



DECEMBER MEETING

Our December meeting will be on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30, at the Extension Office. We will have elections and a potluck party – please bring family and friends! If you have photos to share, please email them to Don by December 3<sup>rd</sup> for inclusion in his montage.

*Potluck details:* Paper plates/cups, flatware, and beverages will be provided. Bring something you'd like to share, and the utensils with which to serve it. Please have your food ready to serve, we will begin with dinner.

*Election details:* See the slate of candidates recommended by the nominating committee, below. See also Troy's article on the election process, including the procedure for nominating candidates from the floor. (Please be sure to get your nominee's approval before nominating her/him at the meeting.)

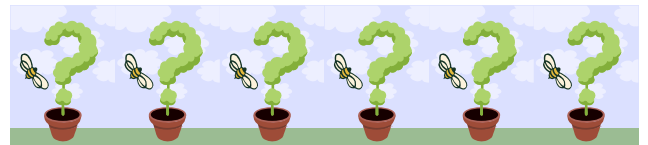
LOG YOUR HOURS BY 11/30!

Please be sure that you have logged all your advanced training and service hours by the end of November. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the logged hours will be reported and those numbers will be used for recognition at the December meeting. We want to cheer you on, so log those hours!

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINES

Because the usual deadlines for submissions for the January issue fall at Christmas this

year, please have all your volunteer opportunities in to Troy Gordon by Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>. All submissions for the newsletter must be in to Rachel (Rachel.Pia@gmail.com) by Monday the 24<sup>th</sup>. (Note that we would all welcome earlier submissions.) Thank you for accommodating this change in the publication schedule.



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Suzanne Wright

The Season for Orange

If you are planning a walk in the woods, it wouldn't be a bad idea these days to wear orange lest you be mistaken for something "in season" by a hunter.

My first introduction to hunting was sitting in a duck blind with my family. I often wondered why my mother would have dragged my brother and me into the marsh to visit my father. But now if I had to guess, it was probably my father's suggestion that instigated the trip to the duck blind. It was he who taught my brother and me about nature. I couldn't have been but five at the time and I thought we were going to see ducks. No such luck, which is probably a good thing because I might have come unglued had I seen a duck shot from the sky. Mostly I remember being really cold and wondering why the floor of the blind was so wet and muddy.

Though not a hunter, I have a husband and son and many friends who are. I have found they all hold a great reverence for the land and strive to protect the species they hunt. One told me that being a hunter is what gets him into the woods to experience the wonders of nature. Of course I said he should become a Missouri Master Naturalist and then he wouldn't need to carry a gun. Once a year we gather for a wild game feast and over the good food, I get to hear the hunting stories of the season just past. Most of the tales are not about what they have killed but the fun they had in the woods and marsh. They tell stories like seeing hundreds of red winged blackbirds, their epaulets flashing as they flew within an arms length of the duck hunters as they lay in their boat during early teal season. Or the curious turkey that walked over and looked in the blind because he was drawn by the snores of a young hunter who had fallen asleep, the father barely able to stifle his laughter.

Hunting has fallen to the murky waters of disapproval in recent times. This is quite a different viewpoint from that held by our ancestor's when a good hunter was held in high esteem. Having a good provider could mean the difference between starvation and survival. When the source of the protein in our diets became commercially raised and available at the local grocers, hunters became the target, so to speak, of disapproval. But it is the hunters who have led the way for conservation and protecting our natural resources. Missouri's own present day Department of Conservation was begun by hunters trying to re-establish game that had been depleted during the settlement of the state.

The nation's 12.5 million hunters have become essential partners in today's wildlife management. Since 1934 they have paid more than 700 million dollars for duck stamps which contributed 5.2 million acres to the National Wildlife Refuge system. They pay millions of dollars each year for licenses, tags, and permits which help finance state game agencies. The 250 million dollars they pay annually in excise taxes on guns, ammunitions

and other equipment helps support the addition of new public game lands. And the private agencies they support with their donations have protected millions of acres for all species.

Today there are fewer hunters heading for the woods and the greater percent of the present hunting population is made up of older hunters. If the trend continues, who will be the protectors of our natural resources in the future? Recent national surveys indicate a new group of outdoor enthusiast is filling the ranks formerly occupied by hunters and anglers. They are called "wildlife watching participants" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is estimated this new group accounts for 71 million people, more than 30 percent of the adult population. It is too soon to tell if this new group will support the nation's state fish and wildlife agencies as the hunters have in the past. And if they will bring enough money and enthusiasm to the outdoors to keep game species flourishing.

What impact the "wildlifers" will have in the future may be unknown but surely individuals like the Missouri Master Naturalists will be important as advocates for the environment, for the hours they volunteer for conservation and their efforts in the education of the public, especially the young so the next generation will have an appreciation for nature.



## MEETING MINUTES

### **Boone's Lick Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist Meeting November 8, 2007**

*Submitted by Buffie Balling*

Attendees: Suzanne Wright, Susan Hazelwood, Beverly Boyd, Vanessa Melton, Sally Swanson, Jack Dillard, Steffanie Abel, Buffie Balling, Mary Jane Wheeling, Carolyn

Doyle, Alice Havard, Pam Close, Troy Gordon, Rachel Pia, David Silvey, Lea Langdon, Jane Fore, Jerry Nichols, Jerry Nichols, Phil Knocke.

The meeting was begun at 6:35pm at which time attention was turned to our speakers for this month's meeting: Bob Pierce from the University of Missouri-Columbia and Charles Nilon, also from the University.

Bob Pierce spoke about the University Extension wildlife program for Bobwhite quail. He explained that quail habitat has been disappearing for reasons such as changing farming practices, urban sprawl, and increasing forestation. These things, combined with the fact that quail require large areas of contiguous habitat have brought the population of quail down considerably in the last 30+ years.

Most landowners do not have enough acreage to make a difference. The program encourages neighbors to work together to provide habitat in areas large enough for several coveys (several family groups) of quail to exist. These neighbors would work to provide areas of recently disturbed open vegetation, such as native prairie, for the quail to run, as well as shrub cover for protection. Brush piles also provide cover for quail. Varied habitat in close proximity to the covey will increase the survival rate. Habitat management is the key to supporting Bobwhite quail populations.

Charles Nilon spoke about wildlife habitat in urban areas. Urban areas can support wildlife. As an example, the Pruitt Igoe housing complex in north St. Louis, which consisted of 15 large apartment buildings, provided habitat after the buildings were demolished and removed, and the site was left to grow wild for decades. There have been sightings of quail, deer, and even coyotes. Most of the building materials were taken to an area close to the Mississippi River, where uneven ground has created another location for wildlife to flourish due to the area being hard to reach and mow.

Projects are being undertaken to help connect the large amount of green spaces in North St.

Louis. There are large cemeteries, parks, flood plain and prairie remnants as well as the riverside biking/hiking trail. Studies have shown that people living in the area prefer park-like settings, mostly because that is what they are used to seeing in an urban area. Projects are being undertaken to plant native plants along the riverside trail to show urban dwellers that they can attract birds and provide habitat for them. Studies have shown that wildlife habitat in urban areas can have a positive impact by encouraging them to get out and enjoy the green spaces!

Business meeting notes:

- A new State Advisory Committee Representative was elected. Suzanne Wright will be the new Representative.
- A Nominating Committee was appointed for the December elections: Susan Hazelwood, Troy Gordon, and Alice Havard.
- A new committee is being formed called the Chapter History Committee. This group is responsible for maintaining records of meetings, important papers, etc. for our Chapter.
- Announcements were made of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Please check on-line or the latest newsletter for more info.
- Please log your hours!

## Upcoming Elections

### **Elections, and the Current Slate**

The December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will include an election of officers for the year 2008. A Nominating Committee has been selected comprised of Troy Gordon, Susan Hazelwood, and Alice Havard. The following people have agreed to stand for positions on the Board of Directors:

#### **President**

Suzanne Wright

#### **Vice-President**

Steffanie Abel

Vanessa Melton

**Secretary**

Carolyn Doyle

**Treasurer**

Alice Havard

In addition, nominations will be accepted by the Nominating Committee until the evening of December 13<sup>th</sup> when a final call for nominations from the floor will be made. A brief review of election procedures is included below.

A member is able to nominate themselves or others, however, if nominations are to be made from the floor December 13<sup>th</sup> and the person to be nominated will not be present, nominators are requested to have prior approval from the person they are nominating. The term of office is for one year, and members of the Board of Directors are eligible for re-election or re-appointment. The election shall be by secret ballot, which will be available the evening of December 13<sup>th</sup>. Winners are determined by simple majority. All members (those who have completed their initial 40 hours of class training) have one vote and there is no provision for absentee ballots. The new Board of Directors (comprised of the elected officers and our two Chapter Advisors) shall assume their duties at the conclusion of the last general membership meeting before the end of the year.

Our chapter has defined the four elected officers and their duties as:

- **President:** Preside at meetings, appoint committees, oversee chapter activities, serve as the point of contact with the State Master Naturalist coordinators, and transfer information from the state program coordinators to chapter members.
- **Vice President:** Assume the duties of the President when the President is absent or temporarily unable to carry out her/his

duties, be responsible for the education program of the chapter and serve as co-chair of the advanced training committee.

- **Secretary:** Keep a record of chapter activities, report on meetings, keep a record of members' volunteer and training hours.
- **Treasurer:** Collect and disburse funds as needed, co-chair a funds approval committee.

Additionally, the chapter has identified several standing committees with various duties. The membership of these committees is approved by the Board of Directors, and the chair of these committees is appointed by the Board. However, the Nominating Committee has collected names of those interested in serving as chair of these committees while they were receiving nominations for officers. The following are the standing committees and people indicating they are interested in serving as chair of those committees:

**Advanced Training Committee**

(no identified chair)

**Chapter Historian**

Pam Close

**Communications Chair**

Rachel Pia

**New Class Planning Committee**

(Chaired by our Chapter Advisors)

**Project Approval Committee**

Jack Dillard

Janine Gordon

**Being a Self-Governing Chapter**

*Involving Master Naturalist volunteers in the establishment of the governing structure fosters a feeling of ownership of the program and local chapter. It develops a camaraderie that will promote cooperation toward common goals, and also allows each person a chance to contribute to the overall success of the chapter.*

This is the first paragraph in the MMN State Officers Manual under "Steps to Transitioning to a Self-Governing Chapter". Another line in that chapter reads "...the chapter as a whole should make decisions as a group". The December meeting will mark the Boone's Lick Chapter's third election of officers and a chance for everyone to express his/her wishes in the determination of leadership for the coming year. It is also an excellent opportunity to become more involved by volunteering to serve on a committee or become a committee chair.

The time involved on most of these committees is minimal and most of the business can be carried out by email. It is a long term goal that every member of the chapter will help contribute in some way to the administration of the chapter's business. That said, no one will be "volunteered" into office and you have the option to decline any position for which you might be nominated. So please don't stay away from the December meeting for fear of being drafted into an office or committee.

The December meeting is also a time to enjoy ourselves, get to know each other better, share a meal and review our accomplishments of the last year. Please come and participate in the election process.

I hope to see all of you there.

Suzanne

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Big Muddy Fish & Wildlife Refuge "Listening" Meetings**

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge will be holding public listening meetings in December. These meetings are intended to gather public input for the development of the refuge comprehensive conservation plan. The meetings are the start of the plan, which is a three year process to determine the future management of the refuge. The comprehensive plan, when completed, will guide management and administration of the refuge over the next 15 years, although

periodic reviews will occur. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to provide the Fish and Wildlife Service feedback on the future management of the refuge.

The Columbia meeting will be held from 3:00pm to 8:00pm on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Richard A. Shoettger Conference Building, Columbia Environmental Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey, 4200 New Haven Drive. For more information, contact Tim Haller at 573-441-2799. (Note: you may attend any portion of the meeting.)

**TreeKeepers** Class starts January 17, 2008. TreeKeepers participants begin with a six-week class on tree care and maintenance. Volunteers are asked to give 36 hours of service to City tree projects.

Classes will be held on six consecutive Thursdays from 6-8:30 p.m. at the ARC, 1701 West Ash St. Beginning Jan. 17. Classes are taught by City of Columbia and Missouri Department of Conservation staff and faculty from the University of Missouri.

To learn more about TreeKeepers, contact the City's Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com). *Note that the classroom hours count as advanced training for us, and the service hours may be counted as well.*

**Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project**  
CARP (Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project) is a new volunteer program designed to support the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department in implementing an aquatic plant and shoreline management plan.

Participants will learn about lake and pond ecology during three training classes and hands on training labs. After the course, you will assist the city horticulturist with organized projects.

Please note: CARP projects are scheduled on Saturday mornings. We ask that you consider

this before you register for this volunteer program.

The 2008 CARP class will be held on March Mondays 3, 10, and 17, 2008 at the Parks Management Center located at 1507 BL70 W.

View the [2008 CARP brochure and application](#).

*Note that the classroom hours count as advanced training for us, and the service hours may be counted as well.*

## MEET A MASTER NATURALIST

Mary Jane Wheeler

1. What is the reason you became a Master Naturalist?

When I read the Mission Statement for the Master Naturalist program I knew I wanted to be a part of it. What a great feeling to think you might be making a small difference in our world.

2. Most amazing, bizarre, disgusting, odd or awe-inspiring thing you have seen or experienced in the course of Master Naturalist activities?

The most amazing experience I've had so far was the night cave tour I gave at Rockbridge State Park. I was surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of bats flying all around me. It was truly awe inspiring.

3. Favorite service project thus far?  
The Rockbridge State Park cave tours.

4. Favorite Missouri native?  
I love so many of them that it is hard to choose but right now I'm enjoying the native grasses, Prairie Drop Seed and Little Blue.

5. Something folks would never guess about you?

I have half of a glass thermometer embedded in my esophagus. I fainted with a thermometer in my mouth. Don't try this at home, ha ha.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

### Christmas Bird Count (and Chili Supper)

Saturday, December 15, 2007

*Submitted by Susan Hazelwood*

Prior to the bird count, there will be an organizational meeting at Susan Hazelwood's house, 3005 Chapel Hill Rd, at 7:30pm on Thursday, December 6th. Section leaders, individuals interested in becoming section leaders and those wanting to learn more about the count should attend. Others are welcome, too, as we usually have some goodies to eat afterward to make it a party gathering!

Besides section leaders, counters, recorders, spotters, and drivers are needed for the count; you do not have to be an expert birder to participate. We also need feeder watchers (see separate section of text). As in the past, our goal is seeing 100 different species. While we haven't gotten there yet we hold hope that each new count will reach that magic number. If you would like to participate, call Susan Hazelwood at (573) 445-4925 and leave a message or send an email to [hazelwoods@mchsi.com](mailto:hazelwoods@mchsi.com). If you have previously participated and know which team you want to join, let Susan or your section leader know. Otherwise, Susan will assign you to a section in need of additional observers and counters. *Note that Susan needs to hear from you by December 10 if you would like to participate.*

The Columbia CBC covers a 7.5 mile radius centered on Rock Bridge Elementary School. We split into approximately 13 teams. Each team is assigned an area within the circle and each team will bird their area for most of the day. Columbia Audubon Society will pay the

National Audubon Society count participant fee of \$5.00 per person.

We will conclude the day with a chili dinner and the tallying session where we compile the day's observations. The chili dinner costs \$6.00 per person. The compiling session and chili dinner begin at 6:00pm at Community of Christ Church fellowship hall at 1111 South Fairview Road in Columbia. (The church is located south of Fairview Elementary School.) Doors will open at 5:00pm for set up. If you are interested in donating paper plates and bowls, plastic utensils, cups, napkins, beverages or food items such as cookies, raw veggies, chips and dips or shredded cheese, call Vanessa Melton at 864-3905 or email her at [vanndawn@yahoo.com](mailto:vanndawn@yahoo.com)

In recent years the level of participation in Columbia Audubon Society's CBC has far exceeded that of any other Missouri CBC group. I appreciate MO Master Naturalists assistance in helping us maintain that leadership position.

*Project is approved for service hours.*

### **CBC FEEDER COUNTERS NEEDED**

Wanted: Individuals living in the count area to be "feeder counters" for the Christmas Bird Count

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Counters should only record the maximum number of individuals of a given species seen at any one time at their feeders and should be sure they are not counting the same birds more than once. For example, if they see two Blue Jays and later see three Blue Jays the total number of Blue Jays seen for the count would be three, not five, because they could not be sure the first two seen were not part of the second group of three. Another example is seeing four female cardinals at once and later seeing two male cardinals at the same time. They could then say they had seen six cardinals since male and female cardinals can be distinguished visually.

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Observe for as much of or as little of the day as you wish, just be sure to keep track of the time spent observing. Report the species, number of individuals and time spent to Bonnie Heidy at 442-2191 between 3:00 and 5:00pm the day of the count. If interested contact Susan Hazelwood at 573-445-4925, by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Feeder counter hours may also be logged as service hours.*

<b>DECEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES</b>
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### **Volunteer Opportunities**

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

<http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/VolunteerOpportunities/Decembervolunteeropportunities.pdf>

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.

### **December Volunteer Opportunities**

**CACHE Birding Trips: Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>; and Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

*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](mailto:vanndawn@hotmail.com). Project is approved.

**Christmas Bird Count: Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society.*  
The Columbia Audubon will once again participate in the Christmas Bird Count, and birders of all skill levels are needed. Even if you don't think you can identify birds well, we need people to spot birds as well as keep track of what birds others are seeing. We cover a 7.5 mile radius area centered around Rock Bridge Elementary School, and the goal of the count is to count as many birds as we can see or hear. Contact Susan Hazelwood at 573-445-4925 or [hazelwood@mchsi.com](mailto:hazelwood@mchsi.com), or Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or [vanndawn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@hotmail.com), by December 10<sup>th</sup> to participate. Project is approved.

**Junior Duck Stamp Mailing: Any day December until December 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Sponsored by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge*  
The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge sponsors the Missouri Junior Duck Stamp program. They need someone to label about 2,000 brochures to be mailed to Missouri schools and take them to the Post Office. It is probably a 4 to 6 hour project and can be done at your own home anytime before December 19<sup>th</sup>. The labels and brochures can be delivered to you if you like. Contact Tim Haller at [Tim\\_Haller@fws.gov](mailto:Tim_Haller@fws.gov) or 573-441-2799. Project is approved.

**Arrow Rock Historic Landing Trail Interpretive Signs: Any day in December before December 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Sponsored by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Big Muddy and Friends of Arrow Rock*  
Work on your interpretive skills, incorporating the natural and cultural history of the Missouri River and the town of Arrow Rock. Write the text for two interpretive panels that will be located along the trail. This can be done from your home. Some notes and books will be

provided to use as sources, and you are welcome to delve deeper into the history at the State Historical Society Museum in Columbia. Contact Tim Haller at [Tim\\_Haller@fws.gov](mailto:Tim_Haller@fws.gov) or 573-441-2799. Project is approved.

**Ongoing Opportunities**

**City of Columbia Natural Resources Inventory: Data collection can be done until April 1.**

*Sponsored by Columbia, MO*  
Select an area to collect information on the location and type of trees. This may be your private property, in a city park or on other public property. Second, collect data by walking the area and completing a checklist of the type of vegetation and trees present, and sketching on a map. Contact John Fleck at 874-7659 or [jef@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:jef@GoColumbiaMo.com). Project is not yet approved.

**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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Charlie_scott@fws.gov) Phone: 573-234-2132. Project is approved.

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

*Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.* Volunteers a 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](mailto:Joanne_Grady@fws.gov) or 573-234-2132, ext. 101. Project is not yet 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](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov) or Roxie Campbell at [roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov](mailto: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 [eedw76@mizzou.edu](mailto:eedw76@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](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov) or Roxie Campbell at [roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov](mailto: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](mailto:benedict62@yahoo.com). Project is approved.

**Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Explore Rock Bridge, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [Mjdonlsn@aol.com](mailto:Mjdonlsn@aol.com) or 815-9255. 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](mailto: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](mailto:FriendsofBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Contact Troy Gordon at [friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org) or call 573-424-9051. Projects are approved.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Did you take a wonderful photograph you'd like to share? Have an experience to write about for us? Reach a personal naturalist goal? We'd love to hear from you! Send submissions to [Rachel.Pia@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.Pia@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter.

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

John Muir

### Jane's Ranger Cookie Recipe

So many people asked for the recipe for Jane Fore's cookies that it is presented here. Jane credits her mother-in-law, Evelyn Fore, for the recipe.

#### Ranger Cookies

- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. softened butter
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 ½ c. flour
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 ½ c. rice cereal or bran flakes
- 1 c. quick oatmeal
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- ½ c. coconut

Combine sugars, oil, and butter until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and add vanilla. Mix dry ingredients together and add to mixture. Add remaining ingredients. May need to refrigerate until firm. Drop by teaspoons or roll into balls and place on greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 for about 8 minutes for medium-sized cookies. Remove from oven when edges begin to turn brown; the cookies will be light in color.

#### 2007 OFFICERS

President	Suzanne Wright <a href="mailto:suzwright@centurytel.net">suzwright@centurytel.net</a>
Vice-President	David Silvey <a href="mailto:silveyd@missouri.edu">silveyd@missouri.edu</a>
Secretary	Buffie Balling <a href="mailto:motherscaretaker6@yahoo.com">motherscaretaker6@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Janine Gordon <a href="mailto:gordonja@umsystem.edu">gordonja@umsystem.edu</a>
State Advisory Committee Representatives: Cheryl Hardy, Suzanne Wright	

#### COMMITTEES

Programs	Vanessa Melton <a href="mailto:vanndawn@yahoo.com">vanndawn@yahoo.com</a>
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## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 10, 2008

January's program is "Breathing Life Into Nature Writing" by  
Conservation Department writer Jim Low.

Jim is the immediate past president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. He has been writing about the outdoors for 30 years. You may have seen his articles in magazines from Reptile & Amphibian and Better Homes and Gardens to Australian Birding. Topics covered will include writing bright, writing tight and using electronics to improve your prose. Come and learn how to make your nature writing sing.

Missouri Master Naturalist State Conferences

2008 - Hosted by the Springfield Chapter, May 16, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Clarion Hotel and Springfield Nature Center.

2009 - Hosted by the Ozark Chapter in West Plains; date TBD.



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