



~ The Dragonflyer ~

MARCH MEETING

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

BATS

The program will be an overview of bats in Missouri, including their habitats, life histories, and endangered statuses. Presenter: Shauna Marquardt, MDC Wildlife Biologist

This program has been approved as advanced training.

Refreshments:

Sally Swanson is bringing a non-dessert item, Bill and JaJuan Lauer are bringing a dessert and beverages.

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

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

The fourth annual state conference, hosted by the Osage Trails Chapter, is coming up soon. Registration deadlines are in April. You should have received the conference packet in the mail from the MDC by now. If you have not received one yet, please contact Meredith at Mjdonlsn@aol.com.

Registration deadlines:

Early bird: April 15

Hotel registration in our room block: April 15

Final registration deadline: April 30. (Note: No on-site registrations will be accepted.)



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS
Meredith Donaldson

Winds will blow throughout the warm and cold days of March...yet I feel the joyful anticipation of spring to come. The MDC calendar is full this month – geese arriving, barred owls nesting, spring peepers calling, zebra swallowtail butterflies emerging, redbuds blooming... and a concert of birds will begin with a new repertoire of breeding and territorial songs.

If you want to learn more about our harbingers of spring, check out projects such as the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program session at Rock Bridge State Park and the CACHE/SPARKS birding trips. Or, you can join Randall Clark to find the real harbinger of spring, one of the earliest flowers to bloom in the spring, as well as tracking the emergence of new wildflowers each week. Read further in the *Dragonflyer* for more information about these and other opportunities.

There is another aspect of this migration and emergence – hope. For ages these plants and animals have followed seasonal patterns of existence. Aldo Leopold writes about the migratory geese “staking 200 miles of black night on the chance of finding a hole in the lake” (Sand County Almanac, p. 18). Song birds, returning from as far away as South and Central America, stake their lives on the hope that their warm season habitat is unchanged. And, the hundreds of salamanders who return to the pond where they were born expect it to be there - their internal wiring does not allow an alternative plan. Master Naturalists are working to keep the -- joyful anticipation of spring and the return to habitat that is undisturbed or, at least restored a reality for all species. All our lives eventually will depend upon this being so.



MEETING MINUTES
Carolyn Doyle, Secretary

Boone's Lick Chapter
Missouri Master Naturalists Meeting
February 12, 2009

The Boone's Lick Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists had their regular monthly meeting at 6:30pm on February 12, 2009, at the MU Boone County Extension office, Columbia, Missouri. Present were Janine Gordon, Janie McArthur, Robert McArthur, Mary Jane Wheeling, Bill Lauer, Susan Hazelwood, JaJuan Lauer, Alice Havard, William Dooling, Rachel Pia, Clair Melick, Jeff Melick, Angela Belden, Robert Johnson, Susan Lutton, David Melegrito, Laura Sweets, Beverly Boyd, Melissa Bedford, Stephanie Tosh, Sally Swanson, Dan Reeves, Vanessa Melton, David Silvey, Marie Scruggs, Carolyn Doyle and Meredith Donaldson.

President Meredith Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:30, and welcomed the people attending from the new MMN training class.

Angela Belden introduced our speaker for the evening, Brian Flowers, Outdoor Skills Specialist with MDC, who gave a program on "Furbearers and Trapping". He described the Wildlife Code, demonstrated several types of traps, and had a number of animal pelts for us to see and feel.

At 7:45 we broke for refreshments, and reconvened at 8:00 for a business meeting.

The following people were certified and receive their first dragonfly pin: Angela Belden, Mary Williamson, Howard Hinkel, Lea Langdon, Jerry Nichols.

The following people recertified in 2008 and receive Great Blue Heron pins for their volunteer hours in 2008: Meredith Donaldson, Carolyn Doyle, Jane Fore, Cheryl-Ann Hardy, Susan Hazelwood, Philip Knocke, Lea Langdon, JaJauan Lauer, William Lauer, Vanessa Melton, Rachel Pia, Sharon Reed, Dan Reeves, David Silvey, Jody Stotsky, Sally Swanson, Laura Sweets, Mary Jane Wheeling, Mary Williamson, Gail White, Suzanne Wright.

The following people achieved Mile Stones: 250 hours: Jane Fore, Cheryl-Ann Hardy, Susan Hazelwood, Rachel Pia, David Silvey, Suzanne Wright; 500 hours: Vanessa Melton, Jody Stotsky, Suzanne Wright; and 1000 hours: Troy Gordon.

Meredith thanked all for their time, and reminded us that our volunteer hours are worth \$18.00 an hour. Big Muddy has received a grant due to our partnership with them, and our projects in partnership with MDC wouldn't have been done without MMN volunteers.

New Business:

State Conference, Suzanne Wright: the Ozark Trails Chapter, in the Blue Springs area, is the host chapter for this year's state conference, and registration packets will be mailed soon. The fee will be about \$85.00, with an offered canoe trip on the Missouri River for an extra fee. There are hotels and campgrounds available in the area. A committee is needed from our chapter to prepare a tri-fold display with photos and info on our projects and activities. We'll also need to contribute items for a silent auction and door prizes. There will be meetings of chapter officers during the conference.

State Advisory Committee, Vanessa Melton and Suzanne: Suzanne is the vice-chairman for the committee and Vanessa is the secretary. There are now 11 clubs in five districts, with two clubs in most districts. Vanessa reports the on-line reporting system for tracking volunteer hours will soon be up and running, on the MMN website. We should be able to each check on our accumulated hours with this system.

Members will now need to submit requests for approval for service projects with already approved partners, such as MDC, Rockbridge Park, DNR, etc. There is no longer automatic blanket approval for these projects.

Joint Projects with other MMN chapters: We are invited to join the High Lonesome chapter in Cole Camp, for a Grassland Restoration and Prairie Chicken Recovery project, to be held April 18. Training will be available on that day, email Suzanne ASAP, or by mid-March at the latest, to participate.

Old Business:

Earth Day is April 19.

Hosts for Training classes: Please check the sign-up forms, so you know which day you signed up for, and sign up if you haven't already. Suzanne will have a cheat-sheet for hosts, to remind them of what's expected.

MMN Roster: This should be ready at the March meeting, and we're reminded this is for the use of members only. If you don't want your information on this roster, please let Meredith know asap.

MMN vests: Sally Swanson says the company which has supplied the vests in the past is discontinuing this model. The ones she has left will sell for \$30.00, and do have the MMN logo embroidered on them. Call Sally at 234-2951 for sizes and colors available. She does have canvas shopping bags with our logo, and can embroider other items, hoodies, etc., if desired.

Upcoming Training Opportunities: Please refer to the **Dragonflyer**.

Meredith reminded the new class members that they can start counting meeting hours, including travel time, but cannot count advanced training hours until they complete their training.

Standing Committees:

Treasurer, Alice Havard: No change in our finances from last month. Suzanne got information to MDC on the funds they owe our chapter. This money will be used on the Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden at Wildhaven. She has met with John Besser, Columbia Audubon Society, to select a site. It will be at a juncture of three trails, in a savannah area with diverse habitat, and will include signs, stone benches, and will be low maintenance. This will be a capstone project for the new class, and will be open to all members also.

Programs: Angela Belden asks for suggestions for people to give programs.

Volunteer Opportunities: Janine Gordon says the Friends of Big Muddy has a new board of directors. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:00pm, at the Bryant Cabin.

Refreshments: Thanks to Janie and Robert McArthur for agreeing to co-chair this committee. They thanked Angela, Stephanie and Vanessa for providing tonight's refreshments.

Historian: Thanks also to Bev Boyd, our new historian.

Announcements:

Reminder to turn in articles for the **Dragonflyer** to Rachel Pia, agenda items to Meredith, and volunteer opportunities to JaJuan & Bill Lauer by Monday February 23, for next month's **Dragonflyer** issue.

And log your hours! Check the MMN website for forms.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

2009 MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING

Classes start on March 2. It's up to us to provide hosts for each session. The sessions and hosts are listed below. Please choose one of the sessions with no host listed, and contact Suzanne at SuzWright@Centurytel.net to say you'll be the host.

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

Mar 2:	MO Physical Resources Host: Susan Hazelwood	Apr 13:	Host: Caves (RBM State Park)
Mar 9:	Interpretation (Runge) Host: Rachel Pia	Apr 20:	Host: Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds
Mar 16:	Preserving Natural Diversity Host: Carolyn Doyle	Apr 25:	Host: Prairies (field trip)
Mar 23:	<i>Spring Break</i>	Apr 27:	Host: Aquatic Systems
Mar 30:	Conservation Education Host: Alice Havard	May 4:	Host: Steffanie Abel Conservation and Protection
Apr 4:	Forest Ecology (field trip) Hosts: Janie & Robert MacArthur	May 11:	Host: Master Naturalist Wrap-up
Apr 6:	Animals and Animal Problems Host:		Host:
Apr 11:	Wetlands (field trip)		

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

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT January 31, 2009 Vanessa Melton

Important - Please Read!!

The first State Advisory Committee meeting of 2009 was held in Jefferson City at the MDC Office on 1-31-09. I wanted to inform you of a few items discussed at the meeting.

First of all, by now you should have received an information packet regarding the State Conference in May which will be hosted by the Osage Trails Chapter and held in Kansas City. There are several topics that will be covered in the Saturday and Sunday sessions, as well as a canoe-trip on the Missouri River, a silent auction, and photo contest. This will also be a chance to catch-up with old friends and meet new Master Naturalists from around the state. So, check out your packet, see what topics interest you, and plan on being in Kansas City on May 15th through the 17th.

There will also be a new reporting system available to all Master Naturalists in the coming months. You will be able to log your service and advanced training hours and you will also be able to

view previous submissions. Our own member, Kirk Keller, is working on the new system, so stay tuned for more information.

A new development arose during the SAC meeting regarding projects offered or involving our local partners. We were informed that even though those projects are covered under a blanket of approval each project must be submitted for project approval. The intention behind doing this is to insure that every project Master Naturalists participate in is appropriate to the group. Not every project or function involving our partners is fitting to the Master Naturalist mission. Also, there is the matter of liability, and this is especially important when talking about MDC projects. Volunteers are covered under the insurance umbrella of MDC when volunteering on an "approved" project. This is also a way for each chapter to have a record of each project volunteers participate in. I know this is a lot of work, but with a little effort and forethought this will not be as bad as it sounds.

WANTED



Wanted: A Master Naturalist with marketing/PR experience to help develop a marketing plan for our Chapter. Contact Meredith if this is you.

Mjdonlsn@aol.com

REPORT YOUR HOURS!

It's time for our first quarter reports. Please send your service and advanced training hour reports in to Kent by the end of the month. Please remember to identify the projects or programs in which you participated. shannond@missouri.edu

Reporting forms are available on the website, via mail on request, or at Chapter meetings. Please be sure to keep a copy for yourself. Submitting these reports quarterly ensures that we are tracking our hours and facilitates the process of determining our Chapter's contributions to the program and individual achievement. Note: Students in the '09 class may begin accruing service hours now. All new students are welcome to participate in any of the projects and training sessions open to the rest of the Chapter.

When the new state-wide reporting system becomes available this year, we will need to input our own hours so be sure you are keeping copies of your service and training records.

Thank you!

PRESCRIBED BURN AT CAS ALBERT AREA
Vanessa Melton

Well, after high humidity levels in the early morning of February 8th, the day turned out to be perfect for a prescribed burn at one of the Columbia Audubon-owned properties, Albert Area. The property is located around 10 miles northeast of Columbia close to Murray, Missouri and was a former coal mine reclaimed by the Department of Natural Resources during the 1990s. Ever since then Columbia Audubon has been working to restore the area to improve natural vegetation and habitat, and one of the ways to do that is by using prescribed burn. The area was burned 3 years ago, and in preparation for this year's Audubon Society of Missouri meeting held in Columbia this May I thought it would be a good time to burn it again. The area was burned on February 8th at 10am and it only took about 1 hour to burn almost 16 acres. It was a perfect burn on what turned out to be a perfect day. Thanks go out to John Timmerman and Heather of Timmerman Wildland Fire Services for their expertise and use of their equipment, as well as Fred Seaman, Eric Seaman, David Silvey, Charles Pugsley, Ellen Erhardt, Jody Stotsky, Rachel Pia, Bill and JaJuan Lauer, John Besser, and Glenn Pickett for all their help.



John Besser (CAS) lights the fire while Bill Lauer keeps it under control.

David Silvey takes a break from lighting the fire.



2010 MDC NATURAL EVENTS CALENDAR
Call for Photos

We are eligible to submit photos for this fabulous calendar. Read on for details - and note the deadline of March 16.

Re: Call for 2010 Natural Events Calendar photo entries

Deadline is March 16, 2009. Submission guidelines are below.

People often ask us what we're looking for in calendar photos. We strive for a balance between delicate natural details, exciting wildlife shots and sweeping landscape views captured throughout the year. We try to display the scope of Missouri's natural communities, from the rolling uplands of northern Missouri to the Bootheel's tupelo swamps—and everything in between. We also strive to display the variety of Missouri's seasons.

Images we don't accept for the calendar include scenes that feature man-made objects or people. We have plenty of other media (magazine, Web, print publications, etc.) that feature photos of structures and people. The *Natural Events Calendar* is our showcase of Missouri's landscapes and natural phenomena. We also don't accept photos taken in other states or countries.

Generally, we get lots of photos of plants, fewer of animals; lots of summer images, fewer winter images. Several of you also sent many versions of the same shot. Please be very selective about what you send. Pick the best version to send to us, rather than sending dozens of versions of the same scene, plant or animal.

We hope this helps you select and send your most compelling images.

Guidelines for entry

PLEASE NOTE:

To be eligible to enter your photos, you must be an employee or trained volunteer of the Missouri Department of Conservation. Every year our friends and fans, as well as relatives of employees, offer their photos for the calendar. Unfortunately, we can't accept them. The calendar is reserved for employee and volunteer photos only. Also, this year we will only be accepting digital submissions via CD or DVD. If you have slides or prints please have them scanned so you can submit them digitally. Finally, **please follow all the submission instructions.** Your images may be rejected if they do not adhere to the guidelines.

Send disks to:

MNE Calendar photo entries

Attn: Cliff White

PO Box 180

Jefferson City, MO 65102

Format Guidelines

1. Submit digital images or scans on CD or DVD only.
2. Clearly mark the CD/DVD with your name, address, phone and e-mail.
3. Send high-resolution files only—set your camera to at least 3000x2000 pixels.
4. Please submit images as **high quality** jpegs.
5. **Please label each file with your name and content of the photo!** (for example, "Cliff_White_Osage_River_sunset.jpg" or "CliffWhitebluebird.jpg")
6. Include a printed caption sheet keyed to the images on the CD. This should include:
 - a) Your name, address, phone number and e-mail address
 - b) Description, month or time of year, and shot location for each file (example: Cliff_White_Osage_River_sunset.jpg: Sunset on the Osage River; February; Painted Rock CA overlook in Osage County)
7. CDs and DVDs will not be returned.

Questions about submitting pictures may be directed to me.

Thanks!
Cliff White
Art Director
Missouri Department of Conservation
573-522-4115 x3854
Cliff.White@mdc.mo.gov

THINKING ABOUT FORESTKEEPERS?
Vanessa Melton

For those of you who have been thinking about becoming a Forestkeeper now is a great time to sign up. The weather is warming up getting ready for Spring, and the ticks and chiggers aren't out yet. One project you can do is to monitor a stand of trees for tree health by examining the diameter/base/height, leaves, bark, and overall condition of each tree. You usually examine around 20 dominant or co-dominant trees in the stand, so it is easy to do. It has to be done by November 1st every year and of course before the leaves fall off the trees. Another thing you can do as a Forestkeeper is to conduct a Mast Survey in which you simply monitor at least 50 white and red oaks for acorn production, and in addition they also ask for information on hickories, butternut, and black walnut. Binoculars help when trying to examine a tree for acorns. This had to be done by the last Friday in September. So check out the Missouri Forestkeeper Network website at <http://mdc.mo.gov/programs/forestkeepers/> today.



David Silvey conducting the Mast Survey.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pond Workshop, March 4 or March 10

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

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

<http://mdc.mo.gov/events/> This program is under consideration for advanced training.

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

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

Friends of Big Muddy & Missouri River Relief Presentation, Tuesday, March 10, at 7pm.
Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge - "A Work in Progress" presented by Tom Bell, Refuge Manager for the Big Muddy NFWR.

Tom will give a brief presentation on the past and future plans of the refuge, followed by a discussion on how you can be involved in the development of a Board of Directors for [Friends of Big Muddy](#). [Friends of Big Muddy](#), a group of dedicated volunteers, has for years assisted the Refuge in volunteer stewardship and education programs to advance the partnership and restoration goals of the Big Muddy Refuge. From trail building and tree plantings to nature walks and river clean-ups, the Friends of Big Muddy provide support throughout the length of the refuge. Find out how you can play a part in the future growth of this organization at the March 10 Big Muddy Session at Bryant Cabin.

The board will consist of approximately five individuals who may live anywhere across the state from Kansas City to St. Louis. The initial task of the board will be to set missions, goals and expectations for the Friends Group. The board will probably hold meetings quarterly. The president of the Friends Group may or may not be a member of the Board. Organizers for the meeting have extended assurances they are not asking for any one person to shoulder the responsibilities for the group. For more information contact Tom Bell at Tom_Bell@fws.gov.

Tom Bell started his first job with US Fish & Wildlife Service in 1974 at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Missouri. He's worked at Squaw Creek NWR (northwest Missouri), Port Louisa NWR on the Mississippi River in Iowa, and Litchfield Wetland Management District in central Minnesota. He returned to Missouri in 1999 to be Refuge Manager for Big Muddy NFWR, and has safely navigated the refuge through a period of extensive growth.

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!

Sustainability –Energy Saving Utility Programs, March 10, 7pm, Columbia Public Library
Have your utility bills gone sky-high? Come to the Utility Bill-Cutters Free Workshop. Get cost-cutting tips and information about energy-saving utility programs, cash rebates and low-interest loans: Terry Freeman - Columbia Water & Light; Chris Rohlfing - Boone Electric Cooperative ; Travis Maurer - contractor, The Energy Experts; Linda Green - owner of an energy-audited home. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and a close look at the model energy-wise house and other special exhibits! Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County.
<http://lwv.columbia.missouri.org>

Help Fight the Invaders! Saturday, March 14, 1-4. Rockbridge Memorial State Park.
Alien plants are invading and stealing water, soil, and sunlight from our native plants! Learn how you can protect the Park and your own backyard from these aggressive invading plants. For more information or to register, contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or 573-449-7402.

A Frog's Serenade, Saturday, March 14, 5:30-8pm or 5:30-10pm, Rockbridge Memorial State Park.
Learn about the frogs and toads that inhabit ponds of central Missouri. Learn about their life cycle, habitat needs, threats and how to identify them by the unique call each species makes. The indoor North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, beginning at 5:30pm, will be followed by an optional visit to woodland and grassland natural sinkhole ponds to listen to frog and toad calls. From 8pm to 10pm, participants will have the option of helping park staff and volunteers conduct a frog and toad survey of 10 ponds. Come just to learn or for training on how to help document the presence and numbers of frogs and toads in your area. The program is free, but reservations are required. If the weather is too cold for the frogs to call, the program will be postponed to April 4. For more information or to register, contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or 573-449-7402.

Globe at Night, March 16-28

This past year, there was a monumental shift in human history: the number of people living in cities finally exceeded half the people on Earth. Because the ambient light of urban landscapes is so bright, many city-dwellers have never seen a sky full of stars. Help learn about the effects of light pollution by taking measurements of star visibility from March 16-28.

In 2008, 62 countries submitted measurements, with just more than 4,800 of the measurements coming from the United States. Reports also were received from Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, and Spain. All measurements are recorded and placed on a map that will be available for viewing at the end of the event.

Check the Globe at Night Web site for lessons, instructions, and more information about the International Year of Astronomy 2009 at www.globe.gov/GaN.

Five Easy Star-Hunting Steps

1. Find your latitude and longitude.
2. Find Orion by going outside an hour after sunset.
3. Match your nighttime sky to one of our magnitude charts.
4. Report your observation.
5. Compare your observation to thousands around the world.

Wildflower Walks with Randal Clark begin March 25.

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

Where the Wildflowers Grow, Saturday, April 25, 1-4, Rockbridge Memorial State Park

View about 25 species of Spring wildflowers, learn identification tips, edible and medicinal uses, and aspects of woodland and glade ecology as you hike with the Park naturalist for two miles in the scenic Gans Creek Wild Area. For more information or to register, contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or 573-449-7402.

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.

March 7: **Exploring Mars for habitable environments and life: The Mars Rovers and beyond.**

Dave DesMarías, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Ames Research Center. Habitable environments probably existed on Mars more than 3 billion years ago. The rover Opportunity found evidence of saline lakes and groundwater. Spirit discovered pure silica formed by hydrothermal activity. Orbiters discovered additional mineralogical evidence elsewhere.

March 14: **Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives.**

David Sloan Wilson, Distinguished Professor, Departments of Biology and Anthropology, Director of EvoS, SUNY Binghamton. What is the biological reason for gossip? For laughter? For the creation of art? Why do dogs have curly tails? Evolution is not just about dinosaurs and human origin, but about why species behave as they do.

March 21 & 21: *Spring break*

4 April **What can modern genomics tell us about cattle domestication?** Jerry Taylor.

Ancient peoples in India and the mideast domesticated cattle about 5,000 BC. This talk will explain how genomic resources developed for modern cattle improvement provide new insight into the domestication process.

11 April: **What do we know after the 30-year "War on Cancer"?** Steve Alexander.

Cancer continues to be a major disease, despite a 30-year “war” on it. Come learn about what we know about cancer, why there is no cure, and new approaches that promise to improve diagnosis and therapy.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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. *The remaining sessions have been approved as advanced training.*

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

Stormwater, its causes, problems, and how rain gardens and rain barrels work to mitigate the negative effects of stormwater runoff. Presented by MRCN Missouri Stream Team AmeriCorps Assistants and the Columbia/Boone County Rain Garden Project.

Upcoming Programs:

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

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

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

Prescribed Burn Workshop for Landowners, Friday, March 6, or Friday, April 3

Blind Pony Conservation Area, Sweet Springs, or Davisdale CA in Rocheport.

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

Wood Duck Day at Eagle Bluffs, Saturday, March 7.

It's hard to believe that Eagle Bluffs is the big 2-0! To celebrate the occasion, Eagle Bluffs staff will be hosting several events in 2009.

The first of these events will be held on Saturday, March 7th. We will be dedicating a work day to our wood duck nest box program. The work day will be a cooperative effort between members of the Missouri Waterfowl Association (MWA), energetic volunteers who have been involved with box installation, interested waterfowlers and birders, and any members of the public who want to attend. Activities include maintenance of the existing network of nest boxes, including replacing nesting material and repairing any structural damage. We also will be documenting use and nest success or failure. There will be a presentation on wood duck ecology and management by Dave Graber, waterfowl biologist, and, last but not least (I'm sure this has no influence what-so-ever on anyone's attendance), the MWA will be holding a fish fry lunch. *RSVP to Shauna Marquardt no later than*

Thursday morning, March 5 at 573-445-3882 or shauna.marquardt@mdc.mo.gov. They need a head-count to arrange for boats, etc. This has been approved for one hour of advanced training, and may include service hours.

Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual Conference, March 17-19, 2009; Conference program information is posted on our website. Sessions have been approved as advanced training.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring – Intro Workshop, MO Stream Teams, April 28 & 29, 5-9pm each day, in Jefferson City. Registration deadline, April 15.

The workshops consist of 6 hours of classroom instruction and 1-2 hours on a stream to demonstrate sampling methods. Volunteers will learn to measure the biological and physical aspects to evaluate stream conditions. An introduction to water chemistry will also be covered in this class. As the volunteers' interest and expertise increase, they can receive advanced training and become more proficient at monitoring.

The only requirements to attend one of the workshops are that you have an interest in water quality and are willing to donate your time to attend the entire workshop and to monitor a stream. Class size will be limited and is filled on a first come first serve basis.

To register, go to <http://www.mostreamteam.org/vwqm.asp> and click on "Intro" at the bottom of the page, and follow the prompts. Remember, this is a popular workshop and fills up fast. The workshop is approved for advanced training, and time spent monitoring water quality counts as service hours.

Susan Hazelwood has signed up for this class and would like to car pool with others traveling from Columbia. Please contact Susan at hazelwoods@mchsi.com if you would like to carpool with her.

Level 1 Workshop schedule should be released in June; Level 2 Workshop schedule should be released in November.

VWQM Review Session, May 2nd.

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.

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. This workshop is approved for advanced training.

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 March 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.

March Volunteer Opportunities

CACHE/SPARKS Birding Trips: March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th

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.

Mari-Osa Dump Clean-up Part 2: March 7th

Sponsored by Missouri River Communities Network, Missouri River Relief

Mari-Osa MDC River Access, east of Jefferson City on 50E/63S- Osage River. Together with the Osage River Navy, we'll work on eliminating the huge dump spilling down the beautiful Huber Ferry bluffs. Check out a listing of projects on the riverrelief.org website, email them at riverrelief@riverrelief.org or call 573-443-0292. Project approval is pending.

Turkey Gobble Count: March 15th through May 9th

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

A study to measure daily and seasonal trends of wild turkey gobbling will take place throughout the state. Study volunteers will listen for the number of gobbles heard and the number of individual gobblers heard during a 20-minute period starting 45 minutes prior to sunrise for 2 days per week during the 8-week study. You should have easy access to your listening location. If you are interested in participating in the gobbling study, you can register on-line at www.mdc.mo.gov/13771. For more information, contact Jamey Decoske at: jamey.decoske@mdc.mo.gov or call him at: 573-882-9909 x 3224. Project approval is pending.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Outdoor Education at Prairie Fork Conservation Area

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 will be needed on April 3rd, April 30th, May 8th and May 15th. 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. jlc7t4@mizzou.edu. Project is approved.

Grassland Restoration & Prairie Chicken Recovery, April 18 9am-1pm, courtesy of the Hi-Lonesome Chapter in Cole Camp.

Grassland Birds - Habitats, Behavior and on-going monitoring on local Conservation areas, Prairie Chicken Recovery, Prairie Management Techniques.

Location for session: Cole Camp Prairies: Hi Lonesome, Mora, Paintbrush and other local prairies. Service/Advanced Training approval is pending. To participate, contact Suzanne Wright at SuzWright@Centurytel.net by March 15.

Rocheport Bend Day of Caring: April 18th

Sponsored by Missouri River Communities Network, Missouri River Relief, and Big Muddy Refuge. We'll be doing a small scale river clean-up. Interested people will sign up in Rocheport, then walk down the Riverwalk trail to the Missouri River where boats will meet them and take them to different spots along the river. Participants can also clean up along the Katy Trail and Riverwalk trail by land.

Also, we will be focusing some energy on a collapsed cabin right next to the Katy Trail depot that will take a bunch of hands and hard work. www.riverrelief.org. Project approval is pending.

Big Muddy Refuge Garlic Mustard Pull, April 18

At Overton Bottoms North, the Big Muddy Refuge is leading a Garlic Mustard Pulling Party to help eradicate this invasive weed. Check the www.riverrelief.org website for details or call 573-443-0292. Project approval is pending.

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 individuals. There are five raingardens included in the original grant with the hopes that more will follow. For more information contact Lea Langdon at langtrea@gmail.com or phone: 573-864-7647. Project is approved.

Bird Banding Training: There will be training sessions scheduled throughout the winter and early spring, weather permitting. 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.

Columbia Fishery Resources Office - Ongoing, typically weekdays throughout the year

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteers are welcome to join fishery staff for day long trips to the field where they will collect, tag, and measure fish, and assess fish habitat quality. Volunteers are also welcome in the lab to aid in the identification of collected fishes and assist in analysis of field data. Volunteers are also needed with skills outside of the traditional fish biology. Individuals skilled in computers, construction, journalism, photography, statistics, teaching or other disciplines are welcome and needed.

Contact: Joanne Grady at Joanne_Grady@fws.gov or 573-234-2132, ext. 101. Project is approved.

Raptor Rehabilitation Project - Ongoing

Sponsored by Raptor Rehabilitation Project

The most rewarding volunteer experience ever! We have new opportunities for volunteers to begin working with birds sooner. Please contact us to set up training sessions just for you, so you can begin to feed these amazing creatures. You can then become more familiar with our education birds

and all of the amazing ways you can interact with them and continue educating delighted audiences throughout mid-Missouri about the importance of wildlife conservation. This is a rare and special opportunity that is not available in most areas. We are truly lucky to have the chance to do so, so why not check it out?

Contact: Kathryn Kettenbach, trainer, at 314 749-6211 or kpkcnc@mizzou.edu
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@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. Projects are approved.

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!' "
– Robin Williams

2009 Officers

President	Meredith Donaldson Mjdonalsn@aol.com	Advanced Training Co-Chair	Steffanie Abel Stefabel@yahoo.com
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NEXT MEETING

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

Program: Bees

Mark Arduser, MDC Natural History Biologist, presenter. In addition, Wedge Watkins (USFWS, Big Muddy) will be there to discuss the '09 Bee Survey Capstone Project at Overton Bottoms North.

This program has been approved as advanced training.

Refreshments:

Meredith Donaldson is bringing non-dessert items and Sally Swanson a dessert. *We do need someone to bring drinks for that meeting.*



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