



~ The Dragonflyer ~

MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 14, 6:30-8:30pm
Extension Office

Oak Apples, Spruce Pineapples, and Figs: The Natural History of Plant Galls

Galls are some of the strangest objects you'll find in any habitat - and you'll find them in almost any habitat. We'll explore the natural history and ecology of plant galls and see if we can figure how insects, mites and microbes get plants to make them. We'll add an entire new level of ecological community organization to your natural history repertoire.

Jack Schultz, PhD
Director, Life Sciences Center
Mizzou

This program has been approved as advanced training.

Refreshments: non-dessert-Howard Hinkel, dessert-Carol Sattler, beverages-Robert Johnson. Please bring your own cups and tableware, or plan to "rent" some at the Meeting. ("Rent" goes towards a petty cash fund for the Chapter.)

STATE CONFERENCE!
May 15-17
"WILD ABOUT KANSAS CITY"

The fourth annual state conference, hosted by the Osage Trails Chapter is almost here,

Ride/Hotel shares: let Meredith know asap if you are attending and would like to car pool and/or share a hotel room.



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS
Meredith Donaldson

This month I respond to your ponderings. Some Master Naturalists have asked for clarification about volunteer projects, especially procedures for submitting new ones.

Approved Volunteer Service Projects: Master Naturalists and trainees can choose volunteer opportunities from a list of Approved Projects listed in the newsletter (the Dragonflyer), and on the website. Master Naturalists should check to insure that a volunteer project is currently approved prior to service. All projects must be renewed annually at the beginning of the year. One of the purposes of pre-approving the project is to allow the volunteer to be covered by MU Extension liability insurance while performing the activity. All questions can be directed to the Project Approval and Volunteer Opportunities Committee (contact information at the end of each issue of the Dragonflyer and on the website).

New Project Approval: Any Master Naturalist can suggest or design a new project at any time. The project must be dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our community, or natural resource-related education. A Volunteer Project Approval form must be submitted to the Project Approval and Volunteer Opportunities Committee. Forms are available on the website or from a committee member. Please submit forms in a timely manner as approval must be secured before the volunteer service begins.

The Approval Form should clearly describe the project, the time frame, the location(s) and nature of the activities/tasks as well as what agency/organization will benefit from the service. For some projects it might be difficult to specify the actual work day and time, such as for Stream Team or outdoor classrooms activities. The project description should be specific and clearly define the project's time frame, and all possible activities and locations. An acceptable form would list activities (such as water quality monitoring, native plantings with children, designing planting native gardens, maintaining native gardens, and other projects as needed) and a time frame (such as March – October) and a location (such as the Hinkson Creek watershed or a list of schools). For example, it is not acceptable to use a general phrase such as "all Stream Team activities" or work at "any school at time agreed upon with the school." Additional sites, dates outside of the timeframe listed or significant changes in the activities or tasks should be updated on the form and submitted to the committee before service is performed. Volunteers should keep accurate volunteer records of when the volunteer service is actually performed.



MEETING MINUTES
Carolyn Doyle, Secretary

Boone's Lick Chapter
Missouri Master Naturalists Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
Minutes of Meeting April 9, 2009

The Boone's Lick Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday April 9, 2009, at 6:30pm, in the meeting room of the University of Missouri Extension Office, Columbia, MO. Present were Meredith Donaldson, Suzanne Wright, Laura Sweets, Anna Nowack, Angela Belden, Cheryl Hardy, Mark Baltzer, David Silvey, Melissa Bedford, Clare Melick, Jeff Melick, Chris Egbert, Jane Fore, Vanessa Melton, Jim Meili, David Melegrito, Kay Conklin, Joan Bourbeau, Billy Dooling, Robert Johnson, John George, Jerry Nichols, Phil Knocke, Susan Lutton, Susan Hazelwood, Robert McArthur, Rachel Pia, Lea Langdon, and Carolyn Doyle.

President Meredith Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

The speaker for the evening was Mike Anduser, MDC Natural History Biologist, and Bee Specialist. He gave an interesting and informative account of the natural history of native Missouri bees and their importance as pollinators, both in nature and to agriculture.

A refreshment break was taken at 7:00, and the business meeting was called to order at 7:15. Meredith announced that our Extension sponsor, Kent Shannon, and his wife have had their twins, two boys named Irl and Waite.

I. New Business:

State Conference: It was recommended that members attending arrange to carpool to the conference, and share hotel rooms where possible. Also, quality items to be auctioned at the conference are needed.

Communications: The member roster was distributed.

Meeting Time: It was suggested that a 6:00pm starting time for our meetings would allow people to get home earlier. A motion was made and seconded. Motion did not carry.

II. Old Business:

Training Classes: Hosts still needed, contact Suzanne.

Earth Day: Still need more people to sign up for two-hour time slots. Anna Kowack needs photos of Chapter projects for the exhibit board.

Joint Project with Hi-Lonesome Chapter: This Grasslands Restoration and Prairie Chicken field day **will not** be held. We will have a speaker on this subject as a future monthly meeting program.

III. Volunteer Opportunities:

Please see meeting agenda and the **Dragonflyer**.

A member of the Rolla Chapter, MMN contacted Meredith about Camp Hickory Hills, a camp for diabetic children just north of Columbia on Route E. They are looking for volunteers to lead sessions on natural history for children and youth, the weeks of June 7, 14, and 21. Contact Meredith for further information.

IV. Standing Committee Reports:

Treasurer, Alice Havard, reports we have not received repayment from MDC of the amount owed us. Suzanne spoke with Bob Pierce of MDC, she will send an invoice to his attention, for this repayment.

Volunteer Opportunities: Suzanne reported that plans for the Hummingbird Garden at Wild Haven are coming along, and actual work will begin this Saturday, thru mid-June. This is an approved Capstone project. See the **Dragonflyer** for details.

There will also be a Prairie Cordgrass planting, info will be in the next newsletter.

Programs: Angela has our programs booked thru September. Next month's topic will be "Oak Apples, Spruce Pineapples, and Figs: The Natural History of Plant Galls" presented by Jack Schultz, who spoke last year on plant communication.

The June meeting will be at Wild Haven, on the 11th.

Communications: Rachel asked for input and articles for the Dragonflyer.

Website: All current Volunteer Opportunities, as well as those previously approved, should be on the website soon.

Refreshments: The MacArthurs say that the May meeting is OK, and the June one will be a covered dish dinner.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Carolyn Doyle, Secretary.

Executive Committee
Boone's Lick Master Naturalists
Minutes of Meeting April 7, 2009

The Executive Committee of the Boone's Lick Master Naturalists met after the regular Chapter meeting on April 7, 2009. President Meredith Donaldson called the meeting to order at 8:55pm. Also present were Angela Belden, Vanessa Melton, Carolyn Doyle, Jane Fore, Rachel Pia and Suzanne Wright.

By-Laws:

Copies of the draft of the Chapter by-laws have been distributed to this committee. It was decided that it would expedite the review by having a subcommittee, consisting of Suzanne, Rachel and Vanessa, meet at a later date to go over the document in detail. They'll decide what can be omitted and placed in a member manual, and what needs to be included, as well as ascertaining compliance with MDC requirements. As club president, Meredith will be an ex officio member of this subcommittee.

Website:

Rachel has been looking into this, and it was recommended to her that we establish a website independent of the extension office if we can. This would make it easier for us to update information ourselves. Rachel emailed information to Kirk Keller, but has not yet received a reply. We'd like to have present and past volunteer opportunities on the site, as well as the approval request form, but they're not yet on the site.

Public Relations:

We discussed various ways of letting the public know of all the contributions made by Master Naturalists, and included door-mail and feature articles in the local papers.

Member Handbook:

We'll need to wait until the by-laws are reviewed to determine what all should go into the handbook, but Meredith will work on a general outline/table of contents.

Project Approval:

A discussion was held regarding the confusion around the new requirements for project approval, and Meredith will submit an article for the next **Dragonflyer** to try to clarify this issue.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Carolyn Doyle, Secretary.

2009 MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING

The last two sessions of this year's class are both in the Extension Office. **Please join us** on Monday, May 11th, at 6:00pm for the final session and graduation.

- May 4: Conservation & Protection
Host: Sally Swanson
- May 11: Master Naturalist Wrap-Up
Host: Meredith Donaldson

The Boone's Lick '09 Training Class is nearing completion; below is a list of the Capstone Projects. Members are encouraged to participate along with the new trainees on these projects. Contact the person listed for inclusion in organizational meetings and to receive notification for trainings, collection dates, work days, or program presentation schedules. Project Approval forms have been or will be submitted for approval by the PAVS Committee.

Bee Inventory at Overton Bottoms: Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge / Wedge Watkins, 573-442-2778 or Wedge.Watkins@fws.gov.

Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden: Boone's Lick Chapter-MMN & Columbia Audubon Society / John Besser & Suzanne Wright, 573-864-8263 or suzwright@centurytel.net.

Native Plant Seed ID/Collection for Natural Community Restoration: MO Dept of Conservation / John George / 573-883-8388 ext. 224 or john.george@mdc.mo.gov.

Weekends on the Boardwalk: Rock Bridge Memorial State Park / Kat DiFoxfire, 573-449-7402 or rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov & Roxie Campbell, 573-449-7402 or roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov.

UPOP-Urban Populations Outreach Program at RBMSP: Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park / Meredith Donaldson, 573-289-3018 or mjdonlson@aol.com.

Nature Detectives: Rock Bridge Memorial State Park & Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park / Eleanor Mitter & Meredith Donaldson, 573-289-3018 or mjdonlson@aol.com.

EARTH DAY 2009

We won! The Chapter booth won the prize for the best educational exhibit at this year's Earth Day celebration. Many thanks to Anna Nowack, who chaired the project, and the following members for helping to interpret at our booth: Billy Dooling, Melissa Befford, David Melegrito, Nicole Stanten, Robert Newson, Angela Belden, Clare and Jeff Melick, and Laura Sweets for helping to interpret at our booth. And, a very special thank you to our MDC advisor Jeff Koppelman for collecting the minnows, darters, crayfish and other critters for our aquarium.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wildflower Walks with Randal Clark, Wednesdays through May 13.

Randal's Wildflower walks are Wednesday evenings, March 25 to May 13. Meet at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park's Devil's Icebox parking lot by 5:30pm. The group may then carpool to other locations. Walks are free and open to the public.

Rebuilding Friends of Big Muddy: Friends of Big Muddy/MO River Relief Program, Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m. at Bryant Cabin at Overton North Unit of the Big Muddy Refuge.

We won't be having a scientific speaker at our May meeting. Rather we will gather and take a walk on the refuge then invest some time in discussing the core group activities – efforts at rebuilding the Friends of Big Muddy. We would welcome anyone to join us.

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!

World of Wildlife Camp, Katfish Katy's, May 1-3.

Our friends at the US Fish & Wildlife Service are hosting a weekend educational camp with classes like River Ecology, Kids Camp, Intro to Birding, and more! A great opportunity for families! At Katfish Katy's in Huntsdale this year, May 1-3. For program and registration information, go to:

<http://www.wondersofwildlife.org/images/pdf/2009ColumbiaCatalogFINAL.pdf>

Registration deadline is April 20.

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. Note: none of the programs this semester are approved as advanced training.

2 May: Got Insects? Environmentally helpful night patrollers. Sybil Amelon.

Bats play a critical role in maintaining a healthy environment. They are primary predators of nightflying insects and valuable seed dispensers. The little brown, for example, can consume several hundred insects in an hour. A colony of bats can protect crops and trees from destructive insects, thus reducing the need for pesticides. *(Final session of the semester.)*

Runge Hiking Club: Pomme de Terre State Park

Runge Conservation Nature Center

Saturday, June 13 2009, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

Ages: 18 years and older - When French trappers and traders explored Missouri's rivers in the late 1600's, they names a river in southwest Missouri Pomme de Terre ("apple of the earth") for some plants that resembled potatoes that grew on its banks. Come with us to Pomme de Terre State Park, where we'll hike two rocky peninsulas of what is now Pomme de Terre lake. We'll bring with the Cedar Bluff Trail (2 miles.) After lunch, we'll find the remnants of a Native American cairn on the Indian Point Trail (3 miles.) Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations Required by Friday, June 12, at 573-526-5544

Native Plant/Quail Field Day, Bradford Farms, June 18

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.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Rediscover the Tallgrass Prairie at Arrow Rock Talk, Saturday, May 2, 10:00am, Arrow Rock. Join local native plant enthusiast Mark Belwood on Saturday, May 2, 10am at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center as he presents a modern-day and historical perspective on our local Tallgrass Prairie. The presentation is illustrated with recent photographs of remnant Tallgrass Prairie flora within the Blackwater River and Lamine River watersheds of central Missouri. Belwood uses a digital camera, GPS receiver and mapping software to help record his observations on native flora and the progress of Tallgrass Prairie restoration on his family's farm.

The presentation is sponsored by the Friends of Arrow Rock and the Arrow Rock State Historic Site. This is the final program in the 2009 First Saturday Lecture Series conducted February through May in Arrow Rock. The lectures are made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and are open free to the public.

HEALTHY WATERSHED SERIES presented by Missouri River Communities Network. These workshops are FREE and open to the public, at 7:00pm at the Daniel Boone Library unless otherwise noted. There is no registration required, but seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

Upcoming Programs:

Saturday, June 6 - Community Rain Garden Workshop; Americorps Assistants. This will be a field project, at another site. (Final program of the series.)

Stream Team Training

Level 1 Workshops: schedule should be released in June. (You must have completed the Intro workshop, and reported data, to enroll in the Level 1 workshop.)

Level 2 Workshop, Saturday, June 27th, in Jefferson City. The registration deadline is June 12. (This is the only remaining level 2 workshop this year.)

The entire workshop will be held indoors. The morning will be spent analyzing water samples using the chemical equipment you were issued after your Level 1 class, **SO BE SURE TO BRING ALL YOUR CHEMICAL MONITORING EQUIPMENT** and ensure your pH meter is properly hydrated just before you attend. The afternoon will be spent improving your aquatic invertebrate identification skills. A short evaluation will follow to help establish baseline information on the accuracy of volunteer biological data.

To register, go to <http://www.mostreamteam.org/vwqm.asp> and click on "Level 2" at the bottom of the page, and follow the prompts. Remember, this is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

VWQM Review Session, May 2nd, RSVP by April 15.

Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Review Session in Columbia on Saturday, May 2nd at 1:00pm for any one who took the Introductory Level and/or Level 1 Workshop. These

sessions will increase your confidence, encourage submission of much-needed data on our Missouri streams, and help ready you for advanced levels of training so your data is more often utilized! The RSVP date is Wednesday, April 15th. You can register on line at http://www.mostreamteam.org/online_review_session.htm or by calling and leaving a message for Program Staff at 800-781-1989. Review sessions will be held weather permitting; wear outdoor clothing, bring boots or river shoes and your VWQM equipment

Groundwater & Streams Workshop, Stream Team Academy, Saturday, May 30, 10-4. RSVP deadline: May 1st.

Our next StreamTeam Academy *Groundwater & Streams Workshop* will be held Saturday, May 30, 2009 in Columbia. The workshop will be led by Conservation Department and Stream Unit staff member, Paul Blanchard, PhD. Paul previously worked as an assistant professor of geological sciences teaching courses in geology, geomorphology, hydrogeology, and contaminant transport. Time will be spent in the classroom and on a tour of karst features in the Boone County area (some non-strenuous walking will be involved)

This course will include the basics of groundwater hydrology, how regional groundwater differences are related to the geology and soils of Missouri, and the significance of groundwater /surface water interactions. Materials will be primarily applicable to prairie and Ozark streams, but some discussion of groundwater interactions with big rivers will also be included.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Sherry Fischer at Sherry.Fischer@mdc.mo.gov or 573 522-4115 x3169 by May 1, 2009 to register.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Below are the volunteer opportunities 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 JaJuan & Bill Lauer at WilliamLauer@Centurytel.net.

Volunteer Opportunities 2009

Below are the volunteer opportunities for this and coming months 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.

May Volunteer Opportunities

Starling Nesting Ecology, Late March through May

Sponsored by University of Missouri.

This is a new project in which volunteers will monitor the use of nest boxes by European starlings in an agricultural setting. The objective is to understand starling nest ecology and competition with other birds in a variety of grazing systems. There are 6 sites each containing 8 starling nest boxes located around South Farm that will need to be monitored once a week from late March through May. The boxes only need to be checked to see if they are active or non-active (contain a nest or do not contain a nest). Contact Vanessa Melton if you are interested at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com. Project is approved.

Join Hands Day - Japanese Honeysuckle Removal at Rockbridge Memorial State Park Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00-12:00n. *Sponsors Missouri River Communities Network and Stream Team.* Join Hands Day is a national volunteer day that teams youth and adults in service projects to communities. Missouri River Communities Network will be teaming up with Jumpstart Columbia to remove invasive Japanese Honeysuckle at Rockbridge State Park. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, you may sign up on columbiastreamteam@yahoo.com or call 573-256-2602. Project is approved.

CACHE/SPARKS Birding Trips: May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

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.

Outdoor Education at Prairie Fork Conservation Area

Volunteers will be needed on May 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, and 19th.

This spring volunteers will be needed at Prairie Fork Conservation Area to assist with environmental education stations during field trips with local school groups. Prairie Fork is located in Williamsburg, Missouri, which is east of Columbia on I-70.

Volunteers would need to arrive at Prairie Fork around 8:30am to become familiar with their station and should be finished by 2:00pm. For each date, four to five volunteers will be needed to lead stations and present information about outdoor education and conservation. The stations may include: a stream table activity, a scavenger hunt, a pond life exploration activity and other activities depending on the age of the group.

Please contact Jody Coats, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Prairie Fork Conservation Area, 573-356-8898 or jlc7t4@mizzou.edu. Project is approved.

North American Migration Count: May 9th

Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Missouri and Environment for the Americas

The North American Migration Count (NAMC) is an annual event that occurs in both the spring and fall. The spring count is always the second weekend in May and the fall count is the third weekend in September. County coordinators are assigned to organize the counts in each county. Volunteers are assigned regions and fan out, counting every bird they can find in their region.

The main goal of the NAMC to gather bird migration data that can help inform decision-makers on issues that pertain to birds. Data has been collected since the early 90's and that data is currently being processed in a central database with the expressed intent of having the data analyzed at a future date. A secondary goal of this project is to get more people into the field enjoying birds. Since these two dates provide some of the most productive birding of the year, this event showcases avian wonders and promotes bird conservation and appreciation.

If you would like to take part, contact Susan Hazelwood, the Columbia Audubon Coordinator, at 573-882-7081 or hazelwoods@mchsi.com. Project is approved.

Road Cruising for Turtles, Mid-April through Early June

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation

This project involves monitoring turtle sightings on Missouri roads. In addition to being interesting, this data is important to MDC to determine 1) road mortality rates, 2) major migration corridors, and 3) some distribution data for these species. The best information will be collected mainly from mid-April through early-June because turtles will be moving. Turtle data can be recorded on any roads. Some people will have multiple surveys for the same road due to work travel or other regular commutes. On less frequently traveled roads there may only be a few surveys collected. Basically it's up to the surveyors to drive the roads they want, but repeating a section several times is great. Also, it is important to even turn in a data sheet if no turtles are found as this also provides information on turtle distribution. There might be some reason why no turtles are a particular section of road.

Data sheets are available by emailing Bill Lauer at williamlauer@centurytel.net. The datasheet is set up to record sightings between each city; over time we will be able to do some comparison due to some repeat information. Completed data sheets should be forwarded to Jeff Briggler, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Project is approved.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Native Plant Seed Collection for Natural Community Restoration, May through December 2009.

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation

This ongoing project's aim is the restoration of MDC prairie, glade, and savanna sites in Boone, Callaway, Audrain, and Randolph counties. Volunteers will learn in a field setting about plant communities, species of native flowers and grasses, plant identification, and both seed collection and planting techniques.

MDC will provide all necessary plant identification books, collection bags, and clippers. Carpooling will be provided, when possible. Volunteers will want to dress appropriately for field work (sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, and head covering are recommended), bring their own gloves, insect repellent, sun block, and water bottles.

After participating in this project, volunteers will be able to discuss the importance of restoration efforts and share their knowledge of Missouri native plants.

Collection dates will begin in mid-May. Tentative dates furnished by MDC are as follows:

May 21 – Thursday evening – Tucker Prairie
June 13 – Saturday morning – Rudolf Bennett, savannas and woodlands
July 9 – Thursday evening - TBD
August 6 – Thursday evening- Prairie Fork, restored prairie planting
August 15 – Saturday morning - Danville Glades
September 19 – Saturday morning - TBD
October 8 – Thursday evening – Green Area plantings
October 17 – Saturday morning – Tucker Prairie

To express your interest and be notified of specific arrangements for field trips, contact John George at 573-882-8388 or JohnGeorge@mdc.mo.gov. Project is approved.

Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden

Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Missouri and Boone's Lick Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists

Troy Gordon was a member of the original Boone's Lick Chapter's 2004 training class. He was very active in Master Naturalists, Columbia Audubon Society, Friends of the Big Muddy and the Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge. He was also a dedicated hummingbird bander and banded thousands of hummingbirds, as well as educating countless numbers of people about hummingbirds. The Memorial Hummingbird Garden will provide a nature food source for the hummingbirds which visit Wild Haven, the site of many hummingbird banding demonstrations conducted by Troy and his wife, Janine.

Site preparation at the Columbia Audubon Society's Wild Haven Wildlife Refuge will begin Late-April with planting and maintenance to begin in May with additional volunteer service opportunities available later in the summer or early fall depending on weather conditions and the growing season. Dates for specific work days will be organized by John Besser and Suzanne Wright as part of the '09 Training Capstone Project. Non-trainees are encouraged to participate. Independent volunteer service work on the Memorial Garden will be included in the scope of this project.

There will be several work sessions scheduled throughout the late spring and early summer. The Memorial Garden will consist of native Missouri plants, grasses, shrubs and trees. The garden will contain of four planted areas that include a swale, formal garden, Buckeye Island and pond habitat. Dirt and compost will be brought in to improve the soil and after planting the garden and walking paths connecting the beds will be mulched. The established Buckeye Island will require some maintenance around the established shrubs and trees and mulching. The pond area will require the removal of some shrubby undergrowth and the walking path will be mulched, additional plants will be added including some along the pond edge. The swale area, which connects the Hummingbird Memorial Garden to the existing Butterfly Memorial garden, will be planted with water tolerant plants. The area is a drainage corridor located between the gardens. Flat rocks will be placed to improve access between the gardens.

Participants will learn valuable information about native Missouri plants, grasses, shrubs and trees and become familiar with their light and water preferences, planting techniques and maintenance requirements. Volunteers will provide their own garden and hand tools, wheelbarrows and gloves as required for that day's activity. 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 recommended and water bottles.

To participate in this project, contact Suzanne Wright at 573-446-2217 or Suzwright@centurytel.net. Project is approved.

Bee Inventory at Overton Bottoms North- Specimen Identification and Mounting

Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge-Overton Bottoms North Unit.

Collection dates will begin Mid-May and run through August with additional volunteer service opportunities available later in the summer or early fall if the survey is successful and additional specimens are sought. Participants will conduct an inventory of native bee species at Overton Bottoms North. Bees will be captured and identified. Some specimens will be preserved and mounted to create a voucher reference collection for the refuge. Data from the inventory will also be used to begin a bee list for the refuge unit. Participants will learn collection and trapping techniques, pinning skill required for mounting the specimens, and identification skills to differentiate between bee species with visits to the MU Entomology Lab.

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and/or Friends of the Big Muddy will provide all necessary identification books, and bee capture, preservation and mounting equipment. Volunteers will want to dress appropriately for field work (sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, and head covering are recommended). Volunteers will be encouraged to bring their own gloves, insect repellent, sun block, and water.

Contact: Wedge Watkins, 573-442-2778 or Wedge.Watkins@fws.gov if you are interested in participating. Although this is a Capstone Project, non-trainees are encouraged to volunteer. Project is approved

Cord Grass Planting at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation

This is an experiment to see if planting cord grass in the spring is more successful than planting in the later summer or fall. Participants will gain a greater understanding of how native plants work to improve wetlands. There will probably be another planting session in the fall and possibly ongoing next year. The work will be done during the week with MDC personnel or under their supervision at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, 6700 W. Route K, Columbia.

MDC currently has 250 pots of cord grass to be planted, starting April 13th. Participants should bring a shovel, boots, gloves, hat, sunscreen, and water. Contact Shauna Marquardt, Wildlife Biologist MDC, at shauna.marquardt@mdc.mo.gov if you are interested. Project is approved.

Continuing CARP Activities: Trained Participants Only

Sponsored by the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

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

Participants learn about lake and pond ecology during three training classes and hands-on training labs. After the course, you will assist the city horticulturist with organized projects. The 2009 C.A.R.P. class has concluded. If you are interested in being added to the 2010 list, please call 874-7499 or email to Volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com

Please note: CARP projects are scheduled on Saturday mornings. We ask that you consider this before you register for this volunteer program.

May projects are:

Saturday, May 16- 8am until complete ~ no later than noon.

Planting the first aquatic plants in the newly constructed detention pond at the Park Management Center.

Saturday, May 30- 8am until complete ~ no later than noon.

Maintenance weeding at Auburn Hills.

Nature Detectives – Various Dates in June through August, Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Nature Detectives provides guided experiences for parents/grandparents to learn skills for exploring nature with their preschool child or grandchild. Two programs of 1.5 hours each at Rock Bridge Memorial State park are offered to young children (ages 3-6 years old) and their parents or caretakers. Each program includes a hike on a trail and a related hands-on craft activity and is limited to a total of 20 (children and adults). Master Naturalists will help with the activities and may be trained to lead the nature explorations.

This program will result in more children who have positive experiences in natural environments and may lead to the family including outdoor explorations as a regular family activity. The parents say they feel they do not have the knowledge they needed to explore with their children. This program will help reassure parents that the knowledge is not as important as the willingness to observe and wonder.

Two 1.5 hour programs will be held from 9:00 am – 12 Noon on the following dates: Sat. June 13, Wed. June 17, Thur. July 2, Sat. July 11, Wed. July 15, Thur. July 30, Sat. Aug. 8, Wed. Aug. 12. Some additional dates may be added to accommodate preschool requests and we will update the form before the event.

If you are interested in interpreting nature to small children and helping parents gain confidence in exploring natural areas with their children, contact Meredith Donaldson at 573-289-3018 or mjdonlsn@aol.com. Project is approved.

Urban Population Outreach Program (UPOP)- July dates to be determined

Sponsored by Missouri Parks Association and area youth agencies

This program will provide children, who may not have opportunities to experience the recreational and natural resources of our state parks, outdoor nature activities in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Programs consist of nature hikes and activities at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park that will include some of the following: cave ecology and tour of Conner's Cave, mammal ID and tracking, bat ecology and games, aquatic life study and simple stream monitoring, and basic map reading skills. All instruction is at a very basic level. Master Naturalists are needed to lead small groups of children in nature activities identified above.

July events will be scheduled during the day, as programs are requested by area youth agencies serving low income youngsters. Some groups attend for an all day field day. Other groups come for a 2 - 3 hour program that will include only one or two activities. A schedule of program dates will be amended to this form prior to the events.

Experience working with children would be helpful, but not required. Training and educational materials will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Meredith Donaldson at 573-289-3018 or mjdonlson@aol.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 rain gardens and demonstration of the rain gardens during tours by local community groups and individuals. There are five rain gardens included in the original grant with the hopes that more will follow.

We will also be doing some work on a couple weekdays at some demonstration rain garden sites, during May, (including May 20th), so if anyone is interested in joining us, please call 256-2602, or email Lea at booneraingardens@gmail.com.

For more information contact Lea Langdon at langtrea@gmail.com or phone: 573-864-7647. Project is approved.

Spring Bird Banding Training Followed by Banding May through August

There are still training sessions to be scheduled this spring. The training will be followed by opportunities to capture, identify, band, and release many species. If you are interested in participating, contact Suzanne Wright at 573-446-2217 or 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 or 447-1257 to sign up. Project is approved.

Bluebird Trail Monitoring: March through September

Sponsored by The Columbia Audubon Society. The Columbia Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to help monitor the bluebird trails we have at Wild Haven and Russell Property. Wild Haven, which is located just north of Columbia, has around 20 bluebird houses, and Russell Property, located within Columbia, has 8 bluebird houses. The bluebird houses have to be periodically monitored during the breeding season to get an idea of how successful the houses are. Contact: Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com. Project is approved.

Phenology Observation- Ongoing. Sponsored by the USA National Phenology Network. Phenology is the study of recurring plant and animal life cycle events, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering of plants, maturation of agricultural crops, emergence of insects, and migration of birds. Many of these events are sensitive to climatic variation and change, and are simple to observe and record. As an USA-NPN observer, you can help scientists identify and understand environmental trends so we can better adapt to climate change.

The USA National Phenology Network brings together citizen scientists, government agencies, non-profit groups, educators and students of all ages to monitor the impacts of climate change on plants in the United States. The USA-NPN is looking for volunteers to help monitor 200 plant species found across the United States. This effort will eventually expand to include animals and physical phenomena, such as bird migrations and ice out on ponds. You may explore their website at usanpn.org to learn more about USA-NPN and become an observer. Training is available on the website and reporting is done via that site. 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: Amber Edwards, Volunteer Coordinator, at 314-550-0201. Let her know you're a Master Naturalist. 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@yahogroups.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. Projects are approved.

Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so that each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry.
Richard Feynman

2009 Officers

President	Meredith Donaldson MJDonaldsn@aol.com	Advanced Training Co-Chair	Steffanie Abel StfAbel@yahoo.com
Vice President	Angela Belden Angela@stumod.com	Chapter Historian	Beverly Boyd SSBNBAB@hotmail.com
Secretary	Carolyn Doyle CarolynDDoyle@netscape.net	Communications Chair	Rachel Pia Rachel.Pia@gmail.com
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State Advisory Committee Rep, 2009-10	Vanessa Melton VannDawn@gmail.com		

Chapter Co-Advisors

Kent Shannon
University Extension
ShannonD@missouri.edu

Jeff Koppleman
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Jeff.Koppleman@mdc.mo.gov

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 11, 6:30-8:30pm
Wild Haven

Summer Potluck Picnic

This is an outdoor location, no campfire/grill or other cooking facilities.

Friends and family welcome!

Come see the work we've done here - admire the chimney swift tower ('08 Capstone), the beginnings of the Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden ('09 Capstone), etc.



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