

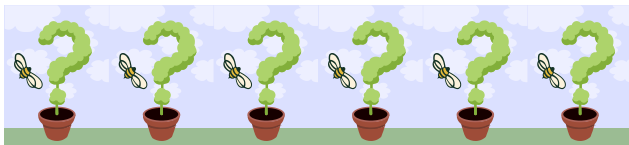
## JANUARY MEETING

Thursday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m.  
Extension Office.

### MUSSELS!

Steve McMurray is a Resource Scientist/Malacologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation. He will be speaking to us on the biology, ecology and life history of freshwater mussels. He is also including information on endangered and exotic species.

Refreshments: Jane Fore & Suzanne Wright



## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Taking over the helm as president of the Boone's Lick Master Naturalists is an honor, and the job has been made easier by all the work of past president Suzanne Wright, her executive committee and committee members. Thank you all. We accomplished so much as a chapter under their leadership. Angela Belden and I will welcome the support of Carolyn and Alice, who are continuing in their positions. Please join us by serving on one of the following committees: Project Approval, Advanced Training, Monthly Program,

Refreshment\*, Communications, or Historian\* (\*need chairperson or co-chairperson). There will be a meeting of 2008 and 2009 officers and committee chairs at the Extension Office on Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30pm to chart our course for the coming year. Everyone is welcome, but please contact Meredith (573-289-3018 or [mjdonlsn@aol.com](mailto:mjdonlsn@aol.com)) to let us know you are coming.

### Home Sweet Snag

As you walk the trails this winter, check out the old snags and the stories they have to tell. The term snag refers to a dying or dead tree. Foresters use a more specific definition that a snag must be at least 3ft in diameter at chest height and six feet tall. These snags provide a perfect tool for encouraging exploration and enhancing an understanding of interconnections in nature. I have several ecological themes I use to shape the stories that emerge from what we find including:

- 🦋 Animals, including people, make their home in places that provide food, shelter, space and water needed to live.
- 🦋 Trees, especially old trees (snags) provide some of these basic needs for animals including birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, etc.
- 🦋 Animals leave signs (tracks/trails, remains, and droppings), and if we look carefully, will provide clues to their use of trees.
- 🦋 Complex interactions occur in old snags and we should limit our disturbance of these environments.
- 🦋 Snags are valuable to wildlife and, if they present no safety hazard, should be left to the natural course of nature.

Often when we think of trees, we focus on living trees. But the death and decay of trees is an integral part of the forest ecosystem. As trees grow older, they become susceptible to damage from disease, insects, strong winds, lightning and floods. Areas damaged can become entry points for fungi, which colonize the heartwood and eventually consume it, producing hollow trees. These decaying or dead trees, or snags, are used by insects and other invertebrates, birds, mammals, and amphibians as sites for all sorts of activities such as perching, resting, roosting, feeding, grooming, hibernating, courting, and laying eggs. A tree can take decades or even centuries to grow, die, and decay.

All animals, even us, have basic needs for food, water, shelter and space to live. At each stage of life, a snag provides these necessities for a variety of wildlife. Look for insect activity under the bark that attracts the attention of woodpeckers. The woodpeckers depend heavily on snags as a source of food and drill holes in search of insects. Woodpeckers will not only drill holes to reach insects, but also create cavities in the snag for nesting and winter shelter. For this reason they are called primary cavity users.

Animals that use existing holes are called secondary cavity users. Many of these will use or enlarge natural passages into the interiors of hollow trees, taking advantage of fire scars, broken limbs or other injuries. Titmice, chickadees, nuthatches, brown creepers, great crested flycatchers, and owls, and other animals such as flying squirrels are secondary cavity users. Raccoons prefer an opening 4 to 10 inches wide that is located 10 to 40 feet above ground. Gray foxes occasionally den in hollow trees and even climb to heights of 60 feet to reach them. Cavity users aren't limited to birds and mammals, or even vertebrates. Honeybees use cavities, and so do carpenter ants.

We may not see many of the critters using snags, but you may find a butterfly chrysalis or moth cocoon; one of three butterflies that over

winter under the bark; or a gray tree frog sheltered under the leaf duff in a snag. Some animals are variously active throughout the winter and other will sleep or "hibernate" for part or all of the winter. Bears, skunks, chipmunks, and some bats hibernate.

Each forest community has different requirements in terms of the number, species and size of snags necessary to support all the cavity users associated with that community. The number and size of available snags affects not only the presence or absence of snag-dependent wildlife, but also wildlife population levels. For example, cavity-nesting birds such as woodpeckers usually have large territories, so snags should be well distributed. The Missouri Department of Conservation recommends leaving or establishing a minimum of seven hollow trees per forest acre. If no suitable trees exist, girdle or wound selected individuals to create snags or hollows in future years. The removal of snags can negatively impact wildlife populations that are dependent on them as essential habitat components. You can create a refuge for hundreds of woodland creatures by keeping snags on the land or constructing artificial snags if no natural ones are present. Old tree snags are important to the forest ecosystem and we can learn a lot about them if we take the time to look carefully for the clues the animals leave.

Meredith Donaldson



## MEETING MINUTES

### **Boone's Lick Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists Meeting December 11, 2008**

The Boone's Lick Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists met on Thursday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the UMC Extension Office, Hwy UU, Columbia, MO, for their fifth annual December Potluck Dinner and Year End Celebration.

Present were members and guests Susan Hazelwood, Alice Havard, David Melegrito, Janie and Robert McArthur, Phil Knocke, Jody Stotsky, Carolyn Doyle, Bill Crawford, Hugh Harrison, Laura Sweets, Jerry Nichols, Steffanie Abel, Jane and Dave Fore, Anna Nowack, Angela Belden, Mary T. Williamson, Bill Lauer, Rachel Pia, Meredith J. Donaldson, Janine Gordon, Sharon Reed, David Silvey, Vanessa Melton, Sally Swanson, John George and family, Suzanne Wright, and Extension sponsor Kent Shannon.

After a bountiful meal, President Suzanne Wright called the meeting to order. Kent, Jane, Vanessa and Suzanne presented PowerPoint photos of some of the various activities and projects we'd participated in during the past year. Pretty impressive!

Kent thanked all who'd turned in their volunteer hours, and reminded those who haven't yet, that they have until the end of December to do so. Twenty-six people have reported, for a total of 2,937 hours. Twenty people completed their volunteer and advanced training hours for 2008 and will receive their Great Blue Heron pin for this year. The following have a cumulative total of 250 hours: Jane Fore, Cheryl Hardy, Susan Hazelwood, Rachel Pia and David Silvey. Vanessa Melton, Jody Stotsky and Suzanne Wright have completed over 500 hours, and Troy Gordon had

accumulated over 1000. Thanks and congratulations to all these people for their work and dedication.

Phil Knocke, representing the nomination committee, presented a slate of officers for the coming year:

President: Meredith Donaldson  
Vice-President: Angela Belden  
Secretary: Carolyn Doyle  
Treasurer: Alice Havard

State Advisory Board Representative:

Steffanie Abel, Vanessa Melton

Phil asked for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, paper ballots were passed out. Persons eligible to vote are all who have completed the training and submitted at least one volunteer hour.

#### Committee Reports:

Programs: Steffanie announced the speaker for the January meeting will be Steve McMurray, from the MDC Resource Science Center, who will give a talk on mussels.

Treasurer: Alice reminded us that Frankie, at the Extension Office, actually keeps the books and handles the money. The Boone's Lick chapter has three accounts: the New Class account has a balance of \$2, 785.80, which goes to the University of Missouri; the Conference account has a \$0 balance; and the Club account contains \$572.57.

#### Upcoming Events:

Prairie Seed Planting: John George has offered the opportunity for Chapter members participate in the dispersal of seeds at Prairie Fork, December thru February. If interested, contact John at [John.George@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.George@mdc.mo.gov) or 882-8388 x224.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count: Saturday, December 20, pre-dawn to dark, chili supper after, at 6:00. Feeder watchers also needed. Contact Susan Hazelwood, 445-4925, for bird count; Vanessa Melton, 864-3905, for chili supper.

Saturday Science: Dec. 13, 10:30-11:30, at Monsanto Auditorium/Life Science Center.

'Skulls Are Made For Chewing', M. Ravosa.  
Spring schedule will be forthcoming.

2009 Training Class: Registration begins Jan. 5, Orientation Feb. 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Classes are March 2 thru May 11. Current members are asked to host at least one meeting. Contact Kent for additional information.

SPARKS & CACHE Birding Trips:  
Wednesdays, Dec. 17 and 24, Contact Bill Clark, Columbia Audubon Society, at 573-474-4510, or Vanessa at [vanndawn@hotmail](mailto:vanndawn@hotmail.com) for details.

CARP: New training classes will be held in the spring of 2009. Contact [volunteer@gocolumbia.mo](mailto:volunteer@gocolumbia.mo) for details. Training is AT approved and project is approved.

Treekeepers: New training classes will be held in the spring of 2009. Contact [volunteer@gocolumbia](mailto:volunteer@gocolumbia) for details. Training is AT approved and project is approved.

State Advisory Committee Meeting: January 31, 2009. Send your suggestions to Suzanne or the newly elected SAC member.

#### Announcements from the floor:

Sally Swanson says she and her husband plan to burn their prairie this Saturday or Sunday. If you'd like to participate, sign the list on the back table.

Jane Fore thanked the following members who contributed refreshments for meetings during the past year: Vanessa Melton, Meredith Donaldson, Suzanne Wright, Sally Swanson, Buffie Balling, Pam Close, Steffanie Abel, Phil Knocke, Alice Havard, Carolyn Doyle, Bill and JaJaun Lauer, Gail White, and Laura Sweets.

Turn in articles for the Dragonflyer, volunteer opportunities and agenda items by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday after the regular business meeting.

Be sure to get your hours logged by Dec. 31, if you haven't already done so.

Election Results: Phil Knocke announced the election results: officers who'd run unopposed were confirmed in their offices, and Vanessa Melton is the new SAC representative.

Suzanne congratulated the new officers, and thanked the club for its support and participation during the past two years of her presidency. On behalf of the club, Sally presented Suzanne with a gift of a beautifully painted gourd birdhouse, and a dragonfly ornament.

Meredith thanked Suzanne for her work and dedication, and thanked the club for electing her as its next president. She suggested carpooling to the meetings as a way of demonstrating our commitment to conserving our resources and pledged to arrange to carpool to the next meeting. Sally suggested bringing our own drinking cups or mugs to the meetings, saving all those plastic cups we toss each month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Doyle, Secretary

## MILESTONES

### **Certification**

Angela Belden, Class of 2008

### **Recertified in 2008**

Meredith Donaldson  
Carolyn Doyle  
Jane Fore  
Cheryl-Ann Hardy  
Susan Hazelwood  
Philip Knocke  
Lea Langdon  
JaJuan Lauer  
William Lauer  
Vanessa Melton  
Rachel Pia  
Sharon Reed  
Dan Reeves  
David Silvey

Jody Stotsky  
Sally Swanson  
Laura Sweets  
Mary Jane Wheeling  
Gail White  
Suzanne Wright

### Milestone Pins

#### 250+ Hours

Jane Fore  
Cheryl-Ann Hardy  
Susan Hazelwood  
Rachel Pia  
David Silvey

#### 500+ Hours

Vanessa Melton  
Jody Stotsky  
Suzanne Wright

#### 1000+ Hours

Troy Gordon

### RECORDING YOUR HOURS 2009

If you have any additional advanced training or service hours to report for 2008, please get them in to Kent asap. Every volunteer hour that we record demonstrates the value of the program to the State.

For 2009, please record your hours on one of the forms Kent created (posted on the website at <http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/>

or available on request via US mail), and submit to him on a quarterly basis. Please be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

### 2009 MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING

Registration opens January 5 with classes starting on March 2. Volunteers are needed to host class sessions. Contact Kent if you can help.

Mondays 6-9 p.m. (Saturday field trips)

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

### REQUEST FROM JOHN GEORGE SEED COLLECTION HOURS

Could everyone please estimate the number of hours they have given towards collecting seed for prairie restoration at the Prairie Forks Conservation Area? I am working on a grant proposal and every hour that was volunteered collecting seed that you gave to me, no matter where you collected it, potentially counts as match for portions of the grant. The time spent seeding and mixing seed on 12/18 counts, as have every one of our seed collection trips we took this last summer. My off-handed guess is that there will be 500 – 600 hours of service. This is for 2008 only. Please send in your hours by the end of January.

Please contact me at 882-8388 x224 or [John.George@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.George@mdc.mo.gov)  
Thanks!

**TREE & SHRUB SEEDLINGS  
AVAILABLE NOW**

The Missouri Department of Conservation is taking orders for tree and shrub seedlings for spring delivery and recommends ordering early. Extreme weather in 2007 and 2008 has limited the availability of some trees and shrubs, so order early to be sure you get them.

Ordering seedlings is easiest online at [mdc.mo.gov/forest/nursery/seedling](http://mdc.mo.gov/forest/nursery/seedling). You can print the seedling catalog and order form at [www.mdc.mo.gov/316](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/316). Printed copies are available at regional Conservation Department offices and nature centers statewide.

**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.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5 - WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY WATERSHED?**

Everyone lives in a watershed. What can we do to make sure that ours is in healthy condition and, by the way, what is a watershed? To be held at 7:00pm in the Friends Room at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia. Presented by Mona Menezes, Stormwater Educator for the City of Columbia.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - LIFE IN THE WATER -- WATER QUALITY INDICATING INSECTS**

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.

**Upcoming Programs:**

Tuesday, March 3 – Storm Water Mitigation with Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels  
Monday, April 6 - Endangered and Invasive Species in the Missouri River Region  
Monday, May 4 - Missouri River Flood Plain Ecology  
Saturday, June 6 - Community Rain Garden Workshop

**Eagle Days – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Visit one of these locations to see bald eagles in the wild and up close in indoor programs.*

**Lake Ozark**, with activities at the Osage National Golf Clubhouse, Wilmore Lodge and Bagnell Dam Access, 9am to 4 pm Jan. 3 and 10am to 4pm Jan 4. Call 573-526-5544 for more information.

**Smithville Lake**, Little Platte Park Course Complex, 9:30am to 4pm Jan. 10, and 11am to 4pm Jan. 11. Call 816-532-0174 for more information.

**Springfield Conservation Nature Center**, 9am to 4pm Jan. 17, and 11am to 4pm Jan. 18. Call 417-888-4237 for more information.

**Old Chain of Rocks Bridge** in St. Louis County, 9am to 3pm Jan. 17 and 18. Call 314-877-1309 for more information.

**Clarksville**, Lock & Dam 24, Clarksville, 9am to 4pm Jan. 24, and 10am to 3pm Jan. 25. Call 660-785-2420 for more information.

**Mingo NWR**, northwest of Puxico, 9am to 4pm Feb. 7. Call 573-222-3589 for more information.

**WildOnes! Saturday, January 10, 10am.**

The first WildOnes! event of 2009 will be brunch at Laura Hillman's house - 7900 Cave Creek Road - January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Laura will have goodies, but feel free to bring a dish to share (no meat please) and/or a DVD you think might interest the group. RSVP is encouraged but not required.

Best direction are to go south on Providence past RBHS and RB elementary and turn left on first main road which is Hillcreek. If you keep going absolutely straight (don't follow curve of road up hill) you will be on Cave Creek and will end up in my driveway (over small bridge). Watch for cars coming down Hillcreek hill from right as you cross onto Cave Creek. Ph# 442-3703.

### **Big Muddy Presentation, January 13**

*"This ain't no mama boy's float trip"*

Film and presentation about the Missouri River 340 Paddlers Race: Tuesday, January 13, 5:30-7:30pm at Ragtag Theater in Columbia, 10 Hitt Street. Friends of Big Muddy/Missouri River Relief program for January; note alternate location. FREE Admission

### **Saturday Morning Science**

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

This series of talks is presented at the Monsanto Auditorium on Saturday mornings during the Fall and Spring semesters from 10:30-11:30am, and is free and open to the entire community.

Jan 31: **3D Computer Imaging in Science and Medicine.** Ye Duan, Assistant Professor, Computer Science.

Feb 7: **One World/One Health/One Medicine.** Gary Simpson, New Mexico Department of Health. Al Zelicoff, Center for National Security and Arms Control.

Feb 14: **How to make stem cells without using embryos.** Mike Roberts, Professor, Animal Science, Biochemistry.

Feb 21: **How Home Sensors Can Help Keep People Functionally Active.** Marge Skubic, Associate Professor, Computer Science.

Feb 28: **The reality of space flight.** Craig A. Kluever, Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

March 7: **Exploring Mars for habitable environments and life: The Mars Rovers and beyond.** Dave DesMaris, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Ames Research Center.

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, Binghamton University.

April 4: **What can modern genomics tell us about cattle domestication?** Jerry Taylor, Professor, Animal Science.

April 11: **What do we know after the 30 year 'War on Cancer'?** Steve Alexander, Professor, Biological Sciences.

April 18: **How Chimpanzees Use Flowering Plants When they Are Sick.** Eloy Rodriguez, James A. Perkins Professor, Plant Biology, Cornell University.

April 25: **Assembling plant artificial chromosomes to benefit agriculture and biotechnology.** Jim Birchler, Professor, Biological Sciences.

May 2: **GOT INSECTS?? Environmentally helpful night patrollers.** Sybill Amelon, US Forest Service.

### **Great Backyard Bird Count**

The Great Backyard Bird Count will be February 15-18<sup>th</sup> 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). Have fun!

### **Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual Conference, March 17-19, 2009**

Courtyard Marriott, Columbia, MO  
Conference information and agenda may be accessed through our MN website. Note: Sessions have been approved as advanced training.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2008 INITIAL REPORT

Counting the Sedge Wren and Carolina Chickadee, both of which need to be documented and accepted by the Missouri Rare Bird Committee (yes, there really is such a process and volunteers who fight for the privilege and prestige of serving on this committee) we ended up with 97 species and 38,234 birds on the Columbia Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The Sedge Wren and Carolina Chickadee have to be documented because of their rarity in central MO during late December.

This year's count didn't produce record setting numbers of birds or species but the numbers are high enough to reflect our count circle's having some of the most diversified habitats in Missouri compared to other count circles. Our count circle is centered at Rockbridge Elementary School and goes out 7.5 miles from that pivot point. This year's count, which occurred on Saturday December 20, included MMN chapter members Jane Fore, Susan Hazelwood, Sally Swanson, Laura Sweets, Gail White, and Suzanne Wright. (There may have been others of which I'm unaware as the data sheet listing participants are still rolling in to the compilers.)

Susan Hazelwood

## SEEDING THE PRAIRIE

On Thursday, December 18, 6 of us went to the seed barn at Prairie Fork with John George. There, we carefully combined the collected and processed seed before mixing it together to create two of John's Special Blends (one for Prairie Fork, the other for the Marshall Diggs Conservation Area). The dust in the air is escaping seed.



Adding the seed



High-tech mixing process

Laura Sweets, Rachel Pia, Lea Langdon, JaJuan Lauer, Bill Lauer, and Gaylon Lowery.

After the mixing, we went out to do some "spot" planting. If you'd like to help, please contact John (see volunteer opportunities). We had a great time, come join us!

## MEET A MASTER NATURALIST

### Jane Fore

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

As a teacher, I spent my professional life indoors, mostly in rooms without windows. When I retired, I wanted to become involved in volunteer activities where I could be outdoors. I was also impressed with the wide range of education and training offered through the Master Naturalist program.

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

Is it bizarre or odd for intelligent adults to spend an afternoon chasing butterflies in 100°

temperatures – and enjoy it? To saturate all your clothing in bug repellent and collect seed for hours with sweat pouring down your face – and return the next day for a repeat performance? My “regular” friends consider this odd and bizarre behavior! I feed owls at the Raptor Rehab Center. A rat is too large for a single meal so I occasionally need to chop one in half. That is pretty disgusting.

### 3. Favorite service project thus far?

My capstone project was butterfly collection at Overton Bottoms. I also helped with the Henslow’s sparrow study at Tucker Prairie. This year I collected prairie seed for John George. My favorite project is always the one I’m currently working on.

### 4. Favorite Missouri native?

One of my favorite birds is the beautiful cedar waxwing. They travel in flocks, which gives more opportunities for observation. Their feathers have a silky appearance with wingtips that seem to be delicately dipped in paint (or wax). They are not regular visitors in my yard, so a sighting is always special. I don’t know if they are considered native, but they are year-round Missouri birds.

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

I would only reveal this to keep Jody Stotsky from blackmailing me later in life. I am interested in observing and can tolerate most creepy crawlies -- except black and yellow garden spiders, a phobia from my childhood. These spiders were plentiful at the Charles Green Area where we collected seed last summer. Jody had to speak her special spider chant and perform disappearing spider rites to coerce me into the overgrown seed rows.

TreeKeepers participate in classes on tree care and maintenance and are asked to give 36 hours of service to City tree projects.

Classes held on Thursday, January 22, from 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, January 24, 8:30-1:30; and Tuesday, January 27, 6-9 p.m. at the ARC, 1701 West Ash St. TreeKeepers is sponsored by City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department.

To learn more about the program or get an application, contact the City’s Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com). Space was still available in this class at the end of December.

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

## **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.*

## **ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Tree Keepers**

Class starts on January 22.

## **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.

### January Volunteer Opportunities

#### **CACHE Birding Trips: Every Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21, 28<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 7:30am (don’t be late) at the southwest corner of the Parkade Center parking lot. The destination will be decided the day of the trip depending on who is there and where they want to go. Contact Bill Clark at 573-474-4510 to confirm. Contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or [vanndawn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@hotmail.com) . Project is approved.

#### **Prairie Seed Planting**

*Sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation.*

John George has offered the opportunity for Chapter members to participate in the planting/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 Saturday dates in late January or in February. If you would like to participate, let John know so he can notify you as dates are set. Contact: John George at 882-8388 x224 or [John.George@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.George@mdc.mo.gov) .

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

### Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

#### **Rain Garden Installation and Maintenance** *Sponsored by Missouri River Communities Network*

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

Project is approved.

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

*Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park*

Volunteers are needed to drive to the park's four bulletin boards, open and close them with a power drill and add/remove flyers and posters. Work can be done on your own time if you have your own power drill and vehicle or between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. if you need to use park equipment/vehicle. Updates are usually needed 2-3 times per month during busy seasons (April-October), and once a month during slower seasons (November-March). No experience is needed but some paperwork is required. One-time volunteers may fill out a temporary work agreement (no background check required). If you desire to volunteer more than once, state park paperwork and a background check must be submitted and approved prior to volunteering (so be sure to allow at least a week for paperwork processing). Contact: Kathryn DiFoxfire at [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov) or Roxie Campbell at [roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov) 573-449-7402. Project is approved.

## **Raptor Rehabilitation Project - Ongoing**

*Sponsored by Raptor Rehabilitation Project*

The most rewarding volunteer experience ever! We have new opportunities for volunteers to begin working with birds sooner. Please contact us to set up 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 group activities with children rotating through the stations. 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 573-592-1412 or [Josh.Stevens@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Josh.Stevens@mdc.mo.gov) . Project is approved.

**Friends of Big Muddy Activities - Ongoing dates throughout the year.**

Most opportunities are on the units of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge; projects are sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy. Friends of Big Muddy helps the refuge with a variety of projects including trail building, putting up boundary signs, trash pickups, educational programs, habitat restoration projects, water quality monitoring, etc. We also have booths at festivals at communities along the Missouri River to talk about the refuge and Friends of Big Muddy activities. We are looking for people to lead interpretive hikes, canoe trips, boat rides, etc. on refuge units (leading these counts as volunteer time, participation does not count).

Most activities are announced on an e-mail group about 10-14 days before they happen. To subscribe to that list, send an e-mail to FriendsofBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Activities generally only require the volunteer to provide personal care items (water bottle, sun protection, bug protection, etc.). Exceptions will be noted in e-mail announcements. Volunteers can choose to participate only in the activities that interest them. Contact Steve Johnson at [missouririver@gmail.com](mailto:missouririver@gmail.com). Projects are approved.

*You are capable of more than you know. Choose a goal that seems right for you and strive to be the best, however hard the path. Aim high. Behave honorably. Prepare to be alone at times, and to endure failure. Persist! The world needs all you can give.*

*E. O. Wilson*

## 2009 OFFICERS

President	Meredith Donaldson <a href="mailto:Mjdonlson@aol.com">Mjdonlson@aol.com</a>
Vice President	Angela Belden <a href="mailto:angela@stumod.com">angela@stumod.com</a>
Secretary	Carolyn Doyle <a href="mailto:carolynddoyle@netscape.net">carolynddoyle@netscape.net</a>
Treasurer	Alice Havard (no email address)
573 445-4624 6451 N. Creasy Springs Rd Columbia, MO 65202	

State Advisory Committee Representatives:  
Suzanne Wright, Vanessa Melton

COMMITTEE CHAIRS - TBD

Advanced Training TBD

Chapter Historian TBD

Communication TBD

Project Approval TBD

Refreshments TBD

Chapter Co-advisors:

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

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

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 6:30-8:30pm  
Extension Office  
Program: TBD

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.*