NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:
THURSDAY APRIL 9TH
6:30PM
MU EXTENSION BUILDING

The topic of this month’s chapter meeting will be...

A SURPRISE!

Due to some scheduling problems, the plans for our program this month are still in progress, but we WILL have a meeting this Thursday evening -- hope to see you there!

This mystery program will be approved for 1 hour of Advanced Training. Members count 1 hour of Advanced Training in addition to 1 hour of service plus travel time. Advanced Training does not require a timesheet code. The timesheet code for service/travel time is ADM.
Bring your cup & plate & utensils – NONE will be provided!
Drinks: Robbie Scholes  Sweets: Meredith Donaldson  Savories: Jan Martin

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Robbie Scholes (Class of 2013)

I have had groundhogs living under my shed for several years now. Today is the first day I saw one out in my yard this year. The sighting of the groundhog lets me know that spring is here! The groundhog, or woodchuck, is one of 14 species of marmots and is the largest member of the squirrel family. Though they are usually seen on the ground, they can climb trees and are also capable swimmers. These rodents frequent the areas where woodlands meet open spaces, like fields, roads, or streams. Here they eat grasses and plants as well as fruits and tree bark. These rodents live a feast-or-famine lifestyle -- they gorge themselves all summer to build up plentiful reserves of fat. After the first frost, they retreat to their underground burrows and snooze until spring, drawing their sustenance from body fat. While hibernating, the animal's heart rate plunges, and its body temperature is not much warmer than the temperature inside its burrow. Groundhogs can be the bane of many a gardener! Every time I tell someone I have groundhogs living under my shed, the reaction I get is always one of disgust. However, I have come to appreciate them and look forward to seeing the first one in the spring. I must add that the groundhogs and I have an understanding: if I put out some critter food for the ground feeding birds, they will leave my yard alone. So far, this has worked!

“Take a quiet walk with Mother Nature. It will nurture your mind, body, and soul.”
-Athony Douglas Williams – Inside the Divine Pattern

-Robbie Scholes, President, Boone’s Lick Master Naturalists

Information taken from: http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/groundhog/

MEMBER’S CORNER
Attend a “Hands On” Fruit Care Workshop (Friday April 10th)

Sign up for the final workshop in this series. It will be 2 hours long & held in central Columbia. Cost is $25. Disease and insect pest control of fruit plantings- Fri. Apr. 10 at 4PM. Fruit gardening enthusiasts have enjoyed this series; this is its 6th year.

For complete information e-mail Beth Carter or visit the Boone County Extension Center website. Sponsored by MU Extension and Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners

If you would like to request that this event be approved as Advanced Training, please complete an Advanced Training Approval Form in advance, you can find the form here.

The City of Columbia Treekeepers will be giving away FREE TREES at the Columbia Farmer’s Market this Saturday April 11th beginning at 8am. Learn about the Treekeepers here, and the Columbia Farmer’s Market here.

This year’s Earth Day Festival happens on Sunday, April 19th at and around Peace Park on Elm Street in downtown Columbia. Be sure to stop by and visit our chapter’s booth – our focus this year is the endangered pallid sturgeon. You can find more information about the festival here.
Discover nature and learn more about eagles, owls and falcons at Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Runge Nature Center’s Wings over Water watershed education program. This interactive, family-friendly event features staff from the World Bird Sanctuary who will tell the story of these amazing birds and fly them over the audience, dramatically illustrating the importance of protecting the birds, their habitat, and Missouri’s water resources. The Wings over Water program is sponsored by Missouri American Water.

Runge Nature Center is located on Hwy 179 in Jefferson City approximately .5 mile north of Hwy 50. Building hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. The building is closed on Sunday and Monday. The outdoor trails are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

If you would like to request that this event be approved as Advanced Training, please complete an Advanced Training Approval Form in advance, you can find the form here.

For updated information on volunteer opportunities, please see the online calendar on the chapter website. 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 Volunteer Opportunity Approval Form, and email it to MMNVolOpps@gmail.com for consideration.
Help with 2015 Pallid Sturgeon Broodstock Collection Efforts

Every year, the Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office uses gill nets and trot lines in an effort to capture endangered Pallid Sturgeon to be used in the Pallid Sturgeon rearing and stocking programs at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery and Blind Pony State Fish Hatchery. These events require “all hands on deck” for a lot of work. It is an excellent opportunity to see and handle some of the coolest Missouri River fish species including Paddlefish, Lake Sturgeon and, of course Pallids! So join us for a day (or a few!) on the river!

Volunteer for one day or many, we will arrange a schedule based on our needs, gear availability and your preferences.

Times: usually 8am-4/5pm, and Locations: Jeff City and Columbia. Work will require heavy lifting/pulling in nets, standing for most of the day, exposure to weather, and getting wet, dirty and fishy!

Dates: Tuesday April 7th, Wednesday April 8th, Thursday April 9th, and Friday April 10th.

What you will need: Lunch (we will be outside, no microwaves to warm up frozen burritos!), Water bottle (there will be a water jug to refill bottles), a hat, work gloves, sunglasses, a dry bag or large baggie for spare clothes, and waterproof boots. Sunscreen & bug spray will be provided.

To sign up or for more info contact: Amber Masters: amber_masters@fws.gov, 573-234-2132x175. Please include the following information: Dates and times of availability, if you need rain gear or boots, your size for life jackets, rain gear, gloves and boots, and location (we can arrange for you to meet us at a boat ramp).

Opportunity Code for Timesheets: CFWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRAIRIE FORK EARTH DAY: TUESDAY 4/28

Volunteers are needed to assist with a 4th grade field day in association with Earth Day at Prairie Forks Conservation. In addition to volunteers, the event planners are also looking for someone with knowledge of aquatic biology or micro-vertebrates. Please contact Ralph Tucker to RSVP at (636) 583-2303 Ext.106 or email Ralph.tucker@mo.usda.gov

Learn more about the Prairie Fork Conservation Area here. Opportunity Code for Timesheets: OTHER

Additional VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES for April 2015
- **Saturday April 11th from 8am to 11am:** Work Party with Native Plants at Rock Bridge Elementary (Timesheet Code CCUA)
- **Saturday April 11th from 8am to 11am:** Columbia Crawdads Stream Team Clean-up (Timesheet Code COC)
- **Wednesday April 15th from 7:30am to 4pm, Destination TBA:** Birding Trip Hosted by Bill Clark (Timesheet Code CAS)
- **Saturday April 18th from 10am to 12pm:** Work Party with Native Plants at Russell Elementary (Timesheet Code CCUA)
- **Monday April 20th from 1pm to 3pm:** Work Party with Native Plants at Rock Bridge High School Rain Garden (Timesheet Code CCUA)
- **Wednesday April 22nd from 7:30am to 4pm:** Birding Trip Hosted by Bill Clark (Timesheet Code CAS)
- **Friday April 24th:** Frog Survey #2 at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (Timesheet Code RBMSP)
- **Wednesday April 29th from 7:30am to 4pm:** Birding Trip Hosted by Bill Clark (Timesheet Code CAS)
- **Wednesday April 29th from 3:30pm to 5:30pm:** Work Party with Native Plants at Russell Elementary (Timesheet Code CCUA)

**Check out the online Chapter calendar for more details about the above volunteer opportunities and to RSVP to volunteer!**

**ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

For updated information on advanced training opportunities, please see the online Chapter calendar. To submit an opportunity for advanced training consideration, use the form on the chapter website and email it to MMNATrain@gmail.com.

**THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE MISSOURI MASTER NATURALIST ADVANCED TRAINING CONFERENCE IS FRIDAY APRIL 10TH!**

This year’s Advanced Training Conference will be May 1st to 3rd in Springfield. Learn more about the conference here. On the website, you will find session descriptions, presenter biographies, hotel information, and camping links.

Please be sure to...
✓ Consider donating items to the Silent Auction & Raffle.
✓ Share your nature-related artwork in the ImagiNature Art Contest.
✓ Enjoy the entertainment of Saturday Evening’s Musical Guests, including Goat Milk Honey, the Techs and the Roadies, and Uncle Bob, with comedy sketches by the Master Naturalist Players.
✓ CARPOOL to the conference! Please email Jill Edwards and she will connect you with others.
✓ SHARE A HOTEL ROOM at the conference! Please email Jill Edwards and she will connect you with others.
If you need financial help in order to attend this year’s conference, please email a brief statement to Linda Karns.

The University of Missouri sponsors “Saturday Morning Science” talks from 10:30AM to 11:30AM in the Monsanto Auditorium of the Bond Life Sciences Center on the MU Campus (1201 Rollins Street, at corner of Rollins Street and College Avenue). The topics listed below have been approved for 1 hour of Advanced Training. For more information and directions, please click here.
NOTE: Other talks are listed on the website, but only the talks below have been approved for AT.

SATURDAY APRIL 11TH: At the Dawn of Animal Life: Exceptional Views of an Exceptional Evolutionary Story, presented by Jim Schiffbauer, Geological Sciences. Our earliest animal ancestors lived nearly 600 million years ago; in the geological blink of an eye, they evolved to representatives of nearly every major animal group known today. We’ll talk about how and why this incredible event occurred and more.

SATURDAY APRIL 18TH: Plants “Hear” the Darndest Things, presented by Heidi Appel (Plant Sciences) and Rex Cocroft (Biological Sciences). Even without ears, plants experience an incredible world of vibrations. We will explore the strange universe of plant-borne vibrations, and talk about new research showing that plants pay attention to the crunching of hungry caterpillars.

Did you miss an interesting Saturday Morning Science program at MU? Here’s a chance to see some of the past ones, or see them again: http://satscience.missouri.edu/multimedia.php
Mizzou Botanical Garden presents Chip Taylor as part of the Jacquelyn Kay Jones Lectureship Series. Chip Taylor is founder of Monarch Watch, a non-profit outreach program that focuses on education, research and conservation relative to monarch butterflies. Dr. Taylor is a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Kansas. Learn more about Monarch Watch here.

RSVP for the “Where the Wildflowers Grow” Hike (Saturday May 2nd at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park)
This free two hour hike at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park will be led by Roxie Campbell, park naturalist. Master Naturalists and RBMSP volunteers will become familiar with a trail in the Gans Wild Area, and receive advanced training in identification of woodland and glade wildflowers, including their edible and medicinal uses, and habitat niches. By observing Roxie lead the hike, Master Naturalists will gain skills in interpreting nature to the public. This training is sponsored by RBMSP Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Reservation is required – please call 573-449-7400 to register.

SIGN UP FOR AN INTRODUCTORY VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING WORKSHOP (Sat May 9th in Columbia MO)
The Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) Program is a cooperative effort between the Missouri Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Conservation Federation of Missouri to involve citizens in water quality monitoring. These one-day workshops are free and consist of six hours of classroom instruction and one to two hours on a stream to demonstrate sampling methods, get wet, and learn about aquatic life. If you have already taken the Introductory VWQM Workshop in the past but would like to refresh yourself on water quality monitoring procedures, please feel free to register and attend.
A workshop will be held in Columbia on May 9th from 8:30am to 5pm. To register, complete the online registration form on the Stream Team website. For more information you can contact the Stream Team at Streamteam@dnr.mo.gov or 573/781-1989 (Stream Team voicemail).
See an interesting video or article online? Please share your link via email to mmndragonflyer@gmail.com, and it could end up in the next issue of the Dragonfly!

California is Running Out of Water: Residents Face Their First Mandatory Water Restrictions

Saint Louis Zoo’s Grizzly Bear Bert Died

2,000 Snow Geese Drop Dead from the Sky in Idaho in March

The US Side of Niagara Falls Froze Over in February: Cool Pictures!

The Best Animal Parenting Photos Ever

What Happens When Meteorites Hit Snow? Snow Carrots!

Pictures from the Total Solar Eclipse over Norway on March 20th

A Cat and a Turtle Play a Slow Game of Tag

Check out this Cute Squeaking Desert Rain Frog

10 Close-up Shots of Dragonflies

National Geographic’s Best Photos: February 2015

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Upcoming Monthly Meeting
Thursday May 14th @ 6:30pm
MU Extension Office (1012 North Highway UU, Columbia MO 65203)

Presentation by the Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri
Greenbelt Land Trust of mid-Missouri began in 1993 as the Greenbelt Coalition, an advocacy group supporting conservation ideals and the vision of creating a network of “greenbelt” lands in and around Columbia, Missouri. Working in partnership with the city of Columbia, Greenbelt laid the groundwork for the public trail in the Hinkson Creek valley. In 1997 the Greenbelt Coalition accepted its first donation of private land, and concept of a land trust emerged. The year 2004 completed the transition and Greenbelt Land Trust of mid-Missouri was officially formed. Learn more here.

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**Missouri Master Naturalists**  
**Boone’s Lick Chapter**  
**2015 Officers**

**Please Join Us on Facebook: Missouri Master Naturalist, Boone’s Lick Chapter**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Robbie Scholes (Class of 2013)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MMNblpresident@gmail.com">MMNblpresident@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Linda Karns (Class of 2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Historian</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:BohlmeyerR@umsystem.edu">BohlmeyerR@umsystem.edu</a></td>
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**Committees**

- **Advanced Training Committee**  
  - Linda Karns (Class of 2011)  
  - MMNATrain@gmail.com
- **Communications Committee**  
  - Jill Edwards (Class of 2013)  
  - MMNDragonflyer@gmail.com
- **Hospitality Committee**  
  - Sally Swanson (Class of 2006)  
  - embroiderit@socket.net
- **Public Relations Committee**  
  - Chris Egbert (Class of 2009)  
  - MMNpublicrelations@gmail.com
- **Training Committee**  
  - Suzanne Wright (Class of 2005)  
  - frontdesk@pwarchitects.com
- **Volunteer Opportunities & Project Approval Committee**  
  - Phil Knocke (Class of 2006)  
  - MMNVolOpps@gmail.com

**Chapter Co-Advisors**

- Kent Shannon  
  - University Extension  
  - ShannonD@missouri.edu  
- Bob Pierce  
  - University Extension  
  - PierceR@missouri.edu
To promote awareness and citizen stewardship of natural resources through science-based education and community service.