



## ~ The Dragonflyer ~

Vol. 4 No. 2

Boone's Lick Chapter

February, 2009

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 12, at 6:30pm  
Extension Office

#### Furbearers

Brian Flowers, an Outdoor Skills Specialist for MDC, will give a program on furbearers and trapping. *This program has been approved for advanced training.*

Refreshments: Steffanie Abel, Angela Beldon, & Vanessa Melton.

*Please bring your own cups and tableware, or plan to "rent" some at the Meeting.*



### PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS Meredith Donaldson

#### Phenology

Many Januarys ago I was standing in a snow covered landscape in Wisconsin recording temperature and wind speeds..."Let's see, that is  $-10^{\circ}$  F with a wind speed of 25 mph." My snow shoes kept me on top of the snow and my truly winter coat (unlike any sold in Missouri retail outlets) kept me warm. It was my first introduction to phenology, keeping records of natural events throughout the year. At that time I was keeping accurate weather records as well as the date when I heard the first cardinal sing and the bird migrants returned, the first flowering date for plants, first sightings of hibernating mammals, etc. Over the years my phenological activities improved my observational skills and increased my anticipation of each new year.

This data gathered by scientists and novices like me are important measures of variations that can be used to better understand annual cycles of plants and animals and how they respond to

seasonal changes in their environment. Our ancestors used this information to decide when to plant crops. Today, phenological data are used to correlate insect emergence and pest control, learn about wind and insect pollinated plants on the Tucker Prairie, design bee forage plantings, to better manage turkey in Missouri, and to predict global warming trends.

Phenology can be used as a predictor for a variety of processes and variables of importance not just to us locally, but can be used globally. The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) is currently being organized to mobilize federal agencies, environmental networks and field stations, educational institutions, and citizen scientists like us. The USA-NPN says that integrating phenological data and models with both short and long-term climatic forecasts can offer a powerful agent for human adaptation to ongoing and future climate change. The initial phase in Spring 2008 will establish a continental-scale network focused on phenological observations of a few regionally appropriate native plant species and nationally-cultivated indicator plants (e.g., lilacs). To learn more and about how you can participate, check out <http://www.usanpn.org>.

This morning I observed that it was 10° with a light wind ...as I have started my phenological record for 2009. Happy New Year.



MEETING MINUTES  
Carolyn Doyle

**Boone's Lick Chapter**  
**Missouri Master Naturalists Meeting**  
January 8, 2009

The Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists had their regular monthly meeting at 6:30pm on January 8, 2009, at the UM Boone County Extension office, Columbia, Missouri. Present were members Meredith Donaldson, Robert McArthur, Laura Sweets, Steffanie Abel, Jane Fore, Carolyn Doyle, Angela Belden, Vanessa Melton, Sally Swanson, Rachel Pia, Anna Nowack, Mary Jane Wheeling, Suzanne Wright, JaJuan Lauer, Bill Lauer, Marie Scruggs, Alice Havard, Mary T. Williams, Cheryl Hardy, Stephanie Tosh, Phil Knocke, Jerry Nichols, Sharon Reed, and Susan Hazelwood. Also present were Advisors Kent Shannon, UM Extension, and Jeff Koppleman, MDC.

President Meredith called the meeting to order at 6:30, and Steffanie Abel introduced our speaker, Steve McMurray, Resource Scientist at MDC. Steve, a malacologist, gave a very interesting presentation on the Freshwater Mussels of Missouri. MDC booklets on Missouri's mussels were available for the taking. This program is approved for one hour of advanced training.

At 7:55 there was a short break for refreshments, and the business meeting was resumed at 8:10.

Meredith shared some plans and goals for the coming year, including participating in joint projects with other MMN chapters, and mentoring for new chapters. Suzanne will discuss these issues further at the next State Advisory Board meeting. Fundraising projects were also discussed, including the sale of MMN lunch bags, insulated cups, etc., both to our own chapter members and at state conferences. Another suggestion was to informally organize hikes, float trips or other short events

once a month or so for members. These would allow us to become better acquainted, to share our knowledge, and to just have fun together. Members were asked to bring ideas to the next meeting.

A memorial was discussed for former member Troy Gordon. Suzanne has spoken with Troy's widow, Janine Gordon, and with the Columbia Audubon Society. She moved that **this chapter create a hummingbird garden at Wild Haven with a plaque dedicating it to Troy. Audubon and our MN chapter would share the cost and our chapter would be in charge of long term maintenance. This proposal would be pending approval from Audubon, and funding.** The motion was seconded and discussion followed. This project will include a long-term commitment for maintenance, but more self-sustaining native plants will be utilized. Vanessa and Suzanne will communicate with Columbia Audubon; the funding could come from money owed us by MDC; Janine approves the project; and the design and installation would qualify as a Capstone Project for the 2009 training class. **A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Suzanne, the Class Training chairman, asked for volunteers to help host the training sessions. Two hosts per meeting are requested if possible, and any member is welcome to sit in on any class they wish. Suzanne will extend an invitation to all members of the 2008 class to attend any of the classes, especially if they had to miss (or curtail) that topic last year. A sign-up sheet is available at the front table.

Our chapter has been invited to provide an information/activity table again during Columbia's Earth Day celebration, to be held April 19, 2009. We discussed what our goals and objectives are at these types of events, and mentioned were: to spark interest in natural history; recruitment for our program; provide hands-on experiences; and to reach children? Adults? And how do we measure the results, if any? There were several volunteers, so we will participate in Earth Day again this year. We have a tent and materials already. Meredith will appoint an Earth Day committee. Subsequent similar events will be considered as the time comes.

In an effort to practice what we preach regarding sustainability, Meredith is encouraging members to bring their own refreshment cups and table service to the meetings, instead of using and disposing of paper/plastic cups and plates.

We are also encouraged to carpool to meetings, and Meredith used a city map to illustrate where members lived. This will be an informal arrangement, and members will contact their neighbors to set up rides.

Standing Committees:

Treasurer: Alice Havard reported no change from the last report, in December.

Program: Angela asked for a couple of people to help her, with calling and scheduling, etc. Program topics suggested included Furbearers, Snakes, Weather, Bats, and another field trip to Little Dixie. Suzanne volunteered to help Angela.

Advanced Training: Steffanie announced that tonight's program qualified as one hour of advanced training. The Missouri Community Forestry Council upcoming conference sessions are also approved for advanced training. We were also reminded that travel time to meetings can be counted even if there is also advanced training at the meeting.

Project Approval/Volunteer Opportunities: Janine Gordon (Projects) and the Lauers (Volunteer), had no report, but Suzanne reminded us that if a project involves one of our already approved partners, (Audubon, Rockbridge MSP, etc), there is no need to submit for reapproval.

Communications: Rachel gave a quiz on items from the current issue of the **Dragonflyer**, to see who's reading our newsletter. She had prizes for correct answers, and let us know this might be an ongoing occurrence at meetings, so read your **Dragonflyer**!

Refreshments: A chairman is needed for this committee. If no volunteer is forthcoming, Meredith will start calling folks to give them the opportunity to serve as chairman. For next month, Angela, Vanessa and Steffanie will bring refreshments.

Historian: A person to fill this position is also needed.

Announcements:

Turn in **Dragonflyer** articles to Rachel Pia, agenda items to Meredith Donaldson, and Volunteer Opportunities to Suzanne Wright, by Monday January 19<sup>th</sup>, to be included in the February issue.

Remember to log your hours. Check the MMN website for forms.

Upcoming Events: Please refer to meeting agenda.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

<b>2009 MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING</b>
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Registration is open, and will close February 16 or when we reach 25 enrolled, whichever is first. Classes start on March 2. It's up to us to provide hosts for each session. Please contact Suzanne or Kent to sign up to help.

Mondays 6-9pm (Field trips are on Saturdays)

Mar 2:	MO Physical Resources	Apr 11:	Wetlands (field trip)
Mar 9:	Interpretation (Runge – off site)	Apr 13:	Caves (RBM State Park – off site)
Mar 16:	Preserving Natural Diversity	Apr 20:	Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds
Mar 23:	<i>Spring Break</i>	Apr 25:	Prairies (field trip)
Mar 30:	Conservation Education	Apr 27:	Aquatic Systems
Apr 4:	Forest Ecology (field trip)	May 4:	Conservation and Protection
Apr 6:	Animals and Animal Problems	May 11:	Master Naturalist Wrap-up

You may attend any of the classroom sessions; however participation in any off-site or field sessions requires special arrangements, made through Kent.

**There are still spaces available in the class, tell your friends!**

There is an “orientation” session at the Extension Office on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, if folks would like a chance to ask questions and meet some of us.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AT ROCKBRIDGE ELEMENTARY  
Jody Stotsky

Working on the outdoor classrooms at Rock Bridge Elementary is how I spent some free time last year with several other Master Naturalists (Jane Fore and Lea Langdon), Joanne Cowan, who has been volunteering at the school for about 30 years, and John George of MDC. We accomplished a great deal on Joanne's wish list before the big seed collection push became a priority for me.

I was amazed to see how large the area is and how much work is needed to get it under control. The school has a very large native prairie, large butterfly garden, rain garden, arbor, pond and an abundance of non-native trees. What is impressive is that Joanne has been trying to take care of all of this herself.

The prairie was full of honey locust saplings. Joanne and I spent multiple work sessions cutting and spraying these trees. I not only received my share of cuts, punctures, scrapes, and bruises; but honey locust, which I previously harbored no ill feelings toward, is now my least favorite tree. John George, who burned the prairie for us this winter, said that it is in good shape except for a plot of fescue at one corner.

The pond had quite a few problems to solve. The drainage pipe had become dislodged which in turn caused an area of the bank to wash out. Joanne had money in her budget to hire someone to fix the drainage pipe. I dug out the cattails. Many thanks to that being a camera-free day since I fell into the pond. Oh well, it was a hot day! Some future work on the pond includes getting dirt to repair the washout and getting some native plants around the pond to help the algae problem.

Joanne, Lea, and I worked with John George to cut out the row of autumn olives and most of the bush honeysuckle. Joanne was certain that she planted the olives as seedlings ordered from MDC ages ago. Look how things have changed.

The arbor was overgrown with wisteria, tree saplings, weeds and other vines, and had a big fallen tree leaning on it. We took care of these issues and now need help in repairing the damage done by the tree. Jeff Koppelman helped with building the original arbor and has volunteered to help with the repair.

The butterfly garden needs more weeding and mulching and perhaps a border to keep grass from encroaching which would ultimately cut down on weeding. We cut out a number of saplings that were starting to create too much shade, divided overly confident plants, and removed some plants that were not native. We still need to relocate some native shrubs that spread too fast. This bed is prime real estate in the plant world. We can't allow urban sprawl.

I don't always know how to do these projects, well, most of the time, I guess. But that doesn't keep me from getting involved and trying. In the process I have fun, spend time with fellow Master Naturalists, and end up learning more than I could have ever imagined. If anyone else is interested in having some fun too, please contact us as we ready for phase two in the spring and summer. If RBE is not conveniently located for you, get in touch with Lea Langdon about the many other schools that need help.

We hear about nature deficit in children. Here is your chance to actually make a difference. Outdoor classrooms can have a big impact on the lives of children who cannot experience the wonders of nature in other ways.

**TIM HALLER RECEIVES FIRST TROY GORDON MEMORIAL  
PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM MISSOURI RIVER RELIEF  
STEVE SCHNARR, MISSOURI RIVER RELIEF**

“Partnerships are key to building an organization that reaches and includes a wide variety of individuals and organizations. In 2008, we tragically lost a good friend and inspirational partner, Troy Gordon. Troy epitomized the nature and essence of what it means to give of oneself, include others, and inspire action toward the mission and goals of Missouri River Relief. Troy was the ultimate partner. The annual Troy Gordon Memorial Partner of the Year Award is given to that individual or organization that best represents the spirit of Troy.

This is the first year for this award.

This year’s recipient is truly deserving. From working with Troy on various Big Muddy Refuge projects over the years, to being at virtually every River Relief event he could attend, he has selflessly shared his knowledge and passion for the river. Not only is he reliable and competent, but he participates with grace, dignity & and an unending love for the river. Needless to say, he looks really sharp at the helm of his vessel. This year’s annual Troy Gordon Memorial Partner of the Year Award goes to our colleague and dear partner, Tim Haller of the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Service.”



Tim was surprised with a framed photo with a brass plaque at the second showing of the documentary on the Missouri River 340 at the RagTag on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**HEALTHY WATERSHED SERIES** presented by Missouri River Communities Network

These workshops are FREE and open to the public. There is no registration required, but seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. *The remaining sessions have been approved as advanced training.*

*Life in the Water* – Water Quality Indicating Insects: Monday, February 9

Damselflies, mayflies, crayfish, etc... What can these critters tell us about the health of a stream? Learn about Water Quality Monitoring methods or just brush up on your knowledge and skills. To be

held at 7:00pm in the Friends Room at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia. Presented by Priscilla Stotts, Water Quality Monitor Volunteer/Stream Team Coordinator with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

*Storm Water Mitigation with Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels: Tuesday, March 3*

Stormwater, its causes, problems, and how rain gardens and rain barrels work to mitigate the negative effects of stormwater runoff. To be held at 7:00 in the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia. Presented by MRCN Missouri Stream Team AmeriCorps Assistants and the Columbia/Boone County Rain Garden Project.

Upcoming Programs:

Monday, April 6 - Endangered and Invasive Species in the Missouri River Region; John George.

Monday, May 4 - Missouri River Flood Plain Ecology; Tim Haller & Charles Laun.

Saturday, June 6 - Community Rain Garden Workshop; Americorps Assistants.

**River Cave Tour, [Ha Ha Tonka State Park](#),**

Saturday, February 7. Experience a wild cave tour in River Cave that will focus on the life of the state's fifth most biodiverse cave. Expect to see a variety of cave deposits, grotto salamanders, hibernating bats, southern cavefish and more. The cave is a nursery site for the federally endangered gray bat in the spring and summer, so take advantage of this opportunity to explore the cave while it is open. Call the park office to make a reservation. <http://www.mostateparks.com> 1491 State Road D, Camdenton, MO 573-346-2986

**"America's Most Unwanted," Big Muddy Presentation, February 10, 7pm.**

*Fighting Exotic Species in the Missouri River Floodplain*

*Presented by Barbara Moran, Asst. Manager of Big Muddy NFWR, at the Bryant Cabin.*

How do you fight America's least wanted plants? Invasive species on national wildlife refuges have become an explosion in slow motion, and threaten our native fish and wildlife. Barbara Moran, Wildlife Refuge Specialist for Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife, will speak about the threats to the refuge (and other Missouri River floodplain areas) from these invading species. With such a large watershed and the constant risk of flooding, the spread of exotics around the Missouri River is an especially daunting problem. Learn what the culprits look like, what the refuge is doing, and what we can do to reduce the impacts of invasive species to the environment.

Barbara Moran has been battling invasive species since she started as a wildlife biologist with the USDA Forest Service about 30 years ago, and for the past 10 years with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. She's worked on many habitat improvement projects, such as returning fescue fields to native prairies and cornfields to native vegetation.

*Directions -*

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.

All programs are open to the public. You do not need to be a member of either organization to participate. We hope you can come and learn more about the Missouri River!

## **Saturday Morning Science**

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

This series of talks is presented at the Monsanto Auditorium on Saturday mornings during the semester from 10:30-11:30am, and is free and open to the public.

Feb 7: **One World/One Health/One Medicine.** Gary Simpson, New Mexico Department of Health. Al Zelicoff, Center for National Security and Arms Control. Is our health care system prepared for a major disease outbreak? What is the threat from ioterrorism? Experts in human and veterinary medicine and public health will discuss the issues and answer questions.

Feb 14: **How to make stem cells without using embryos.** Mike Roberts, Professor, Animal Science, Biochemistry. Embryonic stem cells have huge medical potential, but obtaining them from early embryos raises ethical questions. A new method allows pluripotent cells with similar potential to be obtained from sources like skin cells. Come learn about this method and its likely value to biomedical research.

Feb 21: **How Home Sensors Can Help Keep People Functionally Active.** Marge Skubic, Associate Professor, Computer Science. Americans desire to live as independently as possible. Come hear how engineers are developing "smart home" technologies to enhance residents' safety and monitor health conditions using sensors and intelligent processing of sensor data.

Feb 28: **The reality of space flight.** Craig A. Kluever, Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. What goes into planning a space flight? Is there a better way than placing a small payload on top of a huge pile of high explosive? Come learn about how spacecraft reach their destinations and what might be possible in the future.

March 7: **Exploring Mars for habitable environments and life: The Mars Rovers and beyond.** Dave DesMarias, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Ames Research Center. Habitable environments probably existed on Mars more than 3 billion years ago. The rover Opportunity found evidence of saline lakes and groundwater. Spirit discovered pure silica formed by hydrothermal activity. Orbiters discovered additional mineralogical evidence elsewhere.

March 14: **Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives.** David Sloan Wilson, Distinguished Professor, Departments of Biology and Anthropology, Director of EvoS, SUNY Binghamton. What is the biological reason for gossip? For laughter? For the creation of art? Why do dogs have curly tails? Evolution is not just about dinosaurs and human origin, but about why species behave as they do.

## **Handcrafted Paper Naturally**

Runge Conservation Nature Center, Friday, February 20, 6:30-8:30 pm

Ages: 18 years and older - We will blend newspapers, magazines, even unwanted junk mail with some actual pieces of nature - seeds, leaves, petals, and more - to create not just paper, but works of art! Discover how nature and recycling go hand-in-hand. Learn different techniques to try out at home. Please bring newspaper, a metal sheet cake pan, and a towel. Reservations required by Friday, February 20, at 573-526-5544

<http://mdc.mo.gov/events/>

## **Pond Workshop, March 4 or March 10**

Boone Electric Coop, 1414 Rangeline Rd., Columbia; Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-9:00pm.

Topics to be covered include: pond construction, fish stocking, aquatic vegetation and management, fish and wildlife management. This workshop is free and open to the public. Please call to register 573/884-6861 as space is limited. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Reservations are required by: Sunday, March 1. *Program repeated at Calloway County Electric Coop, Fulton, on Tuesday, March 10, 6:30-9:00. Reservations required by Wednesday, March 4, at 573 884-6861.*

<http://mdc.mo.gov/events/>

**Park Aide Training, Rockbridge Memorial State Park** (required for park aide certification) choose one: Thursday, March 5 (6-9 pm), Saturday March 7 (1-4 pm) or Tuesday March 10 (6-9 pm). This introductory training provides basic volunteer training and covers the following topics: park history and mission, park's significant resources, role and of the volunteer, and park rules and regulations. A volunteer manual and volunteer exam will be given. Training is designed for adults, but children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required: 573-449-7400. For more information: Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov).

**Prescribed Burn Workshop for Landowners**, Friday, March 6, or Friday, April 3  
Blind Pony Conservation Area, Sweet Springs, or Davisdale CA in Rocheport.  
Learn the proper methods and techniques used for implementing controlled burns; the varieties of burn equipment and how they are used and their availability; and how to develop burn plans. A demonstration burn is planned immediately following lunch, weather permitting. Lunch will be provided. You must pre-register for this program by calling 660/886-7447, ext. 112 or 660/248-3358, ext. 119. Reservations required by Wednesday, March 4. *Program repeated at the Davisdale CA Shop, in Rocheport, on Friday, April 3, 9-3. Reservations required by Wednesday, April 1 at 660 886-7447 x112 or 660 248-3358 x119.*  
<http://mdc.mo.gov/events/>

**Lost in the Woods** (Land Navigation): Sunday, March 8, noon-4:30 p.m.  
*Training: noon-12:45 Program and additional Training 1-4:30 p.m.* Learn to use a compass and topographical map, then hike through the woods to find orienteering markers to test your land navigation skills. Designed for beginners to intermediate level. Recommended for ages 13 to adult. Note: This training will be useful for the upcoming Orienteering marker and GPS Coordinate Verification Project as well as the Treasure Hunting Program in April. Reservations are required: 573-449-7400. For more information: Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov).

### **Missouri Community Forestry Council**

**Annual Conference**, March 17-19, 2009

Courtyard Marriott, Columbia, MO

Conference information and agenda may be accessed through our chapter website. Note: Sessions have been approved as advanced training; conference program is posted on our website

MEET A MASTER NATURALIST  
David Silvey

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

To broaden yet also exact my knowledge of Missouri outdoors. On a hike to the Lisbon Bottoms chute with two charter Master Naturalists it became apparent to me that although I knew the outdoors, I did not know enough. I wanted to learn more and certainly have.

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

The amazingly loud nighttime decibel level at Peeper Pond during spotted salamander migration. Guesstimate 125 db.

3. *Favorite service project thus far?*  
The Audubon Chimney Swift Tower.

4. *Favorite Missouri native?*  
Gray Fox

5. *Something folks would never guess about you?*  
I have found thousands of four leaved clovers, plus fivers, sixers, and even two sevens. You have to overlook the ordinary to see the unordinary. It's a mental trick.

## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Healthy Watershed Series**, MRCN; see Upcoming Events.

### **Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project (CARP), City of Columbia Volunteer Program**

The 2009 CARP classes will be held on Mondays, March 2, 9 and 16, 6:00-8:30pm

Location: Parks Management Center at 1507 BL70 W

For more information, contact:

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/carp.php>. Space was still available in this class at the end of December.

*Note: CARP training hours count as MN advanced training, and service hours may be counted as MN volunteer hours.*

### **Missouri Community Forestry Council**

**Annual Conference**, March 17-19, 2009; *See Upcoming Events; conference program information is posted on our website.*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Below are the volunteer opportunities for January 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.

To add your project to the list of volunteer opportunities, please contact Bill & JaJuan Lauer at [WilliamLauer@Centurytel.net](mailto:WilliamLauer@Centurytel.net).

## Volunteer Opportunities

Below are the volunteer opportunities for February 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.

### February Volunteer Opportunities

#### The Great Back Yard Bid Count

*Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society* February 13-16 (note corrected dates), 2009

The Great Backyard Bird Count will be February 13th-16th this year, so mark your calendar now and plan to participate. The count is simple - just tally the number of individuals for each species you see at one time visiting your backyard. Historically the count was restricted to an individual's backyard, but in recent years it has been extended to public areas such as city parks. For more information check out this website - [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) or contact Vanessa Melton at [Vanndawn@gmail.com](mailto:Vanndawn@gmail.com) for details.

#### Prairie Seed Planting

*Sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation.*

John George has offered the opportunity for Chapter members to participate in the disbursement of seeds at Prairie Fork. Some of these seeds were collected by our Chapter this year. Dates will be during the week and will depend upon weather conditions favorable to seed planting. This project will run from December thru the end of February. If there is enough interest, there may be a Saturday date in February. If you would like to participate, let John know so he can notify you when dates are set. Contact: John George at [John.George@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.George@mdc.mo.gov) or 882-8388 x224.

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

#### Big Muddy /Missouri River Relief Cleanup

*Sponsored by Missouri River Relief*

Columbia, MO Clean-up. Date: To be announced. Location: Old Plank Road. For more information contact [riverrelief@riverrelief.org](mailto:riverrelief@riverrelief.org), or call 573-443-0292

### Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

#### CACHE / SPARKS Birding Trips: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>

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

These are birding trips with Bill Clark, former president of The Columbia Audubon Society. Meet Bill at 7:30 am (don't be late) at the southwest corner of the Parkade Center parking lot. The destination will be decided the day of the trip 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@gmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@gmail.com). Project is approved.

### **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 Training:** There will be training sessions scheduled throughout the winter and early spring weather permitting, if you are interested in participating contact Suzanne Wright at 573-446-2217 or [Suzwright@centurytel.net](mailto:Suzwright@centurytel.net). Project is approved.

### **School Natural Areas - Ongoing**

Many of our local schools have nature areas that have been neglected and could use some volunteer assistance. These areas include prairies and woodlands, small butterfly gardens or sensory gardens, and rainwater gardens. The following elementary schools are volunteer sites: Benton, Blue Ridge, Fairview, Mill Creek, New Haven, Rock Bridge, Russell Boulevard, Shepard, West Boulevard, and Midway Heights. Douglass High School, Hallsville, and Harrisburg are possible sites.

Contact Lea Langdon at [langtrea@gmail.com](mailto:langtrea@gmail.com) or 447-1257 to sign up. 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.

### **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 training sessions 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?

Contact: Kathryn Kettenbach, trainer, at 314 749-6211 or [kpkcnc@mizzou.edu](mailto:kpkcnc@mizzou.edu)  
Let her know you're a Master Naturalist. 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 9 am till 2 pm. 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: Jeff Demand at 573-254-3990. 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@yahoo.com](mailto:FriendsofBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoo.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. Contact Steve Johnson at [missouririver@gmail.com](mailto:missouririver@gmail.com). Projects are approved.

*“The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future...” - Aldo Leopold*

## 2009 Officers

President	Meredith Donaldson <a href="mailto:Mjdonalsn@aol.com">Mjdonalsn@aol.com</a>	Advanced Training Co-Chair	Steffanie Abel <a href="mailto:Stefabel@yahoo.com">Stefabel@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Angela Belden <a href="mailto:Angela@stumod.com">Angela@stumod.com</a>	Chapter Historian	Beverly Boyd <a href="mailto:SSBNBAB@hotmail.com">SSBNBAB@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Carolyn Doyle <a href="mailto:CarolynDDoyle@netscape.net">CarolynDDoyle@netscape.net</a>	Communications Chair	Rachel Pia <a href="mailto:Rachel.Pia@gmail.com">Rachel.Pia@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Alice Havard No email address 573 445-4624	Project Approval & Volunteer Opportunities	Janine Gordon <a href="mailto:Gordonja@umsystem.edu">Gordonja@umsystem.edu</a>
State Advisory Committee Rep, 2008-09	Suzanne Wright <a href="mailto:SuzWright@centurytel.com">SuzWright@centurytel.com</a>	Refreshments	Janie & Robert McArthur <a href="mailto:JBMcArthur@centurytel.net">JBMcArthur@centurytel.net</a> <a href="mailto:RDMcArthur@centurytel.net">RDMcArthur@centurytel.net</a>
State Advisory Committee Rep, 2009-10	Vanessa Melton <a href="mailto:Vanndawn@gmail.com">Vanndawn@gmail.com</a>		

### *Chapter Co-Advisors*

Kent Shannon  
University of Missouri Extension  
[ShannonD@missouri.edu](mailto:ShannonD@missouri.edu)

Jeff Koppleman  
Department of Conservation,  
[Jeff.Koppleman@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Jeff.Koppleman@mdc.mo.gov)

**NEXT MEETING**  
Thursday, March 12, 6:30-8:30pm  
Extension Office

**Program: Bats**  
**Shauna Marquardt, MDC Wildlife Biologist**  
This program has been approved as advanced training.

State Conference: 2009 to be hosted by Osage Trails Chapter in Kansas City. Dates: May 15-17.



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