

JUNE MEETING

Picnic!

June 12, 6:30pm

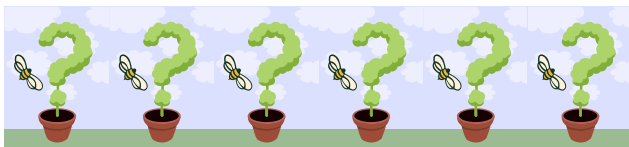
At the home of Sally and Bobb Swanson
Please bring a favorite potluck dish to share.
Families & friends are welcome!

9250 East Highway WW
Columbia, MO, 65201

Directions:

Take Broadway East – it becomes Hwy WW after you cross 63 - go about 8 miles. After you cross Rangeline ours is the second driveway on the right.

If you are coming via I70, take exit 133 (Centralia exit), turn right going through the industrial park to Richland Rd., turn left, go to Rangeline, turn right, go to WW, turn left, go to the second drive on the right.



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Suzanne Wright

Fishing for Free

Fishing is free on June 7th and 8th this year for everyone. The first Saturday and Sunday after the first Monday in June, the Missouri Conservation Department allows anyone to fish without a fishing permit, trout permit or daily tag. All anglers still must abide by regulations concerning seasons, limits and methods but it's

a great time to take a non-fishing friend for an introduction to the sport/hobby without the commitment of obtaining a permit.

My grandparents loved to fish and took my brother and me on our first fishing trip. I don't remember my Grandmother ever wetting a line that day as her job was to put the worm on the hook and then take the fish off the hook. They had obviously researched the creek and knew it to be the perfect "lure" to get a couple of kids hooked on fishing for a lifetime. Many trips followed included several vacations to Bennet Springs from my home state of Kansas, little knowing that I would become a resident of Missouri and return to fish the same locations as an adult.

I have been true to my roots and when the bluegill are biting in the spring I still rely on a little piece of worm on the perfect sized hook to tantalize them, only now I smash the barb for easy and harmless release. Recently, rather than clean the garage, my husband convinced me it was a perfect day to go fishing. Since the mess in the garage wasn't going anywhere but those perfect fishing days are fleeting, we grabbed our gear and headed for our favorite spot. Brad was using the high-tech method of fly rod and popping bugs out of one side of our little boat while I had my little container of worms and was fishing out of the other. I might add my fishing style also includes a pair of binoculars and a little bird watching.

With more that forty years as fishing partners, there is a little friendly competition between us and I was pleased when I hooked the first fish of the day. It didn't take us long to fill the stinger with an equal number going to each and soon we were within two fish of our limit. I

wanted to make one more cast with a fresh bit of worm before we called it a day.

What at first appeared to be a regular bluegill strike turned interesting as my rod took a deep bend and the drag started to sing. A couple of times I thought the fish had done the old “wrap the line around a sunken limb” trick but I was able to recover only to have the line swing in different direction on another run. Of course Brad was quick to give advice as the excitement mounted and the drag kicked in again. Then just like on the fishing shows, a huge bass cleared the water in a jump, shook and twisted in the air with his big mouth open the size of a dinner plate. I had the impression of something flying out of his mouth and my first thought was I had just lost the biggest bass I'd ever caught, but I soon realized I still had a fish on my line. What the bass had dislodged was the keeper size bluegill that I had hooked on my bit of worm. Quick to capitalize on my loss, Brad cast his line into the exact spot where the bass had jumped and immediately caught MY fish. We reeled in our catches and after admiring them both we released them back into the water. The big guy so we might have the thrill of catching him again and the little guy for the part he played in the days fishing story.

On all future trips we have vowed to take camera, scale and tape so we can document the next monster catch, but even without proof we still have a great story to tell. Brad's version is that my eyes were as big as the mouth of the bass when he jumped but that may be an exaggeration. We have also speculated what the little bluegill would have been saying during the experience. Our musings range from admonishing me to “reel faster!” to “I was having a snack when all the lights went out”.

I hope many of you will take advantage of MDC's fishing free days to enjoy the sport yourself and take a friend or a kid fishing. It's also a good time to take everyone in the family fishing without buying several permits. This is MDC's way of saying thank-you to Missourians for their support, but it's also a way to show

everyone how much fun fishing is in the hopes that many will come back for more.

The Conservation Department has a wealth of free information about how and where to fish. Go to mdc.mo.gov/events/freefishdays for details about Free Fishing Days, or visit mdc.mo.gov/fish/fishrt for a weekly fishing report. Links to a host of fishing information, including fishing events, are available at mdc.mo.gov/fish/. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/227 for a list of fishing publications and how to order them, or contact the Conservation Department Distribution Center, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov.



MEETING MINUTES

Boone's Lick Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist Meeting

May 10, 2008; 1:00-4:00pm

Attendees:

Gaylon Lowery, Phil Knocke, Mary Williamson, Frank Gray, Larry Barringhaus, Jessica Durgin, Lucky McMurtrey, Rachel Pia, Catherine Carpenter, Kristy Rupkey, Hugh Harrison, Angela Belden, Pam Close, Steffanie Abel, Justin McMillen, and Suzanne Wright.

An informal meeting of the Boone's Lick Chapter began at 12:45pm in the Katy Trail parking lot at McBaine. Snacks and bottled water were distributed as Suzanne reviewed the May Agenda. The group was reminded the field trip would count toward four hours of advanced training and is an approved substitute for any '08 training members who were unable to attend the woodland ecology field trip.

Steffanie Abel announced the June meeting will be a pot luck family picnic held at the home

of Sally & Bobb Swanson. Directions and details will be posted in the Dragonflyer.

Volunteer activities can be turned in to Suzanne as she will be posting the list for June. Sharon Reed has agreed to head the Project Approval Committee. Angela Beldon, of the '08 training class, has volunteered to serve as a member of the committee.

The group headed down the trail toward Schnabel Woods shortly after 1:00. Dr. Stephen G. Pallardy, Professor of Forestry at the University of Missouri, led the field trip. Various wildflowers such as Jack in the Pulpit were pointed out along the route and bird songs were identified by various members of the group.

Schnabel Woods' eighty acre area, owned by the University of Missouri and managed by the School of Natural Resources, is one of the few remaining remnant old-growth tracts in the loess-covered river hills of Boone County. Remnant old-growth tracts are rare and provide the best available information about probable long-term patterns of development and succession in the surrounding second-growth forests. Oak and hickories dominate the forest but sugar and black maples are gaining control of the under story where seedling oaks and hickories cannot compete. The specimens of dogwood, still in bloom at that time, were dramatic in their size because of the rich loess soil and optimum conditions.

Dr. Pallardy explained growth patterns, characteristics of individual species and the probable evolution of the forest. He also pointed out plant types and remarked on the marvelous diversity of Schnabel in the many native forbs that thrive in the area that are in danger elsewhere throughout the state. A summer tanager was spotted and was a beautiful sight against the varied greens of the forest.

The field trip was mostly attended by '08 training class members. The recent rains had created some slick footing that resulted in a quick dip in the stream by one. The incident

confirmed that we have a good crop of MMN as even soaking wet he continued on the fieldtrip with all good nature. Some of the climbs were steep as reported but the woods were wonderful and a great opportunity not to be missed since they are closed to the public.

The sound of thunder aided in the hasty departure of the group along the trail toward the parking lot. The meeting was concluded at 4:00pm with the onset of rain.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Wright

Many thanks to Pam Close, Steffanie Abel, and Phil Knocke for bringing refreshments to the May meeting. To sign up to bring refreshments to a future meeting, please see Jane Fore.

MILESTONES

Don Day and his protégé just finished leading the Spring '08 session of MMN training, the 5th year class as we say in the fish business. I was lucky to get to see Don in action before his imminent retirement, and the experience taught me a lot. So, too, did the session speakers and the trainees themselves.

Master Naturalist training is intense and complex, yet simple and enjoyable at the same time. After all, it is designed to expose people to facts, ideas, philosophy, and a way of thinking that helps them set about to helping people and nature, ideally at the same time. The group of 24 that participated in the evening courses and 4 field trips (forest, cave/nighttime, big river, prairies) experienced a wide range of subjects that they will draw upon to fulfill their Master Naturalist mantle. **BUT THEN, I AM NOT TELLING YOU ANYTHING NEW – YOU HAVE ALL BEEN THERE/DONE THAT!**

What a fabulous program, I am honored to be involved with it, and I hope we all have many more adventures together.

Jeff Koppelman, MDC
Chapter Co-Advisor

Herewith, the class of '08:

Marty Beck
Angela Belden
Catherine Carpenter
Jessica Durgin
Susan Gale
Frank Gray
Kim Harper
Hugh Harrison
Howard Hinkel
Kim Lanes
Gaylon Lowery
Janie McArthur
Robert McArthur
Justin McMillen
Lucky McMurtrey
Nathan Means
Margaret Neal
Bob Neal
Linda Persinger
Angie Reeves
Kristy Rupkey
Carol Sattler
Stephanie Tosh
Mary Williamson

Welcome!

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !

Please congratulate MMN Daniel Nathan Reeves on his marriage to the former Miss Sarah Elizabeth Montgomery. Best wishes for a long and happy life together. (The consensus is that Sarah should be a member of the spring '09 training class.)

**MICHAEL TROY GORDON
AUGUST 18, 1960 -
APRIL 25, 2008**

Troy was born August 18, 1960 in Independence, MO, to Milo Jacks and Maxine Isabell (Matteson) Gordon. He graduated from UMKC with a Bachelor of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies. He worked in libraries until he became a stay at home dad when his first

daughter was born. He continued volunteering for many groups, among them the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, Missouri River Relief, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Missouri Master Naturalists.

He was a Master Hummingbird Bander, and participated in songbird banding. Troy gave many presentations on hummingbirds and river animals to schools and groups. He especially enjoyed showing kids about birds and nature. He loved to travel, camp, and contra dance.

Troy is survived by his loving wife, Janine, two very special daughters, Jasmine & Genely, a sister Linda Hester and family, two half-sisters Suzanne Smith and Sandy Gedminas and their families, a half-brother Fred Ehman, and many nieces, nephews, and friends. Donations may be made in his name to Missouri River Relief, PO Box 463, Columbia, MO 65202, for a special project on the Big Muddy Refuge.

~*~

Troy was always enthused about Master Naturalists. He gave leadership to our chapter. He also served on the state coordinating board. He was involved in planning every class after he took the initial training. Until this year, he attended almost every class session. He planned the river field trip each year. He also did that for the state conference when we hosted it last spring. He would put together the volunteer opportunities each month and send them to me so I could put them on the web and to include in the newsletter. Troy had a way of making everyone welcome in all group activities. The last figure I had on Troy's hours was 1,451. I am sure he had accumulated a lot more hours than that as that was in December. We all mourn the loss of this important member of our group. Our thoughts are with his family.

Don Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

Science Café

The Science Café is on summer vacation. It will resume in September.

“Butterflies Study on the Overton Bottoms North” presented by Wedge Watkins.

Tuesday, June 10th, at 7:00pm

Friends of Big Muddy and Missouri River Relief continue our monthly series with evening programs about the Missouri River.

The program will be held at the Bryant Cabin, which is located on the bluff overlooking the Missouri River floodplain on part of the [Overton Bottoms North Unit](#) of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, across the river from Rocheport. To get to the Bryant Cabin, take the Overton/Wooldridge exit off I-70 (exit #111, the first exit west of the Missouri River bridge at Rocheport). Go north about 300 feet to the "T" intersection and turn left on Highway 98. Go west seven tenths of a mile and turn right on Brady Lane (the first road to the right). In six tenths of a mile, Brady Lane curves ninety degrees to the right. Go straight on the gravel drive, going past the Loesing parking area and through the open gate. The lane follows the ridge around to the cabin. A [map](#) is on the refuge web site, and the Bryant Cabin is in the dark "closed area." Just ignore the closed area signs, as you have special authorization for these programs to enter the area.

Bobwhite Quail/Native Plant Field Day Bradford Farms, June 26, 4-8pm

This field day will consist of wagon tours that give participants an opportunity to see bobwhite quail management demonstrations and research in progress and to see how native plants can be used for conservation. Participants will also discover how native plants can be used for landscaping as well as to clean up water run off in rain gardens or provide seed and insects for birds. Native plants can also be used for bobwhite quail habitat and participants will get to see first

hand how they can be incorporated in land use management such as edge feathering and native grass management. There will also be informational booths on native plants and quail management and the public will have an opportunity to purchase native plants.

MEET A MASTER NATURALIST

David Melegrito

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

My formative years were spent on a farm in the Philippines, and I was exposed to God's WONDERFUL creations like various birds, animals, plants, hills and valleys, streams and rivers, forests and magnificent trees. So when I saw the info/brochure about MMN and its object as "guardian" of our natural resources I jumped at the opportunity to broaden my knowledge. It was a "no brainer" to take the course, so to speak.

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

I think all of our speakers were quite informative and awe-inspiring. I was particularly impressed by Troy Gordon's knowledge, dedication and passion about the Big Muddy. It is now our mission to fill that big void he left us.

3. Favorite service project thus far?

Thus far my favorite projects are the rain garden and wetland, which I had the privilege of making/building with Scott Hamilton and some of my MMN classmates, located at the West Blvd Elementary School last summer. The kids there were just great and love God's green earth.

4. Favorite Missouri native?

I would say at the moment that my favorite native plant is the Rattlesnake Master, just because of its unique name.

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

Well, I definitely love to sing at weddings, talent shows (is it ok to brag that I won the Boone County Talent Show last summer?), an avid tennis player and gardener and a member of the Columbia Kiwanis Club, where we serve our children in the community and around the world by raising and giving money and giving of our time. I also find it quite gratifying to volunteer in my church by going to several nursing/independent resident homes and performing church services for them once a month.

I have two lovely granddaughters (age 5 & 11) whom I adore and love very much. They love the outdoors and like gardening and playing with Lolo (grandpa).

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

And lastly, and this is personal (and I don't really mind telling people) I color my hair-to hopefully look younger than my age of 63!

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

The Missouri Master Naturalist 2007 Accomplishment Report is out, and together we have done great things!

In 2007 our Chapter logged 338 advanced training hours, and 2,998 service hours. Our Chapter had logged a total of 6,334 service hours by the close of 2007. Overall, 15,791 cumulative service hours had been logged by Missouri Master Naturalists from the start of the program in 2004 through the close of 2007. The economic value of our service hours if counted as labor, statewide, for 2007 is \$333,964.

Give yourself a pat on the back for the difference you've made in our State.

To read the full report, prepared by Syd Hime and Bob Pierce, go to: [2007 Missouri Master Naturalist Program](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

June Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Below are the volunteer opportunities for June and ongoing projects, as well as announcements of other events. 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.

June Volunteer Opportunities

CACHE Birding Trips

Every Wednesday, June 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.

Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society, Missouri Department of Conservation, and The Audubon Society of Missouri.

These are birding trips with Bill Clark, former president of The Columbia Audubon Society. Meet Bill 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 depending on who is there and where they want to go. Contact Bill Clark at 573-474-4510 to confirm. Contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com. Project is approved.

Prairie Seed Collection Field Trips/Project/Advanced Training

- June 7 – Saturday morning – Charles Green CA near Ashland
- June 21 – Saturday morning – Tucker Prairie
- July 17 – Thursday evening – TBD

- July 31 – Thursday evening – Green Area

(tentative - locations may change)

Sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation. 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 will occasionally include arrangements for a van by John George. 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 notifications. Contact Suzanne Wright to have your name added to the e-mail list: Suzwright@centurytel.net . Project is approved as a volunteer opportunity and will include some Advanced Training hours.

Bird Banding at Eagle Bluffs

Saturday, June 14th and Sunday June 22nd

Sponsored by Audubon Missouri

The third year of bird banding is under way at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area. Banding of breeding birds is part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program. Volunteers interested in participating should dress for the field (hiking boots or sturdy shoes, long pants, sun block, bug spray, etc.). Meet at the south parking lot for Pool 12, near the river trail entrance, at 6:45am to help with banding. Rounds will be made every hour until the 11:45am run when the nets will be taken down. The session usually concludes by 1:00pm. Contact Suzanne Wright at 573-446-2217 or Suzwright@centurytel.net, or Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com. Project is approved.

Trailside Nature Expo – Forum Trailhead of the MKT Trail

Saturday, June 7th, 9:00am- 12:00pm

Sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension & The City of Columbia Parks Department

Boone's Lick MMN are needed to staff an information table at the Trailside Nature Expo at the Forum trailhead for the MKT Trail. There will be owl pellets to dissect, interesting facts concerning watersheds and handouts about the MMN program to share. Contact Rachel Pia at Rachel.pia@gmail.com if you can help. Project is approved.

CARP Wetland Restoration Project (previous training by the city required)

Saturday, June 7th, 8:00am- 12:00pm

Sponsored by the City of Columbia Contact us at 874-7499 or volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com Location for Saturday's planting is Stephens Park Lake at the Riechmann Pavilion on East Walnut. Project includes a mix of shoreline maintenance and planting of the new Riechmann raingarden system. Contact Suzanne Wright at 573-446-2217 or Suzwright@centurytel.net. Project is approved.

Treekeepers /Trailside Nature Expo

(previous training by the City required)

Saturday, June 7th, 9:00am- 1:00pm

Sponsored by the City of Columbia Contact us at 874-7499 or volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com Treekeepers are needed to staff an information table at the Trailside Nature Expo and also participate in a project at the Forum Trailhead on the MKT trail. Project is approved.

Chimney Swift Tower Workday – Capstone Project - Saturday, June 14th, 3:00pm. Rain or shine!

Sponsored by the Columbia Audubon Society The 3rd workday for the Chimney Swift Tower Project will be June 14th. The first workday the team made the concrete form, broke ground, and made a re-bar frame for the concrete pad. The second day, the bottom section of the tower was built, the steel posts attached and installed in the ground to finish the re-bar frame. On this workday, the concrete will be mixed and poured for the pad. Rain or shine the work will continue, using the shed to finish the tower if necessary. Join us at 3:00 at Wild Haven. All are welcome, and please remember to bring appropriate clothing for this type of work, water, bug spray, sunscreen, and

all your creature comforts. Contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com . Project is approved.

Adopt a Spot Workday Date/June 14th, 4:00pm

Sponsored by the City of Columbia.

Derek, an Eagle Scout candidate, has planned a wildflower garden at an Adopt-a-Spot bed off State Farm Parkway next to the recycle bins. The date for planting the wildflowers and grasses is Saturday, June 7th at 4:00 pm. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to meet him there at 4 pm. Just drive along State Farm Parkway and you can't miss the recycle bin area. The Boone's Lick Chapter will be taking over the maintenance of this bed once Derek is done. Wear appropriate clothing and bring gardening tools. Contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com . Project is approved.

Treekeepers /Tree Identification Walk (previous training by the City required)

Saturday, June 21th, 8:00am to End

Sponsored by the City of Columbia Contact us at 874-7499 or volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com Meet at Flat Branch Park behind Hardees to walk downtown and the MU grounds for tree identification training. Bring pencil and notepad to take notes and sketches. Project is approved.

Butterfly Inventory at Overton Bottoms North (2008 Capstone)

Date/times: Verify with Wedge Watkins

Sponsored by Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Big Muddy Master Naturalists will capture butterfly and moth specimens to continue the inventory that began in 2006. Volunteers will want to dress appropriate for field work (sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, and head covering are recommended). Insect repellent and sun block are suggested and volunteers should bring water bottles. We will inventory three areas, so expect to spend between two to three hours on the project. Contact: Wedge Watkins, 573-441-2788, Wedge.Watkins@fws.gov . Project is approved.

Tree Planting Date/times to be announced

Sponsored by Missouri River Communities Network

There will be tree plantings on a City-owned eroding hillside along a creek behind houses at the south end of UMC Drive, south of Stadium, off of Providence. Contact Missouri River Communities Network 573-256-2602. Project is not yet approved.

Nature of Learning and Troy's Trail

Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy/Missouri River Relief

There are plans for a nature trail to be constructed as a memorial for Troy Gordon. A grant application process is ongoing and a memorial fund has been set up to assist in the building of the trail, which will be located in the Arrow Rock section of the Big Muddy Refuge. More information will be forthcoming as it's made available.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

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. Project is approved.

School Natural Areas Ongoing

Many of our area schools that have natural areas could use some volunteer assistance. Often the staff members and/or parents who had the initial idea, time, and energy to create these natural areas have since moved on to other schools or other projects. As a result, many areas have been neglected to the extent

that they are less useable as educational areas. Missouri Master Naturalists could be helpful in several different types of projects. Some schools have large areas, including prairie and/or woodland areas that may need burning or removal of invasive species, or introduction of more diversity in the native flora. Some schools have small butterfly gardens or sensory gardens that need some weeding, preferably by someone who has some knowledge of and interest in native plants. Some schools have an interest in a native area or rainwater garden, and might appreciate some planning and/or installation assistance. Ideally I would like to connect each school that wants help with a MMN volunteer contact person (and for large natural areas, perhaps a group of MMN Vol.), and if more help is needed, that MMN volunteer could call me for more MMN volunteers who are available for more service hours.

I am compiling a list of needs, and school contacts so that I can match up MMN volunteers with needs expressed. (If you know of any other schools that could use help of this sort, I would like to know about it. . . they do not have to be public schools, those are just the ones I know of.) If you are interested in volunteering at a particular school, or have a particular expertise or type of work you like to do, or if you would like to generally assist for a few hours, please let me know so that I can match you up with an appropriate project. There may also be opportunities to help with after school garden clubs at some schools.

So far, these are the schools that I know of that have natural areas that could use help:

- Benton Elementary---new native garden to begin in spring
- Blue Ridge---prairie, woodland, butterfly and sensory gardens
- Douglas High School—possible new rainwater garden
- Fairview Elementary—small butterfly garden
- Hallsville---native garden area to be replanted this spring/summer

- Harrisburg—interest in a new rainwater garden
- Midway Heights Elementary---small prairie, raised bed butterfly garden, wetland, erosion area could be rainwater garden?
- Mill Creek Elementary—wetland, prairie
- New Haven Elementary—butterfly garden has plants to dig and share with other schools
- Rock Bridge Elementary---prairie, native plantings, wetland
- Shepard Elementary---native planted courtyard (to be re-planted this spring)

Contact Lea Langdon at langtrea@gmail.com or 447-1257. Project is approved.

Students, the Environment, and Endangered Species (SEEDS) Ongoing
Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Ecological Services Field Office

The future of Missouri's environment rests in the hands of today's youth. Students, the Environment, and Endangered Species (SEEDS) is an environmental education program developed by the Missouri Ecological Services Field Office to promote environmental awareness among Boone County's youth. SEEDS incorporates interactive learning, outdoor activities, and hands-on interaction between fifth grade students, wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteers. The program brings volunteers into the classroom to interact with students, and provide teachers with information and resources to further educate their students on environmental issues and endangered species. The key messages of SEEDS include 1) informing students on endangered species and their habitats in Boone County and 2) how kids can be environmentally conscious in their every day lives. Volunteers will lead presentations on Boone County endangered species in Columbia schools, primarily for the fifth grade level. Volunteers will coordinate with wildlife educators to bring to the classroom native Missouri wildlife, and host book fairs to raise funds for the purchase of wildlife books for the

designated school's media center. Additionally, volunteers are encouraged to think of new and innovative ways to accomplish the Service's mission to connect children with nature. Volunteers with a background in education or the environment are especially encouraged to participate. Contact Becky_Clearwater@fws.gov or Charlie Scott at 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 are welcome to join fishery staff for day long trips to the field where they will collect, tag, and measure fish, and assess fish habitat quality. Volunteers are also welcome in the lab to aid in the identification of collected fishes and assist in analysis of field data. Volunteers are also needed with skills outside of the traditional fish biology. Individuals skilled in computers, construction, journalism, photography, statistics, teaching or other disciplines are welcome and needed. Contact: Joanne Grady at Joanne_Grady@fws.gov or 573-234-2132, ext. 101. 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 are usually needed 2-3 times per month during busy seasons (April-October), and once a month during slower seasons (November-March). No experience is required but some paperwork is required. One-time volunteers may fill out a temporary work agreement (no background check required). If you desire to volunteer more than once, state park paperwork and a background check must be submitted and approved prior to volunteering

(so be sure to allow at least a week for paperwork processing). 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
The most rewarding volunteer experience ever! We have new opportunities for volunteers to begin working with birds sooner. Please contact us to set up a 30-minute training session just for you, so you can begin to feed these amazing creatures. You can then become more familiar with our education birds and all of the amazing ways you can interact with them and continue educating delighted audiences throughout mid-Missouri about the importance of wildlife conservation. This is a rare and special opportunity that is not available in most areas. We are truly lucky to have the chance to do so, so why not check it out? If you want to first discuss the project with a Master Naturalist, contact Diane Kuschel at 573-881-1425 or dgkb6b@mizzou.edu. We're looking forward to you!
Contact: Contact: Erin West, President at eewd76@mizzou.edu to hear more about the project and how you can get started training. Let her know you're a Master Naturalist and heard about the project from Diane! Project is approved.

**Prairie Fork Conservation Area Field Trip
Naturalists**

Sponsored by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, the University of Missouri and the Prairie Fork Trust.
Prairie Fork CA has a need for naturalists to staff environmental education stations during field trips for school students. Most programs take place Monday through Friday from about 9am till 2pm. Most programs involve 3 small group activities from 9am till noon with children rotating through the stations and one large group activity after lunch. Help is most needed during the morning activities. Prairie Fork Conservation Area is a 712 acre wildlife refuge

owned by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and administered in cooperation with the University of Missouri and the Prairie Fork Trust. This conservation area, located about 35 miles due east of Columbia, was established in 1997 by a generous donation from Pat Jones. Prairie Fork was established with 3 major goals: 1. Natural Community Restoration 2. Conservation Education and 3. Ongoing Academic Research in support of goals 1 and 2. Benefits for volunteers (besides the warm fuzzy feeling you get from making a difference in school kids lives!) could include limited access to Prairie Fork, limited camping/hiking opportunities, as well as an end of season BBQ.

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

Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Explore Rock Bridge third Saturday of each month

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Explore Rock Bridge provides opportunities for the public to explore different resources of the state park and to participate in service projects. Volunteers needed to assist trip leader with hike each month. Volunteers also needed to plan future programs. Contact: Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsm@aol.com or 815-9255. Project is approved.

Landowner Contacts Database Flexible hours until completed.

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation

The 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 that will allow MDC to better assess the needs for the property. 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.

Most opportunities are on the units of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, projects are sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy. Friends of Big Muddy helps the refuge with a variety of projects including trail building, putting up boundary signs, trash pickups, educational programs, habitat restoration projects, water quality monitoring, etc. We also have booths at festivals at communities along the Missouri River to talk about the refuge and Friends of Big Muddy activities. We are looking for people to lead interpretive hikes, canoe trips, boat rides, etc. on refuge units (leading these counts as volunteer time, participation does not count). Most activities are announced on an e-mail group about 10-14 days before they happen. To subscribe to that list, send an e-mail to FriendsofBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Activities generally only require the volunteer to provide personal care items (water bottle, sun protection, bug protection, etc.). Exceptions will be noted in e-mail announcements. Volunteers can choose to participate only in the activities that interest them. Projects are approved.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Send submissions to Rachel.Pia@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.

Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth that around every circle another can be drawn; that there is no end in nature, but every end is a beginning, and under every deep a lower deep opens.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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NEXT MEETING

July 10, 6:30pm

Reading Rivers

Please RSVP Steffanie at StfAbel@yahoo.com by July 3rd if you plan to attend. We need a head count to have enough boats! We will leave from Taylor's Landing at 6:30pm.

Missouri Master Naturalist State Conferences
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.*