Carolyn Doyle of Boone’s Lick MMN and Karen Blackmore, both of the Columbia Garden Club, took Best Design That Reflects the Artwork, Best Creative Design and Honorable Mention 'Best in Show' for their arrangement, “Portrait of a Musician,” at Art in Bloom, March 15-17, 2013. Click on the link below to see their beautiful work. Congratulations, Carolyn!

http://mrkewpie.zenfolio.com/p105350771

Chris Egbert Gets Thanks For His Work With Pallid Sturgeon

This is from the February issue of “Fishing Lines,” US Fish and Wildlife Service-Midwest Region:

Volunteer Spotlight: Chris Egbert

BY COLBY WRASSE, CREW LEADER, COLUMBIA FWCO

I feel small standing next to Chris, and not just because his 6'4" frame towers over me. No, I feel small because the height of the man’s character casts such a tall shadow. Chris Egbert has been our volunteer extraordinaire over the past few years, logging hundreds of hours assisting with our pallid sturgeon monitoring and brood stock collection efforts. Whenever we need an extra hand, Chris is always there. His motto has always been, “Whenever you need me,” and he really means it.

Public service seems to be in his DNA, as he has spent a lifetime serving his country, state and city. As a young man, Chris served in the U.S. Navy, completing two tours in the Vietnam War Zone. He chose law enforcement as his career, retiring at the rank of Captain from the Columbia Police Department in 1993, and then retiring from Missouri State Government in 2008 after a career with the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections.

Now retired, Chris isn’t spending his golden years watching daytime television. In addition to volunteering for our office, he also volunteers with Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge and the Raptor Rehabilitation Project at the University of Missouri’s School of Veterinary Medicine. When he’s not volunteering, you are likely to find Chris roaming the streams and woods of Missouri, catching trout or hunting squirrels. Or he might be in his workshop turning slabs of wood and common gourds into works of art. Or maybe you will find him doting on his granddaughter Ella, or treating his wife Kay to dinner and a show. But you will not find him sitting idly by twiddling his thumbs watching the time pass. Though retired, he keeps plenty busy.
USFWS Volunteer Spotlight, continued:

Now a seasoned volunteer, Chris is like a member of our field crew. His youthful looks and boundless energy belie his calendar age, as he’s able to perform fieldwork that tests a 20-year-old’s strength and stamina. Chris is always ready with a lively story and a good joke to keep the day interesting, and even though we often ask him to volunteer on cold, windy, rainy days, he is always ready to come back for more. I would say that I wish we had more volunteers like Chris, but it is not possible, because he’s truly one of a kind.

MEMBERS’ CORNER

by Susan Hazelwood

Training for the Class of 2013 has begun. In fact, they now have four sessions completed. They’re settling in, getting acquainted with each other and becoming comfortable making queries of the speakers. It is nice to see. Everyone who starts this program seems eager for this knowledge-acquiring phase of the master naturalist program. That is also good to see. That learning continues, even for those of us who have reached the certification stage of our master naturalist careers.

While the learning phase is something we do for ourselves, the D.O.T. phase is the one with the most meaning and potential. You ask “What is D.O.T.?” It stands for Donating Our Time. Our chapter has many collaborating partner organizations that offer us a variety of ways to make our contributions. We are able to focus on giving through service, not just philanthropy. The inception of the master naturalist program came with the intention of educating citizen conservationists and the expectation that they give of themselves.

During D.O.T. days, the feelings and actions of comradeship, understanding, and joy at doing activities we love hold even more power and focus when we see the strength that comes with many of us giving our time to bring action to tasks and to see some tasks carried through to completion. It is known as collective service.

So while we each learn from our master naturalist experiences, while we personally grow, our collective service makes meaningful changes in our world. By giving our time, we change people and places.

I hope our new colleagues will be generous in donating their time through their individual and collective service to others. I hope that this will become a natural expansion of their way of life. Those from the classes ahead of you eagerly await your infusion of energy, new ideas and smiling faces. Welcome to the Class of 2013!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Native Plant Sale
Saturday, April 13, 2013: 10:00am - 2:00pm, at the MU Bradford Research and Extension Center

Featured:

• Five Missouri native plant and shrub vendors
• Native plant themed books and items made by local artists for sale
• Many learning opportunities through informative booths and demonstrations!

Bradford Research and Extension Center is located east of Columbia at 4968 Rangeline Road. See our website for detailed driving directions.

This event is free for everyone to attend, rain or shine!

Community Garden Backyard Organic Fruit Crops, A Tour With Q&A
Saturday, April 6, 2013, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
NE Corner of Broadway and Anderson. Parking in the Montessori School parking lot (directly across Anderson from 719 W. Broadway) is ok, if there’s no school event.
719 West Broadway, Columbia MO

Join us for a casual Community Garden two-hour discussion on fruit gardening. The location this month is the garden of James Quinn, MU's Regional Horticulture Specialist. This free event is open to all. E-mail Adam at adammackenziesaunders@gmail.com to register. Just give your name and how many are in your group.

Class size: 20
Facilitator: James Quinn, quinnja@missouri.edu, Cole County MU Extension Center. Phone: 573/634-2824

Friends of Big Muddy Fish Fry and Organizational Meeting
Saturday April 13 at 11am
For more information, please contact Diane Oerly, on behalf of the Friends of Big Muddy. Oerlyd@missouri.edu or via cell phone (573) 356 6938.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Saturday Morning Science
A Dry Topic: How Plants Adapt To Drought. Saturday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.
Refreshments available a half-hour prior. Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Center, corner of Rollins and College. Free and open to the public.
Advanced Training Opportunities, Continued

**Big Muddy Speaker Series**


**Stream Team Intro Level Workshop**
*Saturday, April 20, 8:30-5:00. Register by Wednesday, April 3.* MDC Central Regional Office, 3500 East Gans Road, Columbia. For more info, go to [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).

**Lincoln University Native Plants Program**
*Saturday, April 27, 2pm-5pm.* Martin Community Center, 1985 S. Odell, Marshall, MO.

Learn more about native plants and purchase seedlings of plants growing in the Outdoor Laboratory. Free. Contact Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall for more info: Navarrete-TindallN@LincolnU.edu.

**Spring Wildflower Walks**
*Sunday, April 21, Katy Trail State Park:*

- **History to Hyacinths,** Moderate hike from Rocheport Tunnel to Diana Bend Trail. Two miles. 3-5 p.m. Pictographs, Rocheport history and wildflowers.

- **Eagle’s View,** challenging hike up Eagle Bluffs Overlook Trail. Three miles, one half mile steep. 2-5 p.m. Spring wildflowers in their preferred habitat from bottomland to bluff top.

- **River’s Edge,** easy hike from Cooper’s Landing. One mile, some off trail, no hills. 2-5 p.m. Learn wildflower folklore and local history.

For more info, please call 573-449-7402.

**Where the Wildflowers Grow, Saturday, April 27,** 1-4 p.m. Two-mile hike through Gans Creek Wild Area. For reservations, please call 573-449-7400.

**Weekly Walks, Thursdays through May 16,** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Meet at Devil’s Ice Box parking lot. No reservations required.

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**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/masternaturalist](http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist) and click on the link “For Volunteers.” State Advanced Training is also posted on our chapter calendar.
For updated information on volunteer opportunities, please see the online calendar on the chapter website at: http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/. Please contact the person indicated for more detailed information on any of the projects. To submit a project for consideration, for service hours, fill out a Service Project Form (available at http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/Projectapproval.htm) and email it to MMNVolOpps@gmail.com for consideration. You will be notified via e-mail if there are any questions about the project or notified of its approval. Once approval is granted for any person, it is approved for everyone, so it is only necessary to submit one form per project.

**Columbia Crawdads Stream Team Cleanup (code COC)**

**Saturday, April 13. This is part of Cleanup Columbia.** Following by a picnic lunch at Twin Lakes Recreation Area.

*Location: TBD*

Be part of a group of like-minded citizens lending a hand to make Columbia cleaner by picking up litter at these events held the 2nd Saturday morning of each month. Beforehand, staff will identify and communicate to those who register the following: the area to be cleaned, the place to meet and the start time. Each cleanup will be different – streets and/or streams will be cleaned. A fellow volunteer will lead you in this pro-environment effort and will bring the supplies you'll need! If interested, contact Lisa Rohmiller, 874-7499, or email her at volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com to get on the contact list.

**Earth Day BLMMN Booth**

**Sunday, April 21.** (Rain date: April 28.) Peace Park, Columbia. Festivities run from noon to 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities begin with set-up, 9-11 a.m., followed by two-hour shifts manning the booth from 11-1, 1-3, 3-5 and 5-6:45, with three people required per shift. You may also volunteer to help plan the program. Please contact Meredith Donaldson at mjdonlsn@gmail.com to let her know your availability.

**Marsh Bird Survey**

**Beginning April 1-30 with migration and early breeding.** Training is offered at Eagle Bluffs April 10 and 11. Additional surveys will be conducted throughout May and June. Sponsored by MO River Bird Observatory, MDC and Audubon Society of MO. Be prepared to wade through marshes at dawn and dusk and enjoy spectacular wildlife viewing. Please contact Ethan Duke at ethan.duke@mrbo.org or call 660-886-8788 for more information on survey parameters. You may also check the website at http://www.mrbo.org/Pages/marshbirds.html.

**Help Save Pallid Sturgeon**

**Ongoing through April 19.** The Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, USFWS, needs help to collect pallid sturgeon brood stock for hatchery spawning. Workdays are a full day, and you may get cold, wet and dirty, but you’ll be performing important environmental recovery work. Please contact Anna Clark with your top three weekdays at anna_clark@fws.gov. Please allow one week for a response.

**Band With Nature**

**Field trip for 2nd Graders, Tuesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 25.** Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary, 3607 Bray Avenue. Ten volunteers are needed for each of four half-day sessions. You may volunteer for only one session or more than one. Morning sessions run from 9:00-12:30, and afternoon sessions will be held from noon to 3:15. Those who volunteer all day will receive lunch. For more info or to register, please contact Bill Mees at 445-7781 or jandbmees@mchsi.com.
2013 Officers

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NEXT MEETING
Thursday, May 9
6:30 PM
MU Extension Bldg

Monitoring Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Trails

In 2010, Jane Fore and Mary Williamson began to monitor nest box trails for the Columbia Audubon Society, a Boone’s Lick MMN partner. Their presentation will address monitoring logistics, record keeping, and establishing a nest box trail.

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