



MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 2008  
6:30-8:30

Wildlife Photography

Noppadol Paothong, MDC photographer, will present an informative program on wildlife photography. His talents and skills have been recognized with more than 60 regional and national awards. Nop will talk about some of his favorite photographs and the stories behind them, including his favorite projects (king rail, prairie grouse and hummingbird).

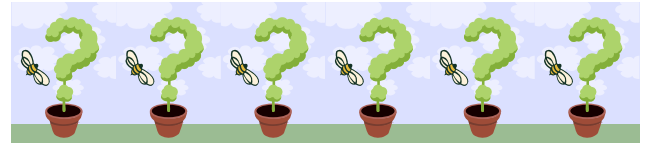
*"My goal as a Missouri Department of Conservation photographer is to make people care about nature and wildlife and understand the need to preserve precious natural resources through my photographs."*

Noppadol Paothong

[www.nopnatureimages.com](http://www.nopnatureimages.com)

***This session has been approved as advanced training.***

Note: Board Meeting. There will be a short Board meeting after the business meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board includes advisors, elected officers, committee chairs, and SAC reps. Please let Suzanne know if you have items for the Board to address.



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Suzanne Wright

February 24, 2008 - Eagle Bluffs

The wet snow that fell the night before had defined each limb and twig of every tree in the woods. It was a temporary transformation as the temperature would quickly erase the overnight sensation. My husband and I decided a quick trip to Eagle Bluffs for a little waterfowl watching would allow us to appreciate the snow before the more somber winter landscape reappeared.

We loaded the energetic Jole along with our seasoned yellow lab, Scout, in the back of the suburban. Jole's first season in the marsh ended well with the retrieval of several ducks but training is a year long process so a little time would be devoted to the dogs first, well away from the waterfowl. As we were finishing, Tim James drove into the parking lot and gave us a run down of what we might expect to see at the various pools.

Brad's goal for the day was to see the black ducks reported to be in temporary residence. Sighting them would complete his "must see" list for the season. It shouldn't be hard, two ducks out of 30,000, ...no problem. The black ducks were there, distinguished by their darker color in a collection of mallards. We decided the bill color of dark olive for the female and greenish-yellow for the male was not distinct enough for us to determine whether this was a pair or two drakes.

The twenty-three trumpeter swans sounded like the French horn section in an orchestra tuning for a concert. The two tundra swans that swam with the trumpeters brought the total swan count to twenty-five. What a beautiful and unforgettable sight when you consider how low the number of trumpeters had fallen before reintroduction programs were begun. The coloration on the juvenile was breathtaking in its subtlety.

Differentiating between the greater and lesser scaup was almost my husband's undoing. Brad's comment being, "Holy cow, this is as bad as sparrows". It was convenient the two were swimming side by side for comparison.

The size and color of the solo canvasback made it easy to pick him out in a crowd. His regal bearing made it appear he ruled the waters that teamed with mallards, pintails, gadwalls, & Canada geese.

I see nothing common about a common golden eye. Both male and female were in attendance. Since they are divers it can be a challenge to catch them above water long enough to focus your binoculars. The individual males scanned the crowds with haste as they swam from one group to the next; definitely a duck with a mission.

In one pool swam ring-necked ducks and green wing teal, with a few shovelers who would flash white as they turned in the water. White fronted geese aplenty walked the muddy shores and a few lowly coots looked like the peasants among the royalty as they dabbled along the edge. The sky lifted and fell with thousands of snows and blues every time they took to wing and left the cornfields only to sit down again after creating a swirling tornado of noise.

And it seemed that every tall tree held a bald eagle. We saw the resident pair working on nest repair in preparation for spring and hopefully another successful fledge. But there were also transients fighting over kills. Often

you could hear them before you would see the wide sweep of their wings as they dueled.

A light morph juvenile (probably a Krider's) red-tailed had Brad convinced he had spotted a ferruginous hawk. We referenced our individual field guides in a contest to substantiate our ID claims.

I watched a mixed flock of savannah, swamp and song sparrows feed in the tall grasses at the edge of the marsh. I invaded the privacy of a savannah as she indulged in a lively bath; I continued to spy as she preened and adjusted her feathers. I could hear horned larks but only when they flew did I realize the total number of well camouflaged birds.

On leaving the conservation area we had a lively discussion of what defines "spectacular" in bird watching. One opinion held it to be the sightings of waterfowl unique to the area while the other defended the belief the subtle differences in sparrow coloration was just as monumental. There was no resolution to the conflict as neither party would concede.

We ended the day with a late lunch at Lucy's and we listened to the musical styling of two banjos and two guitars while we ate. The snow had disappeared hours earlier and nothing had been crossed off the "to do" lists that waited for us at home but I will remember the sight and sound of the twenty-five swans for the rest of my life.



## MEETING MINUTES

### **Boone's Lick Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist Meeting February 14, 2008**

The Boone's Lick chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists met on February 13<sup>th</sup>, in room 121 of the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resource Center, University of Missouri, Columbia.

Present were Buffie Balling, Vanessa Melton, Jody Stotsky, Laura Sweets, Suzanne Wright, Jane Fore, Alice Havard, Sally Swanson, Meredith Donaldson, Dan Reeves, Phil Knocke, Marie Scruggs, and Carolyn Doyle.

President Suzanne Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

#### Upcoming Events:

Meredith asked group members to participate in the Friends of Rock Bridge Park Palooza Quiz Bowl on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Teams of three people will compete on RBMS Park facts. Contact Meredith for details.

Jane Fore introduced our speaker, Dr. Walter Wehtje, Ph.D., curator for the School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri. He had many interesting specimens for us to view in the bird and mammal collection and discussed the importance of having actual specimens to study for research and historical documentation. He ended by demonstrating how he prepares a bird for inclusion in the collection.

The business meeting was resumed at 8:40.

#### Additional Upcoming Events:

- Suzanne announced the speaker for the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be MDC photographer Noppadol Paothong, on wildlife photography. His website can be viewed at [www.nopnatureimages.com](http://www.nopnatureimages.com). Advanced training approval is pending. The meeting will be at the Extension office on UU.
- New Class training begins February 25, and hosts are still needed for some sessions. Please contact Don Day to sign up.
- The Great Back Yard bird Count is Feb, 15-18. Contact Troy Gordon if you can help count on the Big Muddy Refuge. This is an approved volunteer project.
- Earth Day is April 20<sup>th</sup> (rain date April 27<sup>th</sup>).

Volunteer activities: There was no report on new volunteer activities. Check web site for a complete list of all volunteer activities.

Advanced Training: Stream Team classes are approved as advanced training. For information on classes, contact chairman Mary Jane Wheeling.

#### Standing committees:

- Secretary Carolyn Doyle: January minutes were published in the Dragonflyer.
- Treasurer: Alice Havard: Current balance is \$4,306.83. Suzanne mentioned one scholarship has been awarded to each chapter in the state for the State Conference registration fee. Contact Don if you would like to apply for the Boone's Lick scholarship.
- Refreshments: Jane Fore: Please sign up to bring refreshments if you haven't already done so.

#### Announcements from the floor:

- Vanessa announced the upcoming Wonders of Wildlife Recreation and Conservation School, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Twin Lakes. Nature walks, camping, etc., will be included. She will report back to the chapter when she has more information.
- Suzanne reported on the Statewide Advisory Committee meeting she and Cheryl Harding attended on Jan. 26, 2008. Issues included the creation of individual chapter guidelines, dues (some chapters assess dues of \$10.00 a year), and the total hours reported state wide for 2007. Chapters with fall trainings reported 121 new graduates. The topic of advanced training was discussed with each chapter reporting problems and solutions with counting hours and program approval. Syd Hime and Bob Pierce encouraged the chapters to use the reference materials given to the members in training, when we have programs relevant to the subjects. The dates for the State MMN Conference in Springfield (May 16-18), were announced along with a report of planned activities. Cheryl and Suzanne's report on the SAC meeting is filed with these minutes.
- Suzanne reported that Don estimates 40 volunteers reported approximately 3,000

volunteer hours in 2007 for the Boone's Lick chapter. The new database is being checked for problems and members are asked to wait until the new system is up and running before logging hours. When we have the go ahead to log hours again, it will be announced in the Dragonflyer and/or Don will advise us via email.

- John George will be setting up a regular prairie seed collecting schedule for Thursday evenings and Saturdays mornings throughout the collection season. An e-mail list will be compiled for anyone interest in participating. Everyone on the list will receive notification with dates, times, and carpools information and last minutes changes regarding weather. The information will also be included in the Dragonflyer and listed in Volunteer Opportunities for anyone who would like to attend any or all of the sessions. Anyone interested on being on the designated email list is requested to contact Suzanne. This is an approved volunteer project.

Other announcements:

- Deadlines: **Dragonflyer** - Rachel Pia; New Volunteer Opportunities -Troy Gordon; and next meeting agenda - Suzanne, are Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. These deadlines are consistently the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday after the regular meeting.
- Check out the MMN window display at 15 South Tenth Street.
- Program for Columbia Audubon Society is Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. MMN members who are also CAS members will help with the presentation.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Doyle, Secretary*

STATE CHAPTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
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**Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) for  
Missouri Master Naturalists  
Summary for 1-26-08 meeting  
(Runge Center, Jefferson City)**

Points of interest for Boone's Lick members:

1. The 2008 MO MN State Conference will be May 16-18<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, MO (Springfield Plateau MN will host). Registration fee will be \$70 (early bird \$50.00 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April). Late registration will be possible until May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conference lodging will be at the Clarion Hotel (south of Battlefield Mall) while most of the conference activities will be at Springfield Nature Center. Meals included will be Friday night social snacks, Saturday lunch, and Saturday night social snacks. There will be one scholarship granted to each chapter to cover the registration fee. Contact your MU Extension advisor for details.

There will be a silent auction and donations are welcome if you have an item for the auction. The final specifics of the week-end's program are still a work in progress. However, there will likely be a social gathering at the Nature Center with Chapter displays on Friday evening. Dinner on Saturday will be at the Bass Pro (discount coupons may be available to us) followed by time for shopping. The tentative list of field trips and educational sessions was VERY impressive and varied!

2. The next SAC meeting will be 1-4 p.m. on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the MO MN conference.
3. FYI: the majority of other MN chapters in MO have annual chapter dues (all were \$10). This money was sent to the MU Extension Service and it allowed chapters to set up a petty cash fund with a local bank to reimburse members immediately for small purchases (e.g. stamps).
4. NOTE: Travel time to and from meetings counts as administrative hours!
5. Over 12,000 volunteer hours were donated by MMNs and there were 121 fall graduates in MO. New possible chapters in progress include: Sullivan, Hannibal, and St. Joseph. There is a need for MDC employees to coordinate the new chapters.

6. SAC officers for 2008 were elected:  
President: Pat Perry, VP: John Vandover,  
Secretary: Connie McCormack.

7. SAC members shared current activities within their chapters. For example, one chapter reported that they had constructed a children's natural play area.

8. SAC discussed how to consistently evaluate knowledge obtained through MN training, as well as how to train MN. The MDC has training modules with specific objectives, but it is not clear if the speakers who present at MN training sessions are directing their presentations to meet these objectives. The research compiled recently suggested that knowledge gain was less than a 15% increase from the pre-test (i.e. before training) to the post-test (i.e. after completion of training). MN members who continue volunteering tend to report that they are motivated by the social aspects. Thus, those who joined MN for other reasons (e.g. educational, varied field experiences) tended to drop out.

9. Chapters were encouraged to make greater use of MDC publications and to include the MN participant box contents (reference materials that are given out at the beginning of training classes) in advanced training and programs by referencing these publications.

10. SAC voted to support ANROSP (Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs).

11. Chapters were urged to send updated rooster of active MN to MDC for the purpose of sending out invitations to the spring '08 conference.

*Submitted by Cheryl Hardy & Suzanne Wright.*

## MILESTONES

### **Cole Camp Chapter!**

Donnie Nichols reports that the new Chapter he helped launch has a tentative name and at last report had 24 paid students signed up for training! We look forward to collaborative projects with the new Chapter.

Congratulations to Donnie, et al!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Training Class Sessions,** Extension Office, 6-9pm

March 3: Missouri Natural Areas; Making Choices to Manage Our Natural Resources  
March 10: Agriculture and Conservation; Urban Water Issues  
March 15: field trip  
March 17: Capstones; Conservation Legacy  
March 24: *Spring Break*  
March 31: Missouri Geology; Missouri EcoRegions

*Alumni are welcome to attend the classroom sessions.*

### **Climate Action Summit - Local Action Against Global Warming**

Saturday, March 8, 9:30am - 1:00pm

The Ethical Society of St. Louis

9001 Clayton Rd, St. Louis, MO 63117

Climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing our generation. Missouri is a major contributor to climate change as Missouri had the nation's fifth highest increase in per capita carbon dioxide emissions from 1990-2003.

Attend the Climate Action Summit to learn what Missouri cities are doing to combat climate change and how you can get involved in helping your town go green.

Complimentary continental breakfast will be provided from 9:00-9:30am.

This event is sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, the Sierra Club,

and Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice.

Speakers:

\* *Colleen Sarna*, Sierra Club. "Cool Cities and Citizen Action"

\* *Dennis Murphey*, Kansas City Chief Environmental Officer. "Development and Implementation of the Kansas City Climate Action Plan"

\* *Jay Hasheider*, Columbia Water & Light. "Energy Conservation and Efficiency for Municipalities"

\* *Linda Goldstein*, Mayor of Clayton. "Clayton's Action on Climate Change and U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Summit Report"

\* *Tim Embree*, assistant to Mayor Slay. "St. Louis's Action on Climate Change"

\* *Rick Hunter*, St. Louis Chapter, US Green Building Council. "Green Building Solutions to Combat Climate Change"

[Click here to register to attend the free Climate Action Summit.](#)

### **Parkapalooza 2008!**

*Friends of Rockbridge State Park*

What: Parkapalooza 2008

When: March 9, 2008, 3:00 – 7:00pm

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church –  
2615 Shepard Blvd.

Who: Public invited:

Tickets \$10 for adults,  
\$15 for couples, \$25 for families

Why: A Benefit for Friends of Rock Bridge  
Memorial State Park Outdoor  
Education Programs

What was name of Columbia's first industrial center located in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park? What bats can be found in the Devil's Icebox? You can learn these and many more interesting facts about this state park at the Parkapalooza on March 9, 2009, from 3:00 – 7:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church - 2615 Shepard Blvd. The Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (FoRB) is hosting this benefit to support outdoor education programs at and about the state park.

ParkXperts, eight three member teams, will compete in a single elimination tournament. to

see which team knows the most about the state park. The Team Entry Fee \$45 (includes admission) for three on team. Each round will be 15 minutes or 30 questions, whichever comes first. Quiz questions will be based on information posted at <http://rockbridge.missouri.org>. New and revised information will be posted on the FoRB website up until one week before the event. Entry is February 29.

Other activities for all ages will include the ParkXploration, hands-on nature activities for children, a silent auction and volunteer recognition. The public is invited to come and learn more about this state park. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 for adults, \$15 for couples and \$25 for families. For more information call 874-0171 or go to the FoRB website: <http://rockbridge.missouri.org>.

**Robb Jacobson and *Form, Flow, and Sediment in Missouri River Restoration and Management***: Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at

7:00pm

Friends of Big Muddy and Missouri River Relief continue our monthly program series with evening programs about the Missouri River. The program will feature U.S. Geological Survey Research Hydrologist Robb Jacobson presenting *Form, Flow, and Sediment in Missouri River Restoration and Management*. Details and directions on our programs web page:

<http://www.friendsofbigmuddy.org/program.htm>

### **The Geography of Vision: The Meaning of Landscapes**

March 11 & 18, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and May 6. 9-10:30am.

The intellectual guideline for the course is GEOGRAPHY ... every landscape tells a story. Topics to be covered include: speculations on the way humans see the landscapes around them; agricultural landscapes and their cultural significance; gardens and landscapes of personal expression; cities and the built environment; landscapes in the mind of an author ...

For more information, or to register, contact the Osher Lifelong Learning Center. 573 882-4349.

### **Gardening Potpourri**

March 12 & 19, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, May 7; 10am-noon.

March 12: Vegetable gardening in Missouri

March 19: The Campus Landscape, Then & Now

April 2: Container Gardening

April 9: Growing & Using Herbs

April 16: Mizzou Botanic Garden & the Plants of Merit Programs

April 23: Herbaceous Ornamentals: Annuals, Perennials and General Maintenance

April 30: Native Trees of Missouri

May 7: Can Plants Feed & Fuel Us?

For more information, or to register, contact the Osher Lifelong Learning Center. 573 882-4349.

### **Native Plant Sale – Jefferson City**

Focus on Glades and Native Plant Sale, 10am to 3pm Saturday, March 24, Runge Nature Center. Three native plant vendors will be at this annual sale. In addition to plant sales, visitors can learn about plant communities, explore a glade and learn how to incorporate native plants into home landscapes. Attendees can make seedballs and newspaper pots for planting pale purple coneflowers. There will be exhibits, crafts and movies. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (573) 526-5544. Reservations are required by: Saturday, March 29.

### **Native Plant Sale - Columbia**

April 14, 9am to noon, Bradford Research and Extension Center, 4968 Rangeline Road. In addition to numerous native plant vendors, several educational sessions are being offered, including a rain garden installation demonstration, tips for gardening on less-than-perfect sites, cost-share information, spring wildflowers program and more. A special bird watch tour begins at 7am. To participate in it,

RSVP to Nadia Navarette-Tindall at (573) 289-2018.

### **State Forest Tree Purchases**

Missourians who want to plant trees can buy seedlings from the George O. White State Forest Nursery at Licking. This year's offerings include white pine, Norway spruce, pecan, bald cypress, redbud and hazelnut seedlings. In all, you can choose from 60 species ranging from majestic oaks to false indigo and buttonbush.

Plants come in bundles of 25 seedlings for \$3 to \$24, depending on species. A \$5 shipping and handling charge is added to each order, plus 5.725 percent sales tax, unless the order is accompanied by a tax-exemption certificate.

The nursery is now accepting orders. A full list of trees and shrubs available through the state forest nursery is available at [www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/nursery](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/nursery). Or, you can call 573/674-3229 and request a catalog by mail.

### **Saturday Morning Science – MU Life Sciences Center.**

“These are not your typical science lectures. Expect to be entertained, to see demonstrations, to learn a lot, and – best of all – to want to come back for more. No science background is required. All ages are welcome.” Free and open to the public; bagels, coffee and juice available beginning at 10, lecture begins at 10:30. Seating limited to 250.

Life Sciences Center, Monsanto auditorium. Enter on Rollins. Park in the Virginia Ave garage, about a block away.

March schedule

3/8: How Do We Repair a Damaged Spinal Cord? Andy McClellan. *Following severe spinal cord injury, humans are often permanently paralyzed below the site of injury. There are 200,000 Americans with spinal cord injuries. Biomedical research is starting to find effective treatment.*

FIELD TRIPS - PROJECT -  
ADVANCED TRAINING  
WITH JOHN GEORGE

3/15: New Perspectives on the Origin and Evolution of Life. Norman Pace, University of Colorado. *Recent molecular studies of microbial life in natural environments have revolutionized our understanding of early evolution and the diversification of life.*

(Spring break.)

#### April Schedule

4/5: What the Bugs in Your Yard Talk About. Rex Cocroft. *A typical backyard contains an alien, vibrating soundscape that is not audible to humans but does carry important messages between communicating insects – some of which may be talking about you! Come learn what they are saying.*

4/12: Viruses Through the Ages. Marc Johnson. *Viruses have had profound effects on human history. This discussion will reveal some of the unexpected ways viruses have affected our lives and some of the extraordinary ways people have combated them.*

4/19: Winners and Losers in Climate Change. Tom Whitham, Northern Arizona University. *What does climate change mean for biodiversity, preservation in national parks, a rapidly growing human population, and an economy based on cheap water? The American Southwest, a “hot spot” of climate change, may hold the answers.*

4/26: What Happens in the Life of a Tree? Rose-Marie Muzika. *An individual tree can be hundreds of years old. How do we know what a tree might have experienced over the centuries? Trees keep a record of fires, droughts, temperature extremes, insect outbreaks, and more. We will explore and interpret growth rings to unravel the mysteries of a tree’s life.*

More info: <http://satscience.missouri.edu>

All locations and times are “to be determined” at this time but the outline provided might hold fairly well

This project has been approved as a volunteer opportunity and will also include some Advanced Training hours.

Many of you have expressed an interest in collecting seeds and assisting in prairie restoration. John George has set up a schedule of seed collection dates through out the late spring, summer and fall. The collection dates will occur on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. John will show us what seeds to collect on that date and assist in improving our knowledge of prairie plants. Car pooling will be organized by members and occasionally include arrangements for a van by John George. The dates will be published in the Dragonflyer and the Agenda each month during the collection season. Those interested may sign up for email/phone notification of changes in the schedule related to the weather. All members are welcome to attend any or all of the collection field trips but only those on the list will receive last minute notification.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in prairie restoration and wildflower identification.

*Sign up for direct email notification* – contact Suzanne to have your name added to the list. [Suzwright@centurytel.net](mailto:Suzwright@centurytel.net)

*Schedule: Missouri Master Naturalist Seed Collection Field Trips*

May 15 – Thursday evening – Tucker Prairie  
May 22- Thursday evening – Rudolph Bennit CA in northern Boone County  
June 7 – Saturday AM – Charles Green CA near Ashland  
June 21 – Saturday AM – Tucker Prairie  
July 17 – Thursday evening – TBD

July 31 – Thursday evening – Green Area  
August 7 – Thursday evening – Prairie Fork CA  
August 16 – Saturday AM – Tucker Prairie  
September 13 – Saturday AM – Green Area  
September 18 – Thursday evening – Green Area  
October 8 – *Wednesday* evening – Rudolph Bennit CA (*note change in weekday to accommodate Chapter meeting*)  
October 18 – Saturday AM – TBD  
November 1 – Saturday AM - TBD

**MEET A MASTER NATURALIST**

Jack Dillard

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

I guess I have always enjoyed nature. Even when I was very young I could sit for hours watching velvet ants, wasps, and spiders doing their thing. When I heard about the opportunity to actually become a naturalist I jumped at the chance. I spent 30 years teaching others about all kinds of science, but this is different. This was for me.

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

I don't have one amazing or bizarre thing that I have experienced while becoming a Master Naturalist, I have enjoyed it all.

*3. Favorite service project thus far?*

I guess I had the most fun working on the Capstone Butterfly Inventory for Big Muddy. I enjoyed being out in the field with others. I especially enjoyed working with Wedge Watkins.

*4. Favorite Missouri native?*

I guess what you are referring to in this question is what is my favorite Missouri native plant or animal. I enjoy the whole of nature, from the very small plant that grows out of solid rock to the tiny blind crayfish living in a small pool of water in a dark cave.

*5. Something folks would never guess about you?*

Something that most people would never know about me is a lot. I am very reserved and don't talk a lot, I guess that is a part of my Cherokee heritage. Especially ironic since I am a direct descendent of both Patrick Henry and Nathan Hale.

*6. Anything else you'd like us to know?*

I guess it would be the fact that I worked with Jim Low in West Plains to establish the Grand Gulf Audubon Society. He has gone on to do bigger and better things and here I am.

**COOL WEBSITE:  
SANDHILL CRANE PHOTOS**

Suntree area in Brevard County (East Coast), Florida

A Sand Hill Crane couple had an exciting addition to their family. When they built their nest near the water's edge it immediately drew attention of passers by. Soon there were two eggs sitting on top of the nest and the mother on top of them.

Those who were really curious passed by the site every morning and would stop their cars to get out and see if there were any new cranes yet. Many brought cameras of all shapes and sizes and would stand near the water for long periods of time hoping to catch a photo of the hatching.

Robert Grover, a dentist, didn't actually catch the birth but he sure did capture some fabulous shots of the Momma, Papa and baby (the second egg never hatched). Then he put together a slide show with music. Click below. [http://groverphoto.phanfare.com/slideshow.aspx?username=groverphoto&album\\_id=304621](http://groverphoto.phanfare.com/slideshow.aspx?username=groverphoto&album_id=304621)

*Submitted by Jack Dillard*

**ADVANCED TRAINING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Pond Management Workshop**

Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 9pm

At Boone Electric Coop, 1413 Rangeline Road in Columbia.

Workshop is put on by the MDC and Boone Co. NRCS and SWCD. Topics include site selection, construction, stocking, fisheries management, and nuisance wildlife. To register, call 573-884-6861.

## **Introductory Water Quality Monitoring Workshop**

*Register by 4/30, Workshop 5/17.*

Columbia's Stream Team introductory workshop registration deadline is Wednesday, April 30th. The workshop will be held Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am to 5:00pm at the Boone Electric Cooperative office 1413 Rangeline Street. Attendance is limited to 30 people per workshop. Bring a sack lunch and wear outdoor clothing and boots. Questions can be answered by calling Priscilla Stotts at 573-526-3406. To register online, go to: [http://mostreamteam.org/online\\_intro.htm](http://mostreamteam.org/online_intro.htm) Or, leave a message on the Stream Team Voice Mail: 1-800-781-1989.

## MARCH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Below are the volunteer opportunities for March and ongoing projects, as well as announcements of other events. Additional information on each project is at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/VolunteerOpportunities/Januaryvolunteeropportunities.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.

### **March Volunteer Opportunities**

**CACHE Birding Trips:** Every Wednesday, 7:30am

*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 7:30am (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.

**Jameson Island Cleanup:** Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am

*Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy and the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge* Join Friends of Big Muddy as we clean flood debris along a chute of the Jameson Island Unit of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge near Arrow Rock. We will also explore the partially constructed chute on this area and talk about what is happening with it. We will carpool from the Extension Office parking lot at 8:00am and return back by 4:00pm. Please bring a sack lunch. Work gloves will be provided but dress in clothes that can get muddy. Contact Troy Gordon at [friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org) or call 573-424-9051. Project is approved

**Invasive Honeysuckle Removal:** Saturday, March 15, from 10am-noon

*Sponsored by the Greenbelt Land Trust* We'll be removing invasive honeysuckle from the Greenbelt Land Trust's Hinkson Nature Preserve. Bring a water bottle, work gloves, loppers, clippers, and bow saws if you have them. You can park at Capen Park and walk west on the Hinkson trail. We will be working to the left of the trail after you cross under Rock Quarry Road. An alternative is to park near the gate which is on the right side of Rock Quarry Road soon after you cross the bridge (after crossing Stadium going south). Contact

Dee Dokken, 442-4224, or Janet Hammen, 442-5827. Project is approved.

**Meadow Work Day at Wild Haven:** Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society*  
On Saturday, March 22, we will work on maintaining our meadow habitats at Wild Haven. If conditions permit, we will conduct one or more controlled burns on the small meadows near the shelter area and the larger meadow in the northwest part of the property. If conditions are not favorable for burning, we will work on removing woody plants (cedars, scrub oaks, and autumn olive) from these meadows, using cutting tools and herbicide. For either job, volunteers should wear sturdy boots and work gloves. Tools will be provided. Contact: John Besser at [jbesser@centurytel.net](mailto:jbesser@centurytel.net). Project is approved

### Ongoing Opportunities

**Junior Duck Stamp Competition:** Any Weekday through April 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Sponsored by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge*

The Big Muddy refuge does the judging of the Missouri Junior Duck Stamp competition for the state of Missouri. Help is needed weekdays in March to sort the entries, check and see if the entry form is complete and make sure the database is up to date. Work can be done for a couple of hours once a week or so as needed. Help is also needed all day on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> setting up the entries for judging and sorting them to be returned to the participants. Finally, help is needed the next week for mailing back entries and prizes. Volunteers are asked to do a minimum of two hours of service to allow for training time. Contact: Tim Haller at 573-876-1826 or [Tim\\_Haller@fws.gov](mailto:Tim_Haller@fws.gov). Project is approved

**Bluebird Trail Monitoring:** March through September

*Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society.*  
The Columbia Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to help monitor the bluebird trails we have at Wild Haven and Russell Property.

Wild Haven, which is located just north of Columbia, has around 20 bluebird houses, and Russell Property, located within Columbia, has 8 bluebird houses. The bluebird houses have to be periodically monitored during the breeding season to get an idea of how successful the houses are. Contact: Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or [vanndawn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@hotmail.com). Project is approved

**School Natural Areas:** Ongoing

Help local schools restore and maintain their natural areas. A volunteer contact is needed for each school with an area, and in some cases a team is needed. Contact Lea Langdon at [langtrea@gmail.com](mailto:langtrea@gmail.com) or 447-1257. Project is approved.

**Project Seeds- Students, the Environment, and Endangered Species**

Ongoing

*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 8am and 4:30pm 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 [eewd76@mizzou.edu](mailto:eewd76@mizzou.edu) for details and training. 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 ~ 9am to 2pm. 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!

Do you have a great photograph to share? Have you captured some of the wild life of Missouri Master Naturalists in a photograph? Send submissions to [Rachel.Pia@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.Pia@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter.

*We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself.*

*Lloyd Alexander*

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## NEXT MEETING

April 10, 2008

Plant Communication

Jack Schultz, PhD

Director, Life Sciences Center, University of Missouri, Columbia

Join us for a fascinating discussion of how plants communicate - with each other, and with the insects and animals around them.

*This session has been approved as advanced training.*

## 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.*