Have you ever wondered what goes on at a meeting of the Board of Directors? Did you know that all chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings as observers? Don't have time for that? If you would like to see the minutes of our past meetings, they are now available on our website along with the minutes for our chapter meetings: http://www.lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com/meeting_minutes.html. Don't have time for all that either? Here are some selected highlights...

Financial Structure

The way our chapter funds are handled is probably a mystery to most of us, and that is because ours are managed in a way that is somewhat unique. For tax and legal purposes we are not a non-profit - also known as 501 3(c) - as some might presume. Our funding is managed by the University of Missouri Extension (MUE). They manage our bank account, and do all the tax and other paperwork for us.

Limits on Fund Raising?

Sometimes the question comes up about limits on how much money we are allowed to have in our bank account. Some believe there is a $10,000 limit. IF we were a non-profit stand alone 501 3(c), there would be dollar limits that change how much paper work needs to be filed. BUT since our finances are part of MUE, they do all the paper work and there are no limits for us. We can raise as much money as we want.

How Funds Get Approved

The chapter manual and bylaws were intentionally written to set guidelines but allow a lot of flexibility. The only limit is that all expenditures over $250 must be approved by the board, but there is no mention of how smaller amounts are approved. Here is what the board decided on how to manage our finances for now:

We will have a rough proposed annual budget that is created by the Board of Directors and distributed to the chapter members. This eliminates the need to approve small expenses at chapter meetings (for example plants for the MDC gardens or the shelter reservation fee for the summer social).

At the January chapter meeting when the standing committees meet and select their chair, they will also decide how much funding they desire for the year. The January board meeting will be after this so that proposed budgets for the committees are known. We will continue to vote at chapter meetings on donations we give to other groups (for example Eagle Days or Goodwin Sink Hole).

How to Get Reimbursed

According to our bylaws, signatures from two officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) are required for approval of all chapter expenditures. The first signature must be either the Treasurer or President and second can be any other officer. A form was recently created for this purpose called "Expenditure Approval Form". It is on our Members Only page on our website.

Reimbursement checks are sent out by MUE at the end of the month. The form with the two signatures along with the bill need to be given to the Treasurer in time for the expense to be submitted to MUE.

If you do not want to wait for the MUE check writing cycle, you can also be reimbursed from our petty cash fund that is held at the MDC office safe. The form with two officer signatures is still required. You must notify Jodi in advance (only two people have the combination, and Jodi is not one of them). Members may then go to the MDC office or ask that funds are brought to the chapter meeting.
Reminder: chapter dues are paid in January.

Make checks made payable to “University of MO Extension”. Bring your check to the January meeting, or mail it to our Treasurer:

Dave Fosnough
1010 Fontana Lane
Linn Creek, MO 65052

Our Leadership

• President - Don Koeninger
• Vice President - Carolyn Solomon
• Secretary - Lauri Peterson
• Treasurer - Dave Fosnough
• Projects & Volunteer Services - Donna Foster
• Hospitality - Monique Martinson
• Fund Raising - Dennis Reed
• Advanced Training - Sandy Nelson
• Communications and Outreach - Laura Toombs
• Web Site - Cindy Gum
• Certifications - Linda Burns
• MDC Advisor - Jodi Moulder
• MU Advisor - Jackie Rasmussen

Save the Date!

The Osage Trails Chapter is hosting our next statewide advanced training
**May 30 – June 1, 2014** in Kansas City.

Laney Beaman of the Osage Trails chapter is looking for donations for their silent auction. Please contact her at laneybman@gmail.com if you can help.

Items from past conferences that sold best:

• field guides
• nature books
• framed nature photos or art work
• camping equipment
• garden items (even live native plants)

Save the Date!

The Osage Trails Chapter is hosting our next statewide advanced training
**May 30 – June 1, 2014** in Kansas City.

Laney Beaman of the Osage Trails chapter is looking for donations for their silent auction. Please contact her at laneybman@gmail.com if you can help.

Items from past conferences that sold best:

• field guides
• nature books
• framed nature photos or art work
• camping equipment
• garden items (even live native plants)

NAME THAT TREE!

This fun little game was created by Jean Knoll. Can you solve the puzzles and guess the correct tree? Jean also has a prize for the person that gets the most correct answers. Email your answers to Joann Billington at billington47@gmail.com, the winner will be announced at the January chapter meeting.

What is the double tree?
What tree is nearest the sea?
Name the laughing tree?
What is the calendar tree?
What tree will keep you warm?
What is the Egyptian plague tree?
What tree do we offer friends when meeting?
What tree is used in kissing?
What tree is used in a bottle?
What tree is used to describe pretty girls?
What tree is an emblem of grief?
What is the sweetest tree?

From The Editor...

Well, I am going to keep my comments here short. As you can see we have another issue packed (I could even say crammed?) with information, activities, and celebrations of all the excellent volunteer efforts of our chapter members. I think it speaks for itself. This is our fourth issue, bringing to a close a very fine first year for our newsletter. Thanks to all of the contributors that have made this possible. I have enjoyed working on this far more than I ever thought I would. I really appreciate the positive comments from everyone that has enjoyed reading this, and I am looking forward to next year. Keep all the great stories coming!
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to our members that achieved recent milestones!

October: Terri Thompson, Linda Commons, Al Kitta, John Kester.

Recertifications
- Linda Commons
- Terri Thompson
- Al Kitta
- John Kester
- Caroline Toole
- Lauri Peterson
- Dave Fosnough
- Gerry Williams
- Carol Bullard
- Laura Toombs

November: Laura Toombs, Lauri Peterson, Gerry Williams, Dave Fosnough, Caroline Toole, Carol Bullard.

250 hours (bronze)
- Linda Commons
- Terri Thompson

Gerry and Linda Williams – Married 50 years November 30

Billy Backues recently celebrated his 80th birthday! Hard to believe isn’t it? He has more energy and works harder than most people half that age.

Thank You!

- Dave Hammons for Advanced Training on black walnuts.
- Kathy Fayant for Advanced Training on native pollinators.
- To our out-going officers Joann Billington and Marvin Silliman for all of the hard work on behalf of our chapter. Your efforts are much appreciated!
- Welcome to our new officers, Treasurer Dave Fosnough and President Don Koeninger!
Right next door to our Lake in a quiet part of Maries County is the first designated natural area in Missouri. The Clifty Creek Natural Area and Clifty Creek Conservation Area cover 486 acres of rough but scenic country not far from the Gasconade River. In July, my wife, brother-in-law and I enjoyed a leisurely hike on the 2.5 mile trail around the creek valley.

It was late for spring bird watching and flower identification, but the trail was clear, the weather was great and we had the whole place to ourselves. The area offers a pristine dry-mesic upland forest and water-loving flora down along the creek. There are over 450 recorded plant species. The only animal activity was squirrels and some stream critters.

The creek valley is a study in dramatic dolomite erosion. The crown jewel is a 40-foot long natural bridge cut by a tributary of the Clifty. (photo) The arch is more or less half-way along the trail depending on which fork you choose below the parking lot.

The flower photo to the right is of a wild hydrangea seen along the trail in several places. It is distinguished by the large blossoms protruding from the edge of a central cluster of much smaller flowers. The tiny central blooms are fertile, but the large outer flowers are sterile and may serve to attract insects.

Hiker alerts: Some lower parts of the trail were damaged by the heavy rain in August. The trail is steep in some places and, as it follows the rough terrain, the change in elevation exceeds 200 feet. There is no drinking water, other than the creek, and no restrooms other than lots of trees.

http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/clifty-creek

By Ted Windels

Rain garden signs dedicated at Willmore Lodge

Have you seen the lovely 4-tiered rain garden at Willmore Lodge in Lake Ozark recently? Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance (LOWA) partnered with our Chapter to produce a trio of informative and attractive signs explaining what a rain garden is and some typical rain garden flowers and plants.

Once a badly eroding set of steps, this beautiful and functional rain garden is now part of a whole series of low-impact landscaping techniques that are being promoted by LOWA through their LOWA LILs for a Healthy Lake of the Ozarks nonpoint source pollution reduction grant with MO Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. LOWA LILs are measures individuals can take on their own property to help reduce soil erosion and manage stormwater runoff. LILs include not only rain gardens, but also terraced hillsides, vegetated buffer strips, stormwater catchments (like rain barrels), and native perennial plantings. LILs also include stabilization of seawalls and eroding shorelines.

For more information on LOWA’s cost share incentive program promoting LOWA LILs or to request a free yard visit and consultation, please sign up online at www.sosLOWA.org (click on Cost Share Project at the side bar) or call LOWA at 573.207.4707. The LOWA website has a lot of information on LOWA LILs and the cost share program.

The Willmore Lodge 4-tiered rain garden was designed and installed through a partnership with the Lake of the Ozarks Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist, Missouri Master Gardeners, MO Dept. of Conservation, DNR, Ameren Missouri, and LOWA. This rain garden helps keep pollution and contaminants out of our beautiful Lake of the Ozarks and is a Lake Protector, helping to keep our lake clean and healthy.

The signs were designed by Jean Knoll, Mary DeLacy, Joanne Gitchell, and Suzanne Kercher as part of their 2012 Capstone Project. LOWA mentored the project and provided the money to print and install the signs. ~By Caroline Toole

Donna Swall (LOWA), Jean Knoll, Mary DeLacy, Tom Wiltshire (LOWA), Geniece Tyler (Willmore Lodge Foundation), and Caroline Toole at the October 22 sign dedication.
More Stuff from Joann

Bandits! Bandits Everywhere!! I remember that’s what I thought the first time I saw Cedar Waxwings. Several years ago before we tore down our cabin to build our current home, we were here later in the fall of the year than normal. I got up one morning to see at least 50 birds that looked like bandits in a tree we had on the side of our deck. They were feasting on all the berries and wiped them out in the matter of an hour or so. What kind of tree you ask? I’m not sure—we always said it was a mulberry tree but in retrospect I’m not so sure. But Cedar Waxwings love most trees and shrubs that bear small fruits, such as dogwood, serviceberry, cedar, juniper, and hawthorn.

Cedar Waxwings have high-pitched call notes; are a silky collection of brown, gray and lemon-yellow accented with red droplets on the tips of the wing feathers, a yellow band on the end of their squared off tail feathers, and, of course, that black mask neatly outlined in white. They travel in flocks that grow, shrink, divide and rejoin much like starling flocks. Look for them in our area mostly in the winter time—such a gorgeous bird!

Speaking of winter time—we’ve had some bitterly cold days and nights. Ever wonder how birds survive? Bobwhites make a circle of the covey huddled side by side with heads facing out able to escape if necessary. Bluebirds have been seen communal roosting in a bird house—one blogger had a picture of 13 male eastern bluebirds all in one bluebird house sharing warmth. Other cavity nesters—chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers—have been known to do the same thing. Thick stands of cedars provide good cover also.

How can you help our birds survive? Roosting pockets provide warmth for birds. Birds-I-View suggests hanging them against the house, or under a carport or the interior of trees since those are places birds tend to seek shelter. They also recommend removing roosting pockets during nesting season starting about late March because they really are not suitable for nesting. Leave some of your yard cleanup for spring—leaving dead coneflowers, asters, native grasses, etc., may look somewhat unsightly, BUT it provides cover when the weather turns bitter. I have clematis on the front of my house, outside my kitchen window that I leave until spring to cut back. Each winter I notice a minimum of 8 to 10 birds using it to roost each night.

The Christmas season is upon us. I bet your birds would like to celebrate Christmas too! Decorate a tree that you can watch with pine cones covered in peanut butter or lard and sprinkled with bird seed and hang them with red ribbons. Or string some chunks of suet, popcorn, raisins or cranberries, marshmallows, etc., and hang that string on your tree. And when Christmas is over, place your live Christmas tree near one of your bird feeders. Birds will use it to roost as well as for cover until spring arrives.

I wish you a joyous and safe holiday spent with friends and family. Merry Christmas to each of you! Oh! By the way……………was Rudolph actually a female reindeer?!? Check it out! http://wild.enature.com/blog/was-rudolph-actually-a-female-reindeer?

Shoutout Volunteers Are Generously Rewarded

Lake of the Ozarks Shootout Director Ron Duggan, of Captain Ron’s, presented a check in the amount of $796 to an overjoyed Cindy Gum on October 10 at our monthly chapter meeting. This monetary award was in return for the approximately 72 hours of volunteer support provided by numerous chapter members at the week long series of Shootout events. The volunteer effort was headed by fund raising committee chairman Dennis Reed.

This will be used to fund many of our ongoing projects, including our scholarship program. Over the last 3 years a total of $ 7,000 has been awarded to 5 local students to help forward their education.
The most personal part of being a naturalist is the sensory experience of a natural setting. The unsettling call of a screech owl in the night forest, the ceaseless, menacing flow of a river, the joy of a spring morning chorus of songbirds, a thunderstorm crossing the big sky of an endless prairie, and the distant mystery of a mountain range never get old.

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River is a place that gives everyone, naturalist or not, that personal experience. My wife and I were driving west this September, averaging 700 miles a day and still a long way from our next motel, when we decided to take a side trip. I had seen the Canyon years ago, but Melanie had never been, and we were only an hour's drive from the South Rim.

To say that first vertiginous view from Mather Point was breathtaking is an understatement. There were clouds above and below the overlook. The setting sun illuminated sheer cliff faces the length of the canyon. There was a crowd at the designated overlooks, but our noise was absorbed by the incredible chasm below us. We walked along the Rim Trail and soon left the crowd behind. The view was spectacular from every vantage and the sense that I could float off into that vast space had me looking for a tree or rock to hold on to while Melanie strolled right up to the edge to take another photo. We also saw mule deer and elk in the woods.

We walked back to the car in the dark, glad we had made that decision to take a side trip.

The Grand Canyon was first afforded Federal protection in 1893 as a Forest Reserve and later in 1908 as a National Monument, but the Grand Canyon did not achieve National Park status until 1919, three years after the creation of the National Park Service.

Have you ever noticed that the National Park System doesn't just contain places designated as parks but also monuments, memorials, recreational areas, and much more? Have you ever wondered why? I noticed this when I first started planning visits to National Parks. Many places that I thought of as parks were called monuments – even though there wasn't anything in the park that I would consider to be a "monument", and I wondered why. The answer is that the difference is not necessarily what they contain, but how they were created. National Parks are created by Congress, but National Monuments can be created by Presidential Proclamation.

In 1906 there were concerns about the plundering of ancient Indian ruins in the west, and Congress passed the Antiquities Act. This gave the president an extraordinary power: the exclusive authority – without any Congressional approval – to preserve places for “…the protection of objects of historic and scientific interest…” that would be called National Monuments.

Theodore Roosevelt was President at that time, and made full use of this power. The first National Monument he created was in 1906, Devils Tower in Wyoming. But he was just getting started. Roosevelt realized that the wording of the Antiquities Act could be used to his advantage. He created a furor when on January 11, 1908, he stretched the Act to its limit by declaring the Grand Canyon to be “an object of unusual scientific interest” – and a National Monument. In all, he created 18 National Monuments over the course of his Presidency. —Lauri Peterson

Today there are 59 National Parks and 78 National Monuments as part of the 400 areas that are under management by the National Park Service.
November 9th, seventeen youthful explorers followed the Lake Ozark Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists into the woods for an afternoon of fun and learning! It was a beautiful day to be outside; everyone involved came away smiling after a full day’s worth of activities.

Gerry Williams started the adventure by having a little Turkey Talk with the 2013 Conservation Kids Club, discussing the history of the wild turkey in Missouri, speaking about hunting and everyone being involved in some turkey calling.

Next, Terri Thompson helped the club members explore what happens to a “Leaf Man” in the fall. Ed Thompson, then took us on a fall tree I.D. hike through the woods at the Ha Ha Tonka Post Office Shelter, where we learned a great deal about native tree species, their names and how to identify quite a few woodland residents.

Upon our return, Jodi Moulder and Joanne Billington helped us make outdoor snacks over the fire, and while our Banana boats were cooling down Monique Martinson showed us how to make Leaf Man collages and foil leaf rubbings.

Linda Commons wrapped things up with a discussion on how Missouri animals cope with the chilly weather coming soon and we played a game about the great “ATES” of Winter Survival.

We would love to have you come join us! All events are on Saturdays from 1-4pm:

☀️ February 14 at the MDC office in Camdenton - Be a Bird Brain!
☀️ May 3 at the Grand Glaize Beach pavilion in Osage Beach - Bubba’s 4 F’s of nature: Flowers, Fotos, Fishing, and Fun!

Please call Jodi to register your 3rd-5th graders at 573-346-2210 ext. 233. Come have some “Wild” fun with us!

Christmas Social - Above: before dinner. Near right: silent auction items raised over $100 in donations for CCCAC. Far right: members brought items to donate to CCCAC.
Our Volunteers

Caroline Toole and Jean Knoll maintain the Living Wall. Acorns a plenty! Several chapter members helped with the annual Oak Mast Count.

Kids Fishing Derby
October 9

Photos by Eric Davis

At Work
The story starts last May when Missouri Master Naturalist Glenn Commons was looking for some blackberries, and called the grower that had supplied him with berries the year before. The grower told him that it was too early (the blackberries weren’t ripe yet) and gave him a day in June when he should call back. Glenn put that day in his calendar, and when that day came, Glenn promptly called the grower.

To his dismay, the news that Glenn heard from the grower was that there were no blackberries. Incredibly, just the day before, the grower had noticed a problem with his crop. The fruit which had been fine and just ready to pick the day before suddenly seemed to be rotting on the vine instead. The grower called in an expert from the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) to help diagnose the problem, and hoped to receive some solutions. The expert determined that this was an infestation of a tiny recently introduced fruit fly called the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD for short).

SWD is a kind of fruit or “vinegar fly” that lays its eggs inside soft skinned fruit. Within a couple of days the eggs hatch and the larva quickly turn the fruit into a vinegary smelling mush. This fruit fly had suddenly descended on blackberry crops all over Missouri, ruining them in a sudden and unexpected wave of destruction. At the same time, Glenn began to notice some rotting spots on peaches from his own tree that appeared to be from SWD activity.

For most people the story would probably end right here. But not for Glenn. Glenn decided that, as a Missouri Master Naturalist, there ought be something he could do. So, Glenn began to notice some rotting spots on peaches from his own tree that appeared to be from SWD activity.

Finally he was connected to someone that was very excited to have a day in June when he should call back. Glenn promptly called the grower that had supplied him with berries the year before. The grower told him that it was too early (the blackberries weren’t ripe yet) and gave him a day in June when he should call back. Glenn put that day in his calendar, and when that day came, Glenn promptly called the grower.

Something that Glenn learned from Dr. Piñero is that IPM is an environmentally sensitive approach that uses current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information is used to manage pest damage using solutions that have the least possible hazard to the environment, at the best possible times, and are the most economical.

IPM prevents indiscriminate over spraying of either excessive amounts of chemicals, or of excessively toxic chemicals that can sometimes be employed in an attempt to control an infestation that is not well understood. If the life cycle of the pest is poorly understood, then chemicals may be used at the wrong times, or ones that are less effective may be employed. If the size of the infestation is unknown, more chemicals may be used than are needed.

Dr. Piñero gave Glenn a special trap that is used to gather information about where the SWD is found and how common they are. The trap is a small container that contains a sugar/yeast bait and a sticky pad. The container is hung on a tree and left for a week at a time. Insects are attracted to the bait and get stuck on the sticky pad when they enter the trap. Glenn hung one on his peach tree and caught two SWD.

Dr. Piñero’s goal is to have one trap in every county that is changed out every week and the sticky pads sent back to him for analysis. He is looking for a grant now to fund this effort. This effort is the kind of “citizen science” that Missouri Master Naturalist members hope be able to help with, as it could contribute to reductions in use of environmentally toxic pesticides.

What’s a Spotted Wing Drosophila?

The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) is a vinegar fly of East Asian origin that can cause damage to many soft skinned fruit crops. It has been in Hawaii since the 1980’s, was detected in California in 2008, and spread through the West Coast in 2009. In 2010 it was detected in Florida, Utah, the Carolinas, Wisconsin and Michigan. They appear to have arrived in Missouri during the summer of 2013. Because the flies cannot fly very far, natural dispersion across states is unlikely, human transportation is a more likely cause of the recent rapid spread.

What we all can do...

Don’t leave rotting fruit outside. It must be completely buried. This includes tomatoes. If you have a compost pile, completely bury any new additions of fruits. If you have a garden, do not toss damaged fruit on the ground, bury it.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

SWD Details

The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) is a vinegar fly of East Asian origin that can cause damage to many soft skinned fruit crops. It has been in Hawaii since the 1980’s, was detected in California in 2008, and spread through the West Coast in 2009. In 2010 it was detected in Florida, Utah, the Carolinas, Wisconsin and Michigan. They appear to have arrived in Missouri during the summer of 2013. Because the flies cannot fly very far, natural dispersion across states is unlikely, human transportation is a more likely cause of the recent rapid spread.

While fruit flies are nothing new in the US, this species is different in it’s ability to infest healthy fruit. Other species typically infest over-ripe or damaged fruit. Females of this species have serrated ovipositors (the organ used to lay their eggs) that can cut into healthy fruit to insert eggs. This can lead to problems with deteriorating fruit in the field or with unhappy customers who find multitudes of larvae in fruit after harvest.

For more information on SWD and IPM check out these Resources:
http://www.ipm.msu.edu/invasive_species/spotted_wing_drosophila
http://www.lincolnlnu.edu/web/programs-and-projects/ipm
http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/ipm.htm
Organized in the spring of 2009, the Lake of the Ozarks Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist program serves the residents of Camden, Miller & Morgan counties. The Missouri Master Naturalist Program is an adult, community-based, natural resource education and volunteer service program.

Visit us at: [http://www.lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com](http://www.lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com) for calendars and volunteer opportunities. Like us on Facebook for up to the minute postings on the chapter and what its members are doing: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lake-of-the-Ozarks-Master-Naturalist/153968454647217?ref=ts&fref=ts]

Copyright 2013 Lake of the Ozarks Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist. All rights reserved.

Please send submissions for this newsletter of stories, pictures, quotes, or any other ideas or feedback to: brett_billington@yahoo.com

The communications committee always welcomes information from chapter members on what they have been doing under the Missouri Master Naturalist Flag. Is is very important that we keep submitting articles to the paper, and promote our organization’s good works! The Lake area needs to know that we are out there doing good stuff! Please submit your who, what, where, when, and why to Laura Toombs - zachman_mom@yahoo.com in order to get out the good word! A photo always helps!

Newsletter Staff and Contributors:
- Editor: Lauri Peterson
- Writers: Joann Billington, Jean Knoll, Lauri Peterson, Caroline Toole, Laura Toombs, Ted Windels
- Photographers: Eric Davis, Lauri Peterson, Joann Billington, Cindy Gum, Laura Toombs
- Proofreaders: Cindy Gum, Mary DeLacy, Terri Thompson, Jo Anne Gitchell.

The raptor rehab session showcased several birds that are too disabled to be released. Birds like this Great Horned Owl are now used in educational settings like this one.

Prairie session. Most attendees opted out of the 30 mile trip to the prairie to see the seed collection process. But then we got lucky and the rain quit just in time to get a short tour.

What are they looking at?

Turtle monitoring session crew from our chapter.