



~ The Dragonflyer ~

Vol. 4 No. 6

Boone's Lick Chapter

June, 2009

JUNE 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. Bring gloves or other tools if you'd like to do a little work in the Garden that evening.



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Meredith Donaldson

There was a time before television, DVDs and video games, when families would look forward to nature's spectacles for entertainment...earlier day 'reality shows'! They would gather in the yard to watch the children catching fireflies or on the patio to watch the first Night Blooming Ceres open its showy flowers at 11pm, or to peek out the windows to catch the resident opossum or raccoon parading her young through the yard. When I was the seasonal naturalist at Peninsula State Park in Door County, Wisconsin, someone came to the nature center to tell me of a hummingbird nest low in a birch tree in one of the campgrounds. When I arrived I found about 35 people in lawn chairs all facing a tree watching the mother hummingbird build her nest. It was a quiet group like you would find in movie theaters, but this group knew it was witnessing an event that few people have seen. For weeks after that, there was a keen interest in learning about hummingbirds and new campers were introduced to the sport of bird watching. I had twice the numbers on my early morning bird hikes as well.

Now, I will shift to another topic. One thing that I learned from some other chapters at the recent Master Naturalist State Conference was the importance of playing and working together to build strong chapters. I know some of you have experienced this in working side by side with others on a project...you get to know each other better in ways that forge not only friendships, but effective working teams.

Here is the hummingbird connection. We have a great opportunity to create a place that could draw families to renew a tradition of gathering to witness the seasonal spectacles of nature. The Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden can be such a place as I am sure, once completed it will be a great place to see these fascinating birds. I propose that we adopt this as a Chapter project that we all commit to work on during chapter work days throughout the year. We can let our June meeting set the tone...this project's workdays will include birding and wildflower watching, good food, and opportunity to get to know others in our chapter while we plant and weed.



MEETING MINUTES
Carolyn Doyle, Secretary

Missouri Master Naturalists
Boone's Lick Chapter
Minutes of Meeting, May 14, 2009

The Boone's Lick Chapter of MMN met on Thursday May 14, 2009, at 6:30pm at the Boone County Extension Office, Columbia, MO. Present were Gail White, Susan Hazelwood, Carol Sattler, Sally Swanson, Steffanie Abel, Laura Hillman, Phil Knocke, Jane Fore, Robert Johnson, Carolyn Doyle, Alice Havard, Taylor Stadler, Liz Evans, Billy Dooling, Susan Lutton, Robert McArthur, Janie McArthur, Nicole Stanton, Rachel Pia, Marie Scruggs, Dan Reeves, Mary T. Williamson, Suzanne Wright and Meredith Donaldson. Also present were Extension sponsor Kent Shannon and MDC sponsor Jeff Koppelman.

President Meredith Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:35pm, and introduced our speaker for the evening, Jack Schultz, PhD. Dr. Schultz is Director, Life Sciences Center, University of Missouri, and his highly interesting and informative program was titled 'Oak Apples, Spruce Pineapples and Figs: The Natural History of Plant Galls'. This program is approved for advanced training.

At 7:40 we had a break for refreshments, and reconvened at 8:10 for a business meeting.

New Business:

Meredith congratulated the new Training Class on the completion of their class work, and welcomed six attendees from that class to tonight's meeting.

Volunteers are needed to man a MMN table at the Flat Branch Stream Extravaganza on Wednesday, June 17.

Our next meeting will be Thursday June 11, at 6:30pm, at Wild Haven, and will be our Summer Pot Luck Picnic; family and friends are welcome. Meredith, Sally and Jane will try to call inactive members to encourage them to attend.

MMN members who have been volunteers with the City of Columbia are invited to attend a recognition dinner on May 21st at 6:00pm, at the Elk's Lodge, Columbia.

Old Business:

State Conference: Has everyone made arrangements for rides? And we could still use quality items for the silent auction to be held at the conference. Proceeds will be used for scholarships to next year's conference.

Earth Day: Congratulations to Anna Nowak for her work on the Chapter display, which won the top prize, of \$100.00, for best interpretive display.

Service and Training:

Clarification of volunteer hours for Road Cruising for Turtles: Any monitoring is welcomed for this project by State Herpetologist Jeff Bigler, and members are asked to use common sense in reporting actual hours spent on this project.

New Volunteer Opportunities: Meredith will attend the Mizzou Botanic Garden open house on May 21st, and will welcome any help in manning our display table there.

Bill and JaJuan Lauer have had to resign from this committee, due to family obligations, and Meredith will help cover their absence for now, until new members can be recruited. Please continue to log your hours.

Standing Committees:

Treasurer: Alice reported we have a balance of \$599.57 in our account. We've just received a check for \$649.00 from MDC, which had mistakenly gone to them from the state conference we'd hosted. This brings our total balance to \$1248.57. Suzanne reminded the group that the \$649.00 has been earmarked for the Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden at Wild Haven.

Program: There will be no formal program at the next meeting, as it is our annual picnic. July's program will be on frogs.

Project Approval/Volunteer Opportunities: Laura Sweets, Melissa Bedford, and Janine Gordon are currently serving on this committee.

Communication: Rachel asks for feedback, input, and photos, for the **Dragonflyer**.

Refreshments: The McArthurs thanked everyone who has brought refreshments to meetings.

Announcements:

Turn in articles and items for the **Dragonflyer** to Rachel Pia, agenda items to Meredith and Volunteer Opportunities to Suzanne, by Monday May 25, to be included in the next issue.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

NB: Minutes for the May Board meeting will be in the July Dragonflyer.

2009 MASTER NATURALIST GRADUATES!
Suzanne Wright

Welcome to the Boone's Lick Training Class of 2009

The twenty-one members of the '09 training class received their certificates of completion and trainee name badges on Monday, May 11th. All have signed up for a Capstone project, and some for two to three. Many have already begun contributing volunteer service hours towards ongoing projects and have taken approved advanced training opportunities. Some attended the state conference this month and many have been attending the monthly meetings since they began training in March.

This is an exceptional trainee class and Suzanne, '09 training chair, has really enjoyed getting to know all of them and is looking forward to working with them in the field. I hope all of our members will take the opportunity to introduce themselves and make our new members feel welcome.

Any Chapter members interested in participating in any of the Capstone Projects: Bee Survey at Overton Bottoms, Seed Collection with John George, Memorial Humming Bird Garden, UPOP Outreach, or Weekends on the Boardwalk (RBMSP) can contact Suzanne.

Debi Ball	Chris Egbert	Jim Meili
Melissa Bedford	Liz Evans	Clare Melick
Joan Bourbeau	Al Haile	Jeff Melick
Nan Chappell	Laura Hillman	Robert Newsome
Kay Conklin	Robert Johnson	Shelly Reimer
Lee Craig	Susan Lutton	Taylor Stadler
Billy Dooling	Lori McCurdy	Nicole Stanton



Congratulations, and Welcome!

REPORT YOUR HOURS!

It's that time again. Please send a report of your updated service and advanced training hours to Kent at ShannonD@missouri.edu by the end of this month. Forms may be found on the Chapter website at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/>. Thank you!

CALL TO SERVE

Meredith Donaldson

Vanessa Melton, Steffanie Abel, and Bill and JaJuan Lauer need to resign their positions. All have left their posts with things in great order for the person following in their footsteps! We really appreciate all their contributions to our Chapter and its operation.

Please consider one of these opportunities to serve your chapter:
Volunteer Opportunities Committee - Two committee members needed
Advanced Training Committee - One committee member needed

These committee members will help keep the records of our offerings, help seek out new opportunities and will approve projects and training opportunities submitted by members. Meetings have been conducted electronically, but a few face-to-face meetings may be scheduled in the coming months if members deem necessary.

Thanks!

STATE CONFERENCE REPORTS

May, 2009

Impressions of this year's State Conference by three participants from our Chapter.

Meredith Donaldson:

I have a great booklet from the session on Lepidoptera to share that is "everything you need to know" to get started studying the butterflies and moths in Missouri. It is very complete and has some very interesting information about each species. Two guidebooks were recommended: Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America by Jim P. Brock and Kenn Kaufman and Caterpillars of Eastern North America by David L. Wagner.

I was overwhelmed by the session on photography and would share my notes with more experienced photographers.

Did you know that Missouri ranks 21st in diversity in the nation? This is even more amazing when you realize that many of the states ranking higher are much larger and/or have ocean coastlines. I

learned in the session on Missouri Native Landscapes that we rank 9th in the number of native species of fish and 13th in the number of reptiles and amphibians. And, imagine this, the area between the Atlantic and the Rocky Mountains is the center of the mussel populations in the world and Missouri has 65 species, ranking 11th in the U. S. This wonderful diversity is what draws us outdoors even though we must expose our selves to ticks and chiggers.

If you want to learn more about this diversity the *Atlas of Missouri Ecoregions* is available on the MDC website. And, *The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri* by Paul W. Nelson is available at the library

Lori McCurdy:

At the opening ceremonies of the 4th Annual Master Naturalist Conference held this May in Kansas City, Syd Hime challenged us to; 1.) learn something new, 2.) see something new, 3.) meet someone new –there were 116 of us, and 4.) take something new back to our chapter. The Discovery Center, which was our “home base” for the conference, is a fabulous example of green building within an urban setting. Features include an on-site wastewater treatment system, active and passive solar design, salvaged building materials, a constructed wetland, and native plant landscaping. Several hands-on Nature Explore classrooms and a resource library are also great attractants. I highly recommend a visit! As a Kansas City native, it was good to see the positive contributions of the Discovery Center and gardens to the Brush Creek area;
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/kcmetro/discovery/index.html.

I especially enjoyed one workshop that was facilitated by two exuberant school teachers fired up about sharing nature with kids. They provided attendees with a multitude of ideas and resources for working with children. A great on-line resource list created by the educators is
www.ikeepbookmarks.com/parsonphis.

It was reaffirming to meet other Master Naturalists from Missouri, and learn that we are all working on similar issues and have like concerns. And everyone was so friendly! I also found it ironic that many of the folks I met were in the Boone’s Lick Chapter! Together, we did formulate an efficient and fun solution to a management problem, and agreed that we need to teach the feral pigs to eat Japanese honeysuckle, and then have a pig roast to celebrate and socialize! Next year’s conference will be held in St. Louis in the fall. I’m looking forward to it already!

And I think Lisa LaCombe of Burr Oak Woods Conservation Center said it best, “If you have mud on you, you have a story to tell!”

Phil Knocke:

Fun in the Mud: My Thoughts on the 2009 MMN Conference

The bus left from the Discovery Center early that chilly Saturday morning, bound for the “Wetland Wandering” unit. Torrential rains the night before promised a moist walk. (In fact, the rains caused the cancellation of the Missouri river float trip scheduled for that day.) The site was found after a few wrong turns and several passes through the small town of Creighton, MO, about 60 miles Southeast of Kansas City. (Along the way, we stopped at a graveyard, and as the driver and a GPS-equipped passenger conferred, we did some birdwatching from our windows.) We were greeted warmly by the

landowners, who had, with the help of the federal Wetland Reserve Program and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, reclaimed their farmland as a wetland. We boarded an open trailer and were pulled through the mud by a tractor – until one tire blew. We hoofed it (or rather squelched along) from there, accompanied by a friendly, extremely happy, extremely muddy chocolate lab.

The property is remote and ideal for wildlife, with creeks and ponds available for waterfowl and other water-loving animals. (They also have to deal with feral hogs, the only animal for which the MDC has issued a “shoot on sight” order.) On that chilly, cloudy day, we saw little in the way of wildlife, however, during our hour-long walk through the property. Some people stopped to use their dip nets – excavating some crayfish and tadpoles from the mud.

My Saturday afternoon session was held at the beautiful Burr Oak Woods Center, in Blue Springs, MO, about a half hour East of Kansas City. (The center had recently hosted a program for children, where they were given a “fish’s eye” view of the world; thus the décor included huge worms on hooks, enormous bass, protective logs, etc.) The subject of the session was “Hands-on Citizen Science” and it began with a briefing on opportunities for trained amateur naturalists to contribute scientific data to a number of ongoing projects, including the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Monarch Watch, Lost Ladybug project, the NAAMP Frog Survey, and many others. Afterwards, we were briefed on the steps necessary to form a stream team, and then we adjourned outdoors to perform water quality testing in the nearby creek. We did site analysis, chemical testing, and (my favorite) macroinvertebrate sampling. Not everyone was equipped for wading, so each sub-group had to have someone who was waterproof. In my group, Suzanne Wright did the honors, using the kick net solo.

The Sunday session, “Wildlife Rehabilitation”, was held at the fascinating Lakeside Nature Center, which houses a large wildlife rehabilitation effort. About 3000 animals go through the LNC every year, and as we were receiving our behind-the-scenes look at the rehab facilities, someone came in with a bird in a box, needing help. Our host showed us a beautiful barn owl, a perfectly healthy specimen which had been imprinted on humans, so it would have a career in education. She also displayed a turkey vulture, another permanent resident of the facility, there because of injuries which prevented its return to the wild. After our tour through the rehab wing, with its isolation cages, bird “news” and snake cages, we were treated to a talk on rehabbing turtles. Many specimens of turtles, both common and rare, were brought out for our inspection, including a magnificent African species. Its shell was cream-colored, and adorned with flared scutes.

All in all, it was an informative and very enjoyable weekend. The meetings, dinners, and other special events were a lot of fun (even though I didn’t get anything I bid on at the silent auction). The Osage Trail Chapter had obviously worked hard to produce a well-run, educational, and memorable conference.



Wetland Wandering Companion Lab
(Phil Knocke)

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Trails Day: Take a Hike! Saturday, June 6, 10:00-11:30

Runge Conservation Nature Center

Ages: A Discover Nature Families program for families with children 8 years and older - Celebrate National Trails Day by going on a guided hike along Runge's trails to visit our natural communities. We will hike into a forest, explore a glade, visit a marsh, and view tall prairie grasses all on one trail! Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. No reservations required 573-526-5544

Friends of Big Muddy: "Are Chemicals Contaminating Our Missouri River?" Friends of Big Muddy/MO River Relief Program, Tuesday, June 9, 7pm at Bryant Cabin at Overton North Unit of the Big Muddy Refuge. Environmental Pollution Chemist Carl Orazio discusses studies the USGS has completed on chemical contaminants in Missouri River mud and fish.

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!

Runge Hiking Club: Pomme de Terre State Park

Runge Conservation Nature Center

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

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

Saturday, June 13 to Sunday, June 14 - Stream Team 20th Birthday Party; Waynesville, MO

Happy Birthday Stream Team!

Come enjoy a weekend on the river and help us celebrate our 20th Birthday!

Saturday, we plan to FLOAT the Gasconade River from "The Rock Slide" vicinity to Waynesville at the mouth of the Roubidoux. This is the land of STREAM TEAM #1 . . . fitting, don't you think!

Festivities will begin early afternoon on Saturday and conclude by noon on Sunday. Come for all or any portion you'd like

On our way down this stretch of 3.5 miles of river, we'll gather trash and learn along the way. (The Roubidoux Fly Fishers Association and Fort Leonard Wood Seabees Detachment will help with an additional cleanup on the Roubidoux.) The take-out location where festivities will await is near Waynesville City Park. All shuttling will be provided. Stick around for BBQ, MUSIC, CAMPING, and FELLOWSHIP!

Sunday, we'll enjoy a hot breakfast, then rotate through your choice of several LEARNING STATIONS. Choose from water quality inverts and chemistry, fly fishing, crayfish ID, fish ID, freshwater mussels, outdoor photography, birding and more.

[Celebration Weekend Registration Form](#) Registration has been extended to June 8!

For maps and other information, go to: <http://mostreamteam.org/STbday.asp>

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.

Big Muddy Guided Float Trip, June 20, 10-4.

A chance to rediscover the wildlife and history of the Missouri River (Rain Date: Saturday, July 11) *Newcomers to the river will enjoy naturalist and history programs, plus live music and drawings for prizes.*

HUNTSDALE, MO.—Missourians who are curious about their state's namesake river can rediscover the history and grandeur of the Big Muddy on a guided float trip June 20.

The easy float will take participants 9.5 miles on the Lewis and Clark Water Trail, from Katfish Katy Campground on the Katy Trail at Huntsdale to Cooper's Landing, also on the Katy Trail, at Easley. The tour passes Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area and will include a stop on California Island.

The event is scheduled to last from 10am to 4pm. Programs on the river will cover river ecology and history and include live animals. The event also will feature live music, a raffle and drawings for attendance prizes.

For registration information, visit www.moriver.org/float.html, or contact Billy Polansky, 573 256-2602, polanswe@gmail.com.

The event, including a shuttle and lunch, costs \$30. Participants must provide their own canoes or kayaks. Rentals are available from:

§ Mighty MO Canoe Rental, 205 Central St., Rocheport, MO 65279, phone 573-698-3903, e-mail pebblepublishing@gmail.com, online booking at www.mighty-mo.com/.

§ Katfish Katy Campground, phone 573-447-3939, e-mail Linda@katfishkaty-campground.com. [She has only 3 canoes to rent, at \$47/day + portaging fees. Ed.]

The trip is insured and sanctioned by the U.S. Canoe Association. Sponsors of the event include the Missouri departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Big Muddy Fish and Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Friends of Big Muddy presentation: July 14 - "Beyond Catfish - the Diversity of Fish Life in the Big Muddy" presented by USFWS biologists - 7pm at *Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport, MO*. Take a peek into the wild diversity of fish in the Missouri River, from minnows on up to paddlefish.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTHY WATERSHED SERIES presented by Missouri River Communities Network
These workshops are FREE and open to the public.

Saturday, June 6, 9:00 - noon - Community Rain Garden Workshop; Americorps Assistants. (Final program of the series.) A 30 minute presentation on creating rain gardens as a tool for mitigation of storm water runoff will be given. This will be followed by an outdoor portion where participants will help to create a rain garden by planting, mulching, etc. in a new community rain garden site. To be held at 9:00am at the [Jefferson Institute Farm and Gardens](#). As this workshop will include an outdoor hands-on component, we ask that you please dress accordingly. *Presented by MRCN Missouri Stream Team AmeriCorps Assistants and the Columbia/Boone County Rain Garden Project*
Registration for this event is required, so [sign up today!](#) Registration deadline is June 5.

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.

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 Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsn@aol.com.

Volunteer Opportunities June, 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.

June Volunteer Opportunities

Camp Hickory Hill

Co-sponsor: Central Missouri Diabetic Camp, Inc.

Nature programs and activities are needed for 1 – 2 hours sessions June 5 – 23 at the camp five miles north on Stadium Blvd. Meredith Donaldson and Lea Langdon will be offering programs that need additional volunteers. Also, if you have skill or knowledge in a particular area, the camp is looking for additional nature programs. The interest is in mid-morning or mid-afternoon programs, but evening time slots are available.

Contact: Meredith Donaldson at mjdonlsn@aol.com or 573-289-3081 if you are interested in helping with a program or presenting a program. Project is approved.

Starling Nesting Ecology, June

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.

CACHE/SPARKS Birding Trips – Wednesday mornings

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 you are attending. 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. *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:

June 13 – Saturday morning – Rudolf Bennett, savannas and woodlands

July 9 – Thursday evening - TBD *will be rescheduled*

August 6 – Thursday evening- Prairie Fork, restored prairie planting

August 15 – Saturday morning - Danville Glades

September 19 – Saturday morning - TBD

October 8 – Thursday evening – *will be rescheduled* 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 natural 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 has begun 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, as are 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.

Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Overton Bottoms North)

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.

The dates listed below are tentative. They will be subject to change depending on weather/flooding and other factors beyond my control. I will contact you if an event is cancelled. In addition to these dates, we will schedule 2-3 dates for identification at the MU Entomology Museum (late June-August).

All trapping/netting will take place at the Overton Bottoms North unit of the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge. Take I-70 to the Overton/Wooldridge exit (#111), this is the first exit west of the bridge over the Missouri River. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right. At the stop sign on HWY 98, turn right. This road will cross the RR tracks and turn to gravel. We will meet at the first parking lot on the right (about ½ mile, look for the big pecan trees).

All washing/drying/pinning will take place at our office (4200 New Haven Road). From the Nifong/HWY junction travel east (Nifong becomes New Haven RD) one mile. At the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center, turn right at the 3rd drive way, turn left through the chain link fence, our office is at the south end of the parking lot.

Summer 2009 Schedule for collecting, preparing, pinning and identification of specimens

June 13	10:00 – Noon	Set traps/netting
June 15	Noon – 6:00.	Pick up traps/netting/wash /dry/pin
June 27	10:00 – Noon	Set traps/netting
June 29	Noon – 6:00 .	Pick up traps/netting/wash/dry/pin
July 10	Noon-2:00 .	Set traps/netting
July 11	10:00 – Noon	Pick up traps/netting
July 20	Noon – 2:00	Set traps/netting
July 21	Noon -2:00	Pick up traps/netting; 5:00- 7:00 wash/dry/pin
Aug 14	Noon -2:00	Set traps/netting
Aug 15	10:00 – Noon	Pick up traps/netting
Aug 17	4:30 – 6:30	Wash/dry/pin
Aug 27	Noon -2:00	Set traps/netting
Aug 28	10:00 – Noon	Pick up traps/netting
Aug 31	4:30 – 6:30	Wash/dry/pin

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.

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.

Two 1.5 hour programs will be held from 9:00am – 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. 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 mjdonlson@aol.com. Project is approved.

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

Cosponsored by Missouri Parks Association, Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, 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 (Fun City and El Centro Latino have scheduled for all day August 3). 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 have workdays Wednesday mornings beginning at 8am in June at area rain garden sites. If 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.

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 www.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.

Outdoor Education at Prairie Fork Conservation Area

Spring season is over, but contact Jody if you are interested in volunteering for other educational programs.

Please contact Jody Coats, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Prairie Fork Conservation Area, 573 356-8898 or. jlc7t4@mizzou.edu. Project can be renewed for approval by calling Meredith at 573 443-0104.

*I think we consider too much the good luck of the early
bird and not enough the bad luck of the early worm.
Franklin D. Roosevelt*

2009 Officers

President	Meredith Donaldson MJDonaldsn@aol.com	Advanced Training Co-Chair	Sally Swanson sal@socket.net
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
Treasurer	Alice Havard AEHavard@yahoo.com	Project Approval & Volunteer Opportunities	TBD
State Advisory Committee Rep, 2008-09	Suzanne Wright SuzWright@centurytel.com	Refreshments	Janie & Robert McArthur JBMcArthur@centurytel.net RDMcArthur@centurytel.net
State Advisory Committee Rep, 2009-10	Vacant		

Chapter Co-Advisors

Kent Shannon
University Extension
ShannonD@missouri.edu

Jeff Koppleman
Department of Conservation
Jeff.Koppleman@mdc.mo.gov

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 9, 6:30-8:30pm
Extension Office

Frog Communication
Carl Gerhardt

This program will be submitted for advanced training approval.

2010 State Conference: St Louis, Fall rather than Spring.
2011 State Conference, TBD



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