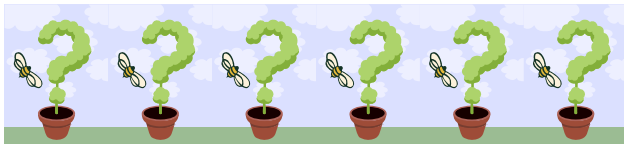




SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13 at the Boone County Extension Center. Randal Clark will give a presentation on geological history of Missouri's last 3 billion years, including fauna and flora of the times. This is an excellent presentation that you won't want to miss. The business portion of the meeting will follow Randal's presentation and snacks will be included. Hope to see you all there!

Mountain spotted fever, a rash is not common. Infection usually produces mild to moderately severe illness, with high fever and headache, but may occasionally be life-threatening or even fatal. A blood test is needed to prove ehrlichiosis but if you think you have contracted it; you should be started on Tetracycline antibiotics and not wait the two week conformation time required by the blood test. Symptoms appear one to three weeks after the bite of an infected tick. However, not every exposure results in infection.



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Suzanne Wright

This month's Ponderings begins with a warning from our ever-vigilant President about the dangers of the tick-borne disease erlichiosis:

All of us should practice the procedures for reducing our risk to tick bites when we head outdoors; but no matter how careful we are, I'm sure none of us has remained unbitten this season. If you aren't feeling well, suffering from exhaustion and headaches, please don't hesitate to go to the doctor. Dogs can also contract their own variety of ehrlichiosis, so keep an eye on your pets as well. Keep safe.

Pondering the Heat of August

Many jokes were made about the voraciousness of the ticks during the state conference in May. All jokes aside, all of us that spend time outside should be aware of tick-borne illnesses, one of which is ehrlichiosis. This summer two of our chapter members contracted ehrlichiosis. Anyone can get ehrlichiosis but the majority of known cases have been in adults that spend time outdoors in tick-infested areas from April to October. It is transmitted by the bite of infected ticks and cannot be spread from person to person. The flu-like symptoms usually include fever, muscle aches, weakness and headache. Patients may also experience confusion, nausea, vomiting and joint pain. Unlike Lyme disease or Rocky

When it's this hot it is hard to remember what winter is like. Right now the trees are protecting themselves through this period of heat and drought. Their spring greens have long departed and the leaves are dark in color, dull and curling. In the aftermath of this week's windstorm, the ground in our neighborhood of established woods is covered with downed limbs and dead leaves. The oak and walnut trees damaged by the late spring hard freeze that still managed to produce a few acorns and walnuts are dropping them now. The black walnuts lying on the ground are hard and green. They must really make the squirrels pucker when they attempt to find some

sweetness within the hull, as you find the gnawed husks left abandoned as if the bitter tang had overpowered the squirrels' desires to gain entry.

My yellow lab pup has developed a great interest in entomology. I don't dare ignore her requests to go outside but more often she is taking inventory of the bug population under the porch lights than concentrating on the task that I thought brought us outside. The variety of insects fascinates her, especially the locusts with their high pitched siren-like noise. The moths with their coloring stay hidden against the porch walls unless they take flight. And she has no fondness for the horsefly; although I don't think she has ever been bitten, she seems to inherently know that they are trouble.

It's good that she repeatedly gets me out of the house on these hot evenings for short glimpses into the beauty late summer nature is sharing. At dusk last evening the hummingbirds were at the feeder doing their fanciful flying maneuvers, then they would stop on a bare limb so small they appeared to float in mid air. Two nights ago a little toad evaded Jole's detection but I enjoyed seeing the little guy, not much bigger than a quarter, hopping around. I have missed the giant sized toad that has hung around my decks for years feasting on night bugs—maybe this new fellow is his replacement.

The house wrens have raised three sets of young this summer. The first nest was in the hanging basket on the front porch, the second in the gourd in the pine tree and the last was located in the wooden bird house in the front maple. The yard is silent from their singing and the constant begging of the fledglings as they pestered their parents for "more, more". Now I'm watching for migrants as they make a fast trip south. In the spring they migrate at a slower pace, feeding and building their stores for the breeding season up north, but now they are moving quickly. There will be a new influx of humming birds rotating through Missouri eating as they go so I'll do my best to keep my feeders full. In the coming weeks I will be listening for flocks of cedar wax wings as they

strip the wild grapes from the vines in our woods.

I am looking forward to the return of the white throated sparrows that hopefully will stay with us until next spring. I will also enjoy a respite from the mosquitoes and ticks. The first hard freeze should put an end to the worst of the flying pest and will mark the renewal of the ongoing honeysuckle eradication project that my husband and I put on hold as the temperature began to rise. I have been mentally marking locations for seeds I plan on collecting when the time is right. And I will be making one more trip to the native plant nursery for a few more things to set out in hopes of more color in my front yard next summer.

It's an ever evolving process. I remember how anxious we all were for spring; tired of winter and our cold feet and ready for the sunny days. Now after sweating in the sun all summer and battling the bugs (no offense, Celeste), most of us are looking forward to some crisp fall mornings and a little frost. With the house closed up, I haven't heard the foxes in weeks but the barred owls have been close by when I'm out with Jole in the yard. I hope they aren't feasting on house wren young but one never knows.



MEETING MINUTES

The August meeting of the Boone's Lick chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists took place on August 9 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. at Lick Creek Conservation Area. The program was on Tracking, Sign and Scat ID, and qualified as Advanced Training. The presenter, Morgan Wehtje, led attendees on a walk where we learned how to identify signs that animals leave as they move about in the wild. Due to the extreme heat and dryness, there were not many tracks left to identify. We did identify a partial possum track, and saw a partial track we were not able to identify. The best track was left by a dog, near the end of the trail.

There were also several opportunities to ID scat left behind. It was determined that most was left by coyotes.

After we finished walking the trail, Ms. Wehtje showed us some casts of tracks for various types of wildlife. We were given a handout which had information on how to distinguish the different types of tracks – for example, how to tell the difference between a feline track and a canine track. She also spoke of her past experiences which included tracking invasive species such as wild pigs, rare or re-populating species such as the mountain lion and black bear, as well as an escaped tiger while working in California. We thank Morgan for her very interesting program and hope to get the chance to learn more from her in the future.

A brief meeting was held while munching on delicious goodies and re-hydrating ourselves. The meeting basically followed Suzanne's August Agenda, and due to the oppressive heat and the approach of dusk (and mosquitoes), the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Buffie Balling, chapter secretary



Note from the chapter President: **Missouri Master Naturalists Brave the Heat**

A stalwart group of MMN attended the August 9th field trip, defying heat, poison ivy laying in wait along the trail, and circling horseflies. It just goes to prove that Master Naturalists love being outdoors no matter what. The program was excellent. Everyone attending learned or improved skills on animal tracking, scat identification and animal sign interpretation. Morgan really knows her stuff. And ...we had great snacks provided by Gail, Pam and Sally. And even though I usually don't eat three desserts.....I made an exception that night.

I know a lot of you were sorry to have missed the meeting but I have passed Morgan's information along to Syd Hime and the organizers of next year's State Conference. Hopefully there will be a session presented by Morgan included in the advanced training courses offered.



TURNING POINTS:

Oregon's gain is Missouri's loss

Suzanne Wright

I'm a big believer in turning points, a fork in the road, a change of direction, a different path taken. Sometimes a deviation in course is inconsequential but it might take you to a hidden vista, some small but remarkable natural event, or a completely new life. Among the members of the first training class of the newly established, and at that point unnamed, Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist was Celeste Mazzacano. What she really wanted to take was Master Gardeners but by default took the MMN training instead. By her own words she had no idea she was going to "enjoy the program so much" and "meet such a neat group of people". We were fortunate to have Celeste in the '04 class and serve as our first Chapter President. Her new job in Oregon will take her away from Missouri but not our hearts.

I will miss her command of the English language, her hard work on behalf of all natural places and things, her good council on the business of holding office, and her quick wit that keeps me wishing I had been gifted with a few more brain cells.

And the Boone's Lick chapter will be losing its resident entomologist. We wish Celeste all good fortune and good luck in her new job and life in Oregon.

MAPS BIRD BANDING— 2007 SEASON

Suzanne Wright

We always start out the MAPS banding season with a wish list of birds we would like to capture and band. This year a lot of those wishes were fulfilled with the banding of a yellow billed cuckoo, rose-breasted grosbeak (3), and an orchard oriole, along with many new species like Swainson's thrush, ovenbird and Louisiana water thrush that weren't even on our list.

We captured a total of 126 birds this year. While this number is down a little from last year's total, there were three nets flooded out for the first three weeks. We caught more species, 26 as opposed to 19 last year. Cardinals were #1 at 29 total captures, followed by Indigo Buntings and Wood Thrushes at 18 captures, and Prothonotary Warbler at 17 captures. These were the same top four species from last year. This season, we also had more participants at the sessions and more regulars that attended every banding session than last year. Vanessa and Steffanie have both banded birds overcoming mud, the onslaught of massive numbers of mosquitoes, and the dreaded biting cardinals.



While the MAPS banding season is over, Andy will be conducting more banding sessions this fall. We will announce these opportunities through the Dragonflyer, agenda or email. You can also contact Andy directly to make sure you are on his list of "people interested in banding" at Andrew Forbes, Wildlife Ecologist, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, 2901 W. Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, 573-522-4115 ext. 3154



yellow billed cuckoo

NOTEWORTHY NATURAL HISTORY

Ubiquitous Bradford Pear Gives Rise to Invasive Hybrids (information for this article was abstracted from *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*, Swearingen, Reshetiloff, Slattery, & Zwicker, 2002.)

Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford'), a cultivar of the Callery pear, is widely used to landscape residential developments, parking lots and roadsides. The original 'Bradford' cultivar, introduced to Maryland in the early 1900s, had sterile fruits. But new hybrids developed to correct the trees' tendency to split and fall in wind and snows were not sterile. Bradford pear has escaped plantings and is invading natural habitats in the eastern United States. New hybrids produce viable seeds through cross-pollination with the Bradford. The descendents are aggressively invading natural and disturbed open areas, displacing native communities and disrupting natural succession.

What can you do? Plant native alternatives such as black haw, serviceberry, redbud, fringetree, or arrowwood. Here at home, Columbia Parks and Recreation is taking action to halt the spread of invasive pear hybrids. They have already reduced the number of city plantings of Bradford and other Callery pears, but the trees remain popular in landscaping new developments, so Parks & Rec is in the process of developing a program to increase awareness among citizens of the cause and potential long-term effects of this hybridization. They plan to develop a demonstration planting of alternative native tree species, and use Treekeeper volunteers to control and eliminate invasive *Pyrus*

calleryanna hybrid seedlings in local parks and nature areas. For more information about the project contact Brett O'Brien at BJO@GoColumbiaMO.com.



Bradford pear



Serviceberry

still seems to my northern mind an astonishingly early spring, the relentless scream of cicadas on sweltering summer days, and fireflies doing insect disco as the sun sets (alas, none of the adult firefly beetle species in Oregon glow!). To say that I have enjoyed my time with the Master Naturalists is an understatement, and some images will remain etched indelibly on my mind (Troy's net-wielding escapades, Don's bad jokes, and Cheryl's thick coating of ticks leap to mind). If you ever wander up Portland way, look me up! (Yes, Steffanie, I know I still owe you my marinara recipe...)

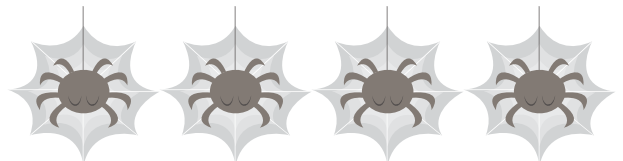
Celeste Mazzacano

MOVIN' ON

As most of you know, September will my last MMN meeting. The following day the movers arrive, and then my partner and I load up the car with four cats and two birds and hit the road for the 1900 mile trek to Portland.

It's really just metamorphosis—like a dragonfly nymph, I've been lurking moodily in the river of life, feeding voraciously on new information and opportunities, until finally a winged form emerges and flies off to join the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. This is something like the land of milk and honey for an entomologist and environmentalist—Xerces' main areas of endeavor are aquatic biomonitoring, native pollinators, and endangered insects, which pretty much top my entomological hit parade. I suspected I had found a congenial group of colleagues when we spent the entire lunch hour at my interview swapping stories of bizarre insect mating behaviors, and Portland is a quirky, environmentally minded, bike-friendly city with mountains, ocean, desert, and lots of microbreweries and wineries. The state is also home to the world's shortest river, the D River, which flows a grand 120 feet from Devil's Lake into the Pacific Ocean, a fact that I find obscurely pleasing.

Farewells are always bittersweet, and after 6 years in Missouri I will miss the blooms of what



WEB RESOURCES FOR MASTER NATURALISTS

NatureServe Explorer

(www.natureserve.org/explorer/index.htm), an "online encyclopedia of life", is a product of NatureServe, a network of natural heritage programs that provide scientific information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. The site is an authoritative source for information on over 70,000 plants, animals, and ecosystems of the U. S. and Canada, with special coverage of rare and endangered species. It is searchable by species, and/or by ecological communities and systems; species can be searched by scientific or common name, and the search results bring up a wealth of information including distribution maps, conservation status, ecology & life history, economic attributes, scientific articles, population viability, and invasive species impact ranking. This is really an amazing compendium of information, and it's easy to start wandering off in different groups or ecosystems. All data sources are referenced, and the site also includes a helpful glossary, a link to local programs and projects, and options for exporting data. This is definitely worth bookmarking!

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Below are the volunteer opportunities for September and ongoing projects, as well as announcements of other events. Additional information on each project is under the "volunteer opportunities" link at

<http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/index.html> Please contact the person indicated for more detailed information on any of the projects. Note that if a project is listed as "not yet approved," you will need to fill out a Service Project Form (available at <http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/Projectapproval.htm>). You will be notified via e-mail of the project's approval or if there are any questions. Once approval is granted for any person, it is approved for everyone, so it is only necessary to submit one form per project.

September Volunteer Opportunities

CACHE Birding Trips: Wednesday, September 5th; Thursday, September 13th; Wednesday, September 19th; and Wednesday, September 26th *Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society, Missouri Department of Conservation, and The Audubon Society of Missouri.*

These are birding trips with Bill Clark. Meet at 7:30 am (don't be late) at the southwest corner of the Parkade Center parking lot. The destination will be decided the day of the trip. Contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com. Project is approved.

Stream Extravaganza 2007: Thursday, September 6th, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Help staff the Boone's Lick Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist **Enviroscape** model or work at the Friends of Big Muddy booth with information about the Big Muddy refuge and several children's activities. Both are part of the Stream Extravaganza being held along the Flat Branch as part of the first of Columbia's Fall Twilight Festivals. Contact Suzanne Wright for the Master Naturalist table at Suzwright@centurytel.net, or Troy Gordon for the Friends of Big Muddy table at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or 573-424-9051. Project is approved.

Lost in the Woods: Saturday, September 8, 2007 noon to 4 p.m., *Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park*

Two to five volunteers are needed to assist with logistics of an orienteering program. Duties may include directing people to the shelter house from the parking lot, providing hands-on assistance with using maps and compass; hiking along with various groups to keep them from getting too far off course.

Contact Kat DiFoxfire at 573-449-7402 or Kathryn.DiFoxfire@dnr.mo.gov. Project is approved.

Work Day at Hinkson Nature Preserve: Saturday, September 15th 10:00 AM until noon.

Sponsored by Greenbelt Land Trust

We will be removing invasive exotics (mostly honeysuckle) and painting stubs with RoundUp on our land at the Hinkson Nature Preserve off of Rock Quarry Road. Work gloves, work shoes, bug spray, and a water bottle are recommended. Bring loppers, clippers or saws if you have them. Contact Dee Dokken at ddokken@centurytel.net or 573-442-4224, or Fred Young at 573-443-2154. Project is approved.

Work Day at Wild Haven: Saturday, September 22nd *Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society.*

This is a work day at one of the Columbia Audubon Society's properties. We will be doing autumn olive removal and treating the savannah restoration area with herbicide. Contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com. Project is approved.

EcoArtFest Display: Saturday, September 22nd and Sunday September 23rd *Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy*

Teach the public about turtles and/or snakes along the Missouri River as well as other wildlife they might encounter at this "EcoArtFest" at Coopers Landing in Boone County. Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of a session. Hours are flexible during both days. Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or 573-424-9051. Project is approved.

Work Day at Spring Valley: Saturday, September 29th 10:00 AM until noon.

Sponsored by Greenbelt Land Trust

We will be removing invasives (honeysuckle and euonymus) on our Spring Valley land. The land is located on Spring Valley Road (on the south side of Broadway between West Blvd. and Stadium). Weed diggers can be useful to bring to help root out euonymus. Work gloves, work shoes, bug spray, and a water bottle are recommended. Bring loppers, clippers or saws if you have them. I also

plan to spray the euonymus at Spring Valley with RoundUp the first weekend of Sept. or so. Contact Dee Dokken at ddokken@centurytel.net or 573-442-4224, or Fred Young at 573-443-2154. Project is approved.

Ongoing Opportunities

Project Seeds- Students, the Environment, and Endangered Species, ongoing starting in the fall with training this summer, Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Columbia Office

Volunteers will lead presentations on Boone County endangered species in Columbia schools (5th grades). They will also follow up presentations with installing and maintaining an aquarium in the school and hosting a book fair to purchase wildlife books for the school libraries. Contact [Becky Clearwater@fws.gov](mailto:Becky_Clearwater@fws.gov) or Charlie Scott at Charlie_scott@fws.gov Phone: 573-234-2132. Project is approved.

Hummingbird Banding in Central Missouri, Flexible hours throughout the summer on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings

Assistance is needed with hummingbird banding project in the Columbia area. Trainees begin with assisting in catching birds and removing them from traps and will gradually be trained to do actual banding over time. Contact Troy Gordon at tgordon@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051. Project is approved

Columbia Fishery Resources Office, Ongoing, typically weekdays throughout the year

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Volunteers join fishery staff for day long trips to the field where they will collect, tag, and measure fish, and assess fish habitat quality. Volunteers may also work in the lab to aid in fish identification analysis of field data. Contact: Joanne Grady at Joanne_Grady@fws.gov or 573-234-2132, ext. 101. Project is not yet approved.

Prairie Seed Collection for Prairie Restoration at the Charles Green Conservation Area

Ongoing May until November, each year for 6-10 years, Sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation. Volunteers maintain and collect seed from established forb plots at Charles A. Green Conservation Area (little guesswork, as plants are in rows). They can also collect on other areas of choice, if species and/or area have been approved. Contact: John George at

John.George@mdc.mo.gov or 573-882-8388 ext 224. You may also contact Jody Stotsky at 573-874-0642 to learn about her work on the forb plots at the Green Area in summer and fall of 2006. Project is approved.

Bulletin Board Update at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Flexible scheduling

Volunteers are needed to drive to the park's four bulletin boards, open and close them with a power drill and add/remove flyers and posters. Work can be done on your own time if you have your own power drill and vehicle or between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. if you need to use park equipment/vehicle.

Updates usually needed 2-3 times per month during busy seasons (April-October), and once a month during slower seasons (November-March). Contact: Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or Roxie Campbell at roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov 573-449-7402. Project is approved.

Raptor Rehabilitation Project, Ongoing

Sponsored by Raptor Rehabilitation Project. Care for sick or injured raptors; feed and provide activities to captive, wild animals; create, improve and deliver presentations. Contact: Erin West, President at ewwd76@mizzou.edu for details and training. Project is approved.

Prescribed Burns at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Select weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (call for specific dates)

Volunteers assist in prescribed burns in restored native grassland or woodland units within park. Exact dates are determined by weather, wind direction and staff and volunteer availability. Contact: Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or Roxie Campbell at roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov 573-449-7402. Project is approved.

Prairie Fork Conservation Area Field Trip Naturalists, Sponsored by Missouri Dept. of Conservation, University of Missouri, Prairie Fork Trust.

Prairie Fork CA needs naturalists to staff environmental education stations during field trips for school students. Most programs take place M - F from ~ 9 am to 2 pm. Most programs involve 3 small group activities from 9am till noon with children rotating through stations and one large group activity after lunch. Help is most needed during morning activities. Contact: Benedict Nagy

at (573)254-3262, or benedict62@yahoo.com.
Project is approved.

Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Explore Rock Bridge, 3rd Saturday of each month, *Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bride Memorial State Park*. Explore Rock Bridge provides opportunities for the public to explore different park resources and participate in service projects. Volunteers needed to assist trip leader with hike each month and to plan future programs. Contact: Meredith Donaldson at 815-9255 or Mjdonlsn@aol.com. Project is approved.

Landowner Contacts Database, Flexible hours until completed, *Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation*. Volunteer will log landowner contact folders by location. Files date back to the 1940s and recording assistance provided on specific properties in the past will provide an account of historical management allowing MDC to better assess property needs. Location: Fulton. Contact Josh Stevens at Josh.Stevens@mdc.mo.gov or 573-592-1412. Project is approved.

Friends of Big Muddy Activities, Ongoing dates throughout the year, *Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy*. Most opportunities are on units of the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. Check <http://www.friendsofbigmuddy.org> for current opportunities or sign up for list serve announcements of activities by e-mailing FriendsofBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Contact Troy Gordon at 573-424-9051 or friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org. Projects are approved.

THE DRAGONFLYER
KEEPS ON FLYING

In the wake of my departure, Rachel Pia has graciously agreed to step in as editor of the Dragonflyer for the remainder of the year. From here on in, if you have any items to submit for the newsletter, send them to Rachel at rachel.pia@gmail.com.

“What nature delivers to us is never stale. Because what nature creates has eternity in it.”

Isaac Singer

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Missouri Department of Conservation: vacant

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Boone County Extension Center

Program: Randal Clark, Naturalist
"Three Billion Years of Missouri's Geological History"

Refreshments: Buffie Balling, Susan Hazelwood and Sally Swanson.
Please bring anything needed to serve and consume your dish or drink.



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