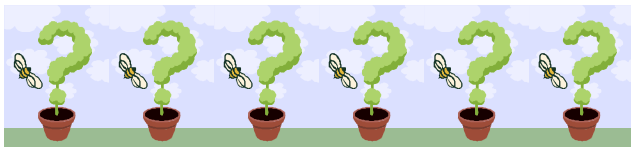


### AUGUST MEETING

August 14, 6:30-8:30  
Geospatial Technology for Naturalists.  
Tony Spicci, GIS Coordinator, MDC

Program 6:30-7:30, Business Meeting 7:45-8:30. The program has been approved as advanced training.

Refreshments at this meeting are courtesy of Carolyn Doyle and Alice Havard.



### PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

*Suzanne Wright*

#### The July Missouri River Field Trip

Many thanks to our "captains" and presenters, Tim Haller, Tracy Hill, Cliff Wilson and Mike Blessington.

When Lewis and Clark navigated up the Missouri River in early June of 1804, they passed close to the launch site for our July 10<sup>th</sup> field trip. At that time the Missouri was wide, braided and treacherous with numerous drifting trees as it meandered from bluff to bluff. This "meander belt" contained a variety of fish and wildlife habitats including wetlands, sandbars, wet prairies, and bottomland forests. Seasonal floods provided the water needed to replenish shallow-water habitats used for fish and wildlife breeding and growth.

The past two hundred years have brought many changes to the Missouri River. Efforts to stabilize the Missouri and provide a navigation channel started in the early 1900's. Since 1912, seven separate acts of Congress provided for the construction and maintenance of a navigation channel and bank stabilization works. The collection of projects, constructed and maintained by the US Army Corps of Engineers, is known as the [Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project](#), (BSNP). Today the Corps of Engineers maintains a 9-foot-deep navigation channel for 735 miles between Sioux City, Iowa and St. Louis in non-winter months; today thirty-two percent of the Missouri River is channelized.

Tim Haller, Park Ranger with the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, explained the navigation aids and how they can help locate your position on the Missouri River Navigational charts. Tim clarified the different types of markers (passing and crossing beacons along the banks), and the buoys located in the water. He also stated the location of the buoys can be unreliable as they can shift out of positions or be carried off by high water.

The highly controlled, narrow channel has significantly reduced the amount of fish and wildlife habitat that used to be supported from the natural channel and "meander" belt. Consequently, the fish and wildlife populations have seen a significant reduction along with the loss of recreational opportunities that they used to provide.

Two fish that have been impacted are the pallid and shovelnose sturgeon, so much so that the pallid sturgeon was placed on the endangered

species list in 1990. It was the first fish species in the Mississippi River drainage that was listed as endangered and it is believed its decline is related to loss of habitat. The US Government and most of the states that historically have pallid sturgeon have begun restoration efforts to save the species. The pallid are some of the most primitive and ancient fish species; a relic of the dinosaur era it has remained virtually unchanged the past 70 millions years.

Sturgeons have very long life spans but it is still unclear how long they might live, it is generally thought that pallids live in excess of fifty years. Remarkable to look at, sturgeons have cartilaginous skeletons and rows of thick cartilage plates that extend along their sides, undersides and backs and most of the head. A bottom dwelling fish the distinctive flatted, shovel-shaped snout with fleshy chin barbells which dangle just in front of its mouth and the bony scutes that ridge its sides give it a well earned prehistoric look.

Tracy Hall, Project Leader for Columbia Fisheries Resource Office USFWS, had captured several shovelnose sturgeons of different sizes for demonstration which we were allowed to handle. He explained the differences between the shovelnose and pallid and talked about the efforts being made to monitor, protect, and increase habitat for sturgeon in the Missouri.

Commercial fishing has probably also played a role in the quick decline of the pallid. The flesh of the sturgeon is considered highly palatable and the eggs or roe are used as caviar. Dissolution of the U.S.S.R. has impacted the fishing pressure on the sturgeon population in the Missouri River. Over fishing in the Baltic Sea and the increased rarity of Caspian caviar has created a highly profitable black market trafficking in U.S. roe, repackaged and sold as Russian caviar.

Commercial fishing permits for roe are issued in several states along the Missouri River. Even though the pallid is a protected species the profits made from the roe have probably lead to illegal harvesting of the pallid.

Because of its long lifespan, it take many years before pallid sturgeon reach reproductive maturity; it is believed males reach sexual maturity between five and seven years old, while females may not be capable of reproduction until the age of fifteen or older. Research indicates they spawn every third year at a minimum. For several decades, no known natural reproduction of pallids had been observed but late in the 1990's young pallids were discovered living in a restored riparian area of the lower Missouri River. This was the first documented example of wild spawned pallids in fifty year. This discovery has led to an interest in creating similar habitats in the hopes of saving the species from extinction.

Any summer evening boating on what I believe to be the most beautiful section of the wide Missouri is always time well spent. The excellent program, a chance to see and handle shovelnose sturgeon and the assistance provided by Tim, Tracy, Cliff and Mike added to the experience for the three boats loaded with Boone's Lick Chapter members attending the field trip.

In the future while I watch the sun set over the turbid waters of the Missouri, I will think of the pallid sturgeon lying with their scaly bellies pressed to the sandy bottom in the swift moving current and hope for their continued presence.



## MEETING MINUTES

### **Boone's Lick Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist Meeting**

**July 10, 2008**

The Boone's Lick Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists met for their regular monthly meeting at 6:30 PM on Thursday, July 10, 2008. The meeting was a field trip, held at the

Missouri River access at Huntsdale. Present were Steffanie Abel, Kim Lanes, Frank Gray, Janine Gordon, Suzanne Wright, Cheryl Harrison, Dan Reeves, Bill Lauer, Sally Swanson, Lea Langdon, Susan Gale, Hugh Harrison, Jane Fore, Rachel Pia, Vanessa Melton, David Silvey and Carolyn Doyle.

Tim Haller, Park Ranger with the Big Muddy Fish & Wildlife Refuge presented a program on Missouri River Navigation and safety. Tracy Hill, Project Leader for Columbia Fisheries Resource Office USFWS, presented information about shovelnose and pallid sturgeon. Cliff Wilson, Fisheries Biologist and Mike Blessington, Refuge Law Enforcement Officer BMFWR, assisted and helped captain the boats.

Tim told us about the various navigation signs on the river which indicate where the navigational channel is located and how to read them to stay within the channel. Tracy and Cliff had netted a few shovelnose sturgeons for us to examine and described their lifecycle. The shovelnose sturgeons are not endangered as is their relatives the pallid sturgeon; their lifecycles are similar. We then boarded three boats and went on the river for a first-hand demonstration of the markers and a trip down the side channel around Tadpole Island. This meeting was approved for two hours of advanced training.

Back on shore, a very brief business meeting was held and members were reminded to check for volunteer opportunities in the Dragonflyer.

#### Upcoming Events:

Tuesday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, a presentation was given on Flathead and Blue Catfish at Bryant Cabin at Overton Bottoms North, presented by The Friends of Big Muddy. This program was approved as Advanced Training.

Sunday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00p, Chimney Swift Tower Capstone Project, for information contact Vanessa at [vanndawn@yahoo.com](mailto:vanndawn@yahoo.com).

MAPS Bird Banding, July 6, 11, 20, 25 and August 2. Contact Suzanne or Vanessa for details or check the listing in volunteer opportunities for time and location.

August meeting: Steffanie reported the meeting will be at the Extension Office, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Tony Spicci, MDC GIS Coordinator, will present the program on GPS technology for naturalists. The meeting has been approved for Advanced Training.

Snacks were provided by Jane Fore.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Carolyn Doyle, Secretary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friends of Big Muddy Monthly Program:**  
*On vacation for August, no program.*

**MoBCI – August 15 & 16**  
Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) 2008 Annual Conference will be held August 15 & 16, 2008, at the Days Inn Conference Center in Columbia, MO. Theme for the Conference is Renewable Energy: Is it for the Birds?

For more information, check [www.mobci.org](http://www.mobci.org)  
*Note: The informational sessions have been approved as Advanced Training.*

**Tomato Festival, Bradford Farms**  
Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 7 p.m.  
For the past three years the Bradford Research and Extension Center has hosted a "Tomato Festival". Each year we grow over 50 different kinds of tomatoes that include popular garden types and the old varieties that our grandparents grew (heirlooms). We also have a wide range of colors, shapes and sizes. We also grow a wide assortment of over 30 types of peppers that range from the mild bell peppers to the flaming hot habaneros. In early

September of each year we invite the public out to sample the different tomatoes. We also invite several different restaurants including Campus Dining to bring a taste of their salsas made from the different tomatoes and peppers. In 2007, Nadia Narvarette-Tindall grilled some of the different peppers for the participants to sample. Participants also enjoy talks given by MU Faculty on tomato and pepper culture including staking and mulching.

*This event is open and free to the public.*

### **Saturday Morning Science**

Saturdays, 10:30-11:30

Monsanto Auditorium, Life Sciences Center  
(Free and open to the public)

Fall Schedule:

9/6 D. Cornelison	Adult stem cells
9/13 S. van der Lee	Geology
9/20 T. Schultz	How Insects Use Color
9/27 M. Hannink	Cancer biology
10/4 L. Eggert	Ecology/Missouri Bears
10/11 G. Forgacs	Physics
10/18 M. Mitchum	Soybean pathogens (homecoming)
10/25 Illusions	Weather
11/1 T. Lupo	Genomics/plant biology
11/8 C. Pires	Plant biology
11/15 M. Liscum	

### **Association of Missouri Interpreters Annual Conference, September 16-18, Columbia/Jefferson City**

Dear Master Naturalists,

I would personally like to invite you to join us for this year's annual Association of Missouri Interpreter's Conference Sept. 16-18, 2008. This year's conference will be based in the Columbia/Jefferson City area and is being co-sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks, and the University of Missouri. For those who need lodging we have reserved a block of rooms at Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia.

The AMI is a professional, non-profit organization that assists and supports the work of individuals and groups engaged in resource interpretation. Our members include

naturalists, tour guides, historians, environmental educators, and zoo staff. Members work in nature centers, historic sites, state parks, museums, schools, and zoos all over the state of Missouri. AMI is a recognized chapter of the National Association for Interpretation.

Our theme this year is "Voices for the Future." Discover how voices from our past and those in the present will help to forge a future in interpretation. We have quite a few conference and pre-conference field trips lined up to showcase some of mid-Missouri's natural and cultural resources. Field studies include a Devil's Icebox Wild Cave Tour at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, MU Connections tour, Katy Trail ride, Treasure Hunting 101 (letterboxing, geocaching, orienteering at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park), trips to Van Meter State Park (Paleoethobotany of Missouri Indians), and Prairie Garden Trust (to learn about super bugs).

In addition to our field trips and field studies on Monday and Wednesday, we will have speakers and concurrent sessions on a variety of topics Tuesday at Stoney Creek Inn and Thursday at Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City. Our sessions and speakers, some of which are still being planned, will address issues such as how to stop the growing disconnect of people from their environment and their history. If you would like to present a workshop, we are still accepting applications for workshop proposals (see "Call for Papers" under sessions on our website: [www.mointerp.net](http://www.mointerp.net))

Registration for the conference includes a one-year membership to AMI and meals on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Student rates are available. Please see attachment in forwarded e-mail or visit our website for details: [www.mointerp.net](http://www.mointerp.net)

I have attended this workshop many times in past years and am on the planning committee for it this year. This conference is a great place to not only gain valuable information and insights, but also to make connections with

many other resource interpreters. I am a lifetime member of the organization and highly recommend the training.

Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire  
Interpretive Resource Technician  
Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

*Note: the Advanced Training Committee is reviewing the sessions for approval.*

## MEET A MASTER NATURALIST

### Angela Belden

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

I joined (as a volunteer) for two reasons. The first was to gain further knowledge of natural resource management concepts and more field experiences to enhance my job resume. The second reason was to have an excuse to hang out with all of the cool people in the chapter that I had met while working on the program in official capacity. There are some really good folks here, and one should always strive to surround themselves with good folks.

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

Aside from all of Missouri's wondrous beauty? I'd have to say that the most amazing thing I've experienced through the Master Naturalist program is the coming together of people from all walks of life around a common passion for becoming stewards of that wondrous beauty. There's just something special about people who get excited to get messy and do something positive for our natural resources, and only expect pins and certificates in return!

#### *3. Favorite service project thus far?*

I'm a tree girl, through and through. But anyone who knows me knows that. I'm enjoying broadening my horizons a bit by learning prairie plants and their life histories.

Yep, they're not as big as trees, but I admit they also can be kinda cool.

#### *4. Favorite Missouri native?*

Well of course I had to lead off this list with a tree, right? My favorite tree is the blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*): a beautiful tree that I wish were used more in landscaping. Foliage fondness aside, something magical happened to me the time I first heard a quail covey call on a prairie before dawn.

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

I'm a big goofball, and I'm not sure I've matured past the age of 10. I'm afraid that one of these days, the "adult police" are going to knock on my door and tell me that I don't belong here yet, but thanks for playing.

But that might be something that folks could guess about me, so here are some random fun facts about Angela: I grew up in the Chicago suburbs with little "real" contact with nature even though I was always fascinated with it; I'm an only child; I've recently started weight lifting; I love U.S. architecture from the 1920s through the 1960s; I collect, document, and cherish baby oak leaves; and I've been known to be all dressed up, drinking gin martinis at an art gallery, talking excitedly about turkey hunting.

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

Long ago, I came up with the answer to the question "Why are We Here?", which is to have fun, be good to others, and leave the world a better place than you found it. I think every Master Naturalist is doing a pretty good job of that.

## STREAM TEAM/AMERICORPS

**Missouri River Communities Network (MRCN)** is recruiting for **one fulltime AmeriCorps position** to serve in Columbia with the **Missouri Stream Team AmeriCorps Project**. Stream Team AmeriCorps members will be doing education and outreach to promote the establishment of rain gardens and

rain barrels in Columbia and Boone County. They will also be providing support, outreach, education, training and mentoring to local Stream Teams and their members. Work will be done in a team of three AmeriCorps Members. The service year is Sept. 1, 2008 to Aug. 31, 2009.

Full-time AmeriCorps Members complete 1,700 hours of service in a 12 month period and receive \$11,400 per year in living expenses, plus health insurance, and (if service hours are completed) an education award of \$4,725.

If you are interested in becoming a Stream Team AmeriCorps member in Columbia, please email Susan Galeota at: [susgaleota@gmail.com](mailto:susgaleota@gmail.com) for information on the application procedure. Or contact her at 573-256-2602.

## INSECT INFO & IMAGES

Donna Brunet has an insect-watching blog: <http://insectphoto.blogspot.com>. You can read about her adventures, and see some of her photographs, there. She has put together checklists of those she's seen at Rockbridge State Park and Runge Nature Center. Those are available online at [checklists/checklists.html](http://checklists/checklists.html).

## EMERALD ASH BORER

Press Release 7/28/08

Discovery of forest pest triggers state, federal response

The emerald ash borer could be devastating to Missouri trees.

WAPPAPELLO LAKE-State and federal officials are working overtime to determine the extent of an emerald ash borer infestation at

Wappapello Lake and to develop a strategy for containing the problem.

The infestation came to light July 23 when U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists discovered seven suspicious beetles on traps at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Greenville Recreation Area in Wayne County. Officials with the USDA confirmed the identity of the insects Friday.

Collin Wamsley, state entomologist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, said his agency and the Missouri departments of Conservation and Natural Resources are prepared to deal with the infestation. Before proceeding, however, both state and federal agencies need to determine its extent.

"Although it is a disappointment to find the early detection of the emerald ash borer, it is not a surprise," said Wamsley. "We have been preparing for an event like this for some time. Right now, we are doing what we can to determine the location of the emerald ash borer. We hope to have that information soon and begin the next steps in battling this pest."

Wamsley said the first steps will include conducting visual searches for emerald ash borers and placing more traps around the initial detection site. This is under way. The results of these surveys will dictate further actions.

The emerald ash borer is a small, metallic green beetle native to Asia. Its larvae burrow into the bark of ash trees, causing trees to starve and die. While the emerald ash borer does not pose any direct risk to public health, it does threaten Missouri's ash tree populations.

Ash trees make up approximately 3 percent of forests and 14 percent of urban trees in Missouri. Since no ash trees in North America are known to be resistant to the pest, infestations are devastating to these tree species.

Missouri is the ninth state to have a confirmed emerald ash borer infestation. The pest was first found in Michigan in 2002. Since that

## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

time, seven other states (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia) have confirmed infestations. Missouri is the farthest south and west of any other known emerald ash borer infestation.

The emerald ash borer trapping effort that revealed the infestation is part of a monitoring program started in 2004. It is Missouri's contribution to a nation-wide early detection effort coordinated by USDA in partnership with the Missouri departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the University of Missouri.

Emerald ash borer traps are purple, prism-shaped devices with sticky outer surfaces. The borers are attracted by the color and by chemical scents that mimic a stressed ash tree. Insects that land on the traps are stuck and can be identified by periodic checking. So far, emerald ash borers have not shown up on any other traps throughout the state.

Although adult emerald ash borers are strong fliers, they are less likely to travel long distances when plenty of host trees are available nearby. However, they can move long distances on firewood and nursery stock. State officials urge Missourians not to transport firewood from one site to another. Instead, they suggest that campers buy firewood locally.

"The discovery of this highly destructive pest at a campground is a strong indication that it probably arrived in firewood," said Conservation Department Forest Entomologist Rob Lawrence. "If people knew how devastating this insect can be, they would never consider bringing firewood from out of state."

For further information about the emerald ash borer, visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/firewood](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/firewood), or call Wamsley at 573-751-5505 or Lawrence at 573-882-9909 x.3303.

**Prairie Seed Collection**, August 7 and September 14.

*See Volunteer Opportunities*

**GPS Training**, Chapter Meeting, August 14.

*See Chapter Meeting Program Information*

**MoBCI** – August 15 & 16

*See Upcoming Events*

**Stream Team GPS Workshop** – October 3

The Stream Team Program has several new GPS units that will soon be available to loan to ST members who have completed a 2-hour GPS Workshop. These units can be used for obtaining GPS coordinates such as latitude and longitude at your monitoring site. We are offering a GPS Workshop at 6:00 p.m. the night before all of the Level 1 VWQM workshops, except in Hannibal. These will be totally separate from the Level 1 workshops, but will be held at the same location. You need not attend one to attend the other, but you are welcome to attend both if you desire and space is available. Space is limited to 20 participants and will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. If you have your own GPS unit, please feel free to bring it. A light meal will be provided. To register, or for more information, contact Amy Jungclaus, Missouri Department of Conservation at 573/522-4115x3166 or 800/781-1989 (voice mail).

Columbia date: Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This session will fill quickly.

*Note: You may use either the Chapter program or the Stream Team program for Advanced Training on GPS, but not both.*

**Stream Team Level 1**. October 4.

*The registration deadline for this session is September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please note that many sessions fill well before the deadline. If you have completed the Intro training and meet the other requirements, you may register for the level 1 training. Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).*

You may also select a session on another date at a location outside of Columbia, please see their website for details.

(NB: there is a document on their website with information on data collection with high water.)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Volunteer Opportunities 2008

Below are the volunteer opportunities for August 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.

#### August Volunteer Opportunities

##### Rain Garden Installation and Maintenance

*Sponsored by Missouri River Communities Network*

This project will include the installation and maintenance of five area raingardens and demonstration of the raingardens during tours by local community groups and individuals.

There are five raingardens included in the original grant with the hopes that more will follow. For more information contact Lea Langdon at [langtrea@gmail.com](mailto:langtrea@gmail.com) or phone: 573-864-7647

Project is approved.

##### Bird Banding at Eagle Bluffs - Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)

August 2<sup>nd</sup> and additional date to be announced

**NB: August 2<sup>nd</sup> cancelled due to high water**  
*Sponsored by Audubon Missouri*

Rain and poor conditions at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area resulted in the cancellation of the July 25<sup>th</sup> banding. Contact Vanessa or Suzanne for the make-up date and information regarding the Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> banding. Dress for the field and muddy conditions, boots, long pants, sun block, bug spray, etc.). Meet at the south parking lot for Pool 12, near the river trail entrance, at 6:45am. 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](mailto:Suzwright@centurytel.net) or Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or [vanndawn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@hotmail.com) . Project is approved.

##### Prairie Seed Collection Field Trips/Project/Advanced Training

August 7<sup>th</sup>, Thurs PM, & Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, Sat AM – *Sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Prairie Seed Collection continues on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings with John George. John will show us what seeds to collect that day and assist in improving our knowledge of prairie plants. Car pooling will be organized by John George and members. Those interested may sign up for updated email/phone notification and 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. To have your name added to the e-mail list contact John George at

[John.George@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.George@mdc.mo.gov) or Suzanne at [Suzwright@centurytel.net](mailto:Suzwright@centurytel.net)

Project is approved as a volunteer opportunity and will include some Advanced Training hours at each session.

##### Adopt-a-Spot Bed Update

Adopt-a-Spot, August 23rd from 8:30am to 1pm

We need help with the Adopt a Spot bed for the "Student Day of Caring" being coordinated by MU and the City. Derek Moeller, the planner, should be there too. Tasks for the day

include weeding and mulching, guiding the students, and making sure the bed is ready for us to adopt.

#### Coordinator Needed

Derek Moeller, an Eagle Scout candidate and designer of the Adopt-a-Spot Bed, completed the planting a few months ago of several species of wildflowers and native grasses. He has also weeded and mulched the bed and it is now ready for the Chapter to take over. We are looking for someone to be the coordinator of the maintenance schedule for the bed, if you are interested, contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or [vanndawn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@hotmail.com). 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 appropriately 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.

The schedule for August looks like this.

- \* August 15 (Friday Night) 8:30-11:30pm - Moth Collection / Bryant Cabin
- \* August 18 (Monday) 2:00-5:00pm - pinning / Refuge Office
- \* August 21 (Thursday) MU Entomology Museum (tentative date, time TBA)
- \* August 23 (Saturday) 10:00am-12:00pm – Collection / Main Overton Bottoms North Parking Lot
- \* August 25 (Monday) 3:00-5:00pm – pinning / Refuge Office
- \* August 28 (Thursday) MU Entomology Museum (tentative date, time TBA)

Contact: Wedge Watkins, 573-441-2788, [Wedge\\_Watkins@fws.gov](mailto:Wedge_Watkins@fws.gov). Project is approved.

#### Chimney Swift Tower Workday, August 30

We will be having another workday on August 30th at 9am to hopefully finish up the tower. Since we still need to attach the top piece of the tower there is a possibility we may not be completely done on the 30th, so keep your eye out for information regarding a September workday. Contact Vanessa Melton at [Vanndawn@hotmail.com](mailto:Vanndawn@hotmail.com) or 573-864-3905. Project is approved.

#### CARP Wetland Restoration Project (previous training by the City required)

*Sponsored by the City of Columbia* Contact us at 874-7499 or [volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com)

\* Saturday, August 23: Stephens Lake Park

Time: 8:00am to noon

Task: Maintenance and learn how to propagate plants

Location: To be announced

\* Saturday, September 6, Flat Branch Clean-up

Time: 8:00am to noon

Task: Clean-up and maintenance along creek and park in preparation for the September 18 Stream Extravaganza Event

Location: To be announced

#### BioBlitz: September 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>

BioBlitz is a 24-hour race to identify as many species of plants, fungi and animals as possible within a defined area. There will be 2 interpretive walks on Friday (from 5-7pm and 9-11pm) and 4 walks on Saturday (6-8am, 9-11am, 1-3pm, and 3-5pm). These walks typically last 2 hours and there will be more than 1 walk leader per walk, each leader describing different taxa during the walk. The program's goal is to increase public awareness and knowledge of Columbia's wildlife through hands-on experience.

Naturalists will lead walks and assist the public in locating and identifying different species. BioBlitz is a community event sponsored by the

University of Missouri-Columbia's conservation biology program in the College of Arts and Science and graduate students in other divisions. The base camp will be the pavilion at the Twin Lakes nature area and walks will proceed to the Forum Nature Area. At the Pavilion, there will also be informative displays and a tent where scientists will identify smaller species (e.g. insects). The closing ceremonies and picnic will also be there. Contact: Barbara J. Keller, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences - University of Missouri- Columbia [bjkdg3@mizzou.edu](mailto:bjkdg3@mizzou.edu) to volunteer. Project is approved.

**CACHE Birding Trips:** Every Wednesday, Aug 6, 13, 20 and 27.

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

**Stream Extravaganza:** Thursday, September 18, 2008, 5:00 – 8:00pm

Volunteers to staff a booth at the Twilight Festival held at Flat Branch Park. The Stream Extravaganza educates the public about the importance of caring for our water. Contact Suzanne at [suzwright@centurytel.net](mailto:suzwright@centurytel.net) if you would like to volunteer for this fun event.

### Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

**Bluebird Trail Monitoring** - Ongoing  
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

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, that is 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
- Russell Boulevard Elementary--- native garden area
- Shepard Elementary---native planted courtyard (to be re-planted this spring)

Contact Lea Langdon at [langtrea@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 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](mailto:Joanne_Grady@fws.gov) or 573-234-2132, ext. 101.

Project is approved.

**Bulletin Board Update at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park** Flexible scheduling – Ongoing

*Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park*

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 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](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*

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](mailto:dgkb6b@mizzou.edu). We're looking forward to meeting you!

Contact: Kathryn Kettenbach, trainer, at 314-749-6211 or [kpkcnc@mizzou.edu](mailto:kpkcnc@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!

<http://www.raptorrehab.missouri.edu/join.html>  
Project is approved.

**Prairie Fork Conservation Area Field Trip Naturalists** - Ongoing

*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](mailto:benedict62@yahoo.com).

Project is approved.

**Landowner Contacts Database** – Ongoing / 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!**

Isn't it great to hear about what your fellow Master Naturalists are up to? We would like to read about your experiences, too. Send submissions to [Rachel.Pia@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.Pia@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter.

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken."

– James Dent

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## NEXT MEETING

Saturday, September 13  
Prairie Seed Collecting with John George, MDC Botanist  
(program in conjunction with Wild Ones)  
Start time and location TBD.

State Conference: 2009 to be hosted by Osage Trails Chapter. Dates: TBD.



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