



APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Boone's Lick chapter of Master Naturalists was held on Thursday, April 13, at the Boone County Extension Center. Lesa Beamer, vice president of the Mid-Missouri chapter of Wild Ones, presented the program. Wild Ones is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting biodiversity and the use of native plants. They work to educate the public about biodiversity and to install and maintain native plantings. You may have seen the Wild Ones sign at the native plantings at Forum Nature Area, and by the cabin at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (among others). The Wild Ones will help with the rain garden installations that Brad Wright and Scott Hamilton discussed in March month. The group provides a great way to learn more about native plants and get volunteer hours (not to mention free plants).

NAME THE NEWSLETTER - Final Chapter

Our newsletter has an official name: *Dragonflyer*. Kat DiFoxfire submitted this title, which plays on the Master Naturalist logo and flyer as a means to distribute information.

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

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

As I write this column, we are three days from the vernal equinox, when day and night are of equal length and night is on the losing end for a while. This is arguably my favorite time of the year, hailstorms and broken windshields notwithstanding. Living in the upper Midwest taught me that spring is a season to be taken note of each year. In Minnesota, spring occupies roughly two weeks, a hectic little jamboree plants

throw themselves into once the four-foot snow piles melt, jumpstarting the desperate quest to reproduce already and secure a new generation before the frost comes. A northern spring is petulant, reminding us that we'd damned well better appreciate it or it might decide not to come at all. In Missouri, spring proceeds at the leisurely pace of a region with an actual growing season, as opposed to a brief interlude between blizzards. It has an insouciance that amazes me, and frankly, I still don't quite trust it. Emily Dickinson, who had a lot of time on her hands to think about these things, wrote "A light exists in spring not present on the year at any other period. When March is scarcely here a color stands abroad on solitary hills that science cannot overtake, but human nature feels." Were I to phrase this in my own decidedly less poetic fashion, I would say simply that spring makes me stupid. As though completely unaware of the meaning of the word "perennial", I watch with the anxiety of an expectant parent to see whether the aster and blazing star I bade a fond farewell to last autumn will magically leaf out again this year, and praise them lavishly when they make their appearance above ground. I keep a running record of seasonal firsts: the first lacewing zooming around the porch light; the first forsythia to bloom; the first chorus of spring peepers; the first redwing blackbirds singing competing songs from adjacent trees; the first ladybeetles to wander out from under the leaf litter; the first bluff to shade lavender with redbuds. It's a little like being in love--I become easily distracted, experience bursts of unreasonable euphoria, and am apt to fling myself to my knees in a muddy woodland to give fervent attention to a patch of moss or a particularly handsome ground beetle. So get outside and fall in love with spring all over again, and be sure to show the proper appreciation for these seasonal flirtations--after all, we don't want her to leave us too soon...

Celeste Mazzacano



March Meeting Minutes

Boone's Lick Master Naturalists, March 9, 2006
Present: Suzanne Wright, Joe Donaldson, Meredith Donaldson, Janine Gordon, Troy Gordon, Carolyn Doyle, Larry Barringhaus, Cheryl Hardy, Mark Baltzer, Melanie Kaplan, Alice Havard, Rebecca Allen, Eleanor Mitter, Sally Swanson, Bobb Swanson, Kathryn DiFoxfire, Philip Sachs, Pat Sachs, Gail White, Celeste Mazacano, Ginny Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and introductions were made. Several members of the 2006 class were present.

Brad Wright, president of Peckham and Wright Architects, was introduced and presented a program on sustainable design used in architecture. The concepts of environmentally friendly design can make the land on which we build better than it was before the building was placed on it. Brad showed photos of projects designed by his firm that make use of the prevailing winds, exposure to south, use of environmentally friendly materials and rain gardens to handle rain runoff from hard surfaces. Questions and discussion followed.

Scott Hamilton, Hinkson Creek Watershed Restoration Project, discussed water gardens. He will lead the installation of a rain garden at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Missouri Conferences of the United Methodist Church building designed by Peckham and Wright. The building is on Woody Lane north of the new Bass Pro store. Volunteer hours and one hour of advanced training will be available.

Other volunteer opportunities were announced.

Don explained that the display board, available for use by the group, must be reserved from the Extension office. A display is ready for all upcoming events. Many photos have been laminated and equipped with velcro for easy use.

Those present voted on the name for the newsletter. The names in question were: Dragonflyer, The Devils Needle, Skimmers, and

Nature Journal. The name chosen was Dragonflyer. Kat DiFoxfire, who came up with the name was rewarded with a new book on Missouri trees.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Swanson

KNOW MORE

Weekly Wildflower Walks with Naturalist Randal Clark

Wednesday, March 22-May 17, 2006, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
Rain or shine, join naturalist and wildflower expert Randal Clark and learn to identify spring woodland and glade wildflowers.

Gans Creek Wild Area Wildflower Walk

April 22, 2006, 12:30-4 p.m.

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
Learn to identify wildflowers with park naturalist Roxie Campbell as you hike three miles through the scenic Gans Creek Wild Area. Free. Call for reservations. Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7402.

Saturday, April 18, 1-3 p.m.

Hunting the Wild Falcate Orange Tip (Butterfly count)

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge (FORB)
Learn to identify and catch butterflies with butterfly expert Donna Brunet. This program is part of the Explore Rock Bridge series which hosts a program every third Saturday of the month. Meet at the Devil's Icebox parking lot. Contact Jan Weaver at 815-9255.



Volunteer Opportunities

Below are the volunteer opportunities for April and ongoing projects, as well as announcements of other events. Additional information on each project is at:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/VolunteerOpportunities/VolunteerOpportunities.pdf>. 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>).

April

Verify Orienteering Markers at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

April 8-April 30

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
Volunteers are needed to verify that all 30 orienteering markers are still standing and in good condition. Some markers are located alongside trails; others require going some distance off-trail to find. Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7402. Project is approved.

Staff Booth at Special Events

April 23 (Earth Day), 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (RBMSPP)

Work a 2-3 hour shift at the park booth at Day with Wildlife or Earth Day Training is provided. Must be a certified RBMSPP park aide. Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7402. Project is approved.

Staff Booth for Friends of Big Muddy and Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

April 21, April 22, April 23, and April 29 (times and locations vary)

Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy and the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.
Work a shift at booths at various festivals and events, telling people about the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Big Muddy activities. Volunteers will have a suggested script with the basic info they can look at in advance. Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051. Project is approved.

Bird Banding at Eagle Bluffs

Friday April 7 and Saturday, April 8th

Sponsored by Audubon Missouri
Training to help with banding birds at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area will be held. Contact Andy Forbes at Andrew.Forbes@mdc.mo.gov for more information. Project is approved.

Woody Lane Rain Garden and Native Landscaping Project

Saturday, April 8 (and additional dates through May)

There will be a rain garden workshop and installation at the site of the Missouri Conferences of the United Methodist Church as part of the Hinkson Creek Watershed restoration project. Contact Suzanne Wright at Suzwright@centurytel.net or call 573-446-2217 (home) or 573-449-2683 (work). Project is approved.

Trail Work Day at the Jameson Island Unit of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (by Arrow Rock)

Thursday, April 13

Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy and the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

We will meet at 8 a.m. in Columbia or 9 a.m. in Arrow Rock. Bring a sack lunch. Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051. Project is approved.

Guided Tours of the Lewis and Clark Trail of Discovery, Arrow Rock

Saturday, April 15

Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy and Friends of Arrow Rock

Tour leaders will lead guided tours at 10 a.m. and 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Guides will interpret the natural and cultural history of the area. Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051. Project is approved.

Rock Bridge Connor's Cave Tours

April 19, April 20, April 24-28, May 11-12, May 15, May 17-May 19 (times vary)

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (RBMSPP)

Guide or assist school and civic groups on tours of the Devil's Icebox boardwalk trail and into Connor's Cave. Training and materials provided. Must be a certified RBMSPP park aide. Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7402. Project is approved.

Trail Maintenance and Mowing at Wild Haven Nature Sanctuary

Saturday, April 22

Sponsored by Columbia Audubon Society
Volunteers are needed to help with the trail work and mow parts of the nature area. Contact John Besser at 874-5675 or jbesser@coin.org. Project is not yet approved.

Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

BioBlitz of the Flat Branch Watershed

Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29

We're looking for naturalists who are comfortable in identifying species (from at least one taxa) that might be found in the Flat Branch watershed at the end of April. Contact Katy Klymus at ekate78@gmail.com. Project is approved.

4-H Clover Kids Water Wonders Day Camp

Saturday, April 29 from 12-4 pm

Volunteers are needed to help with various activities during the day camp. Contact: Boone County Extension Center at 445-9792. Project is approved.

Frog and Toad Surveys

Select evenings in April and May (call for dates)

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Hike to up to 10 ponds in the park during select warm spring evenings and identify and record number and type of frog and toad species by listening to their calls. Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7402. Project is approved.

Ongoing Opportunities

Local History Description for Refuge Units of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Flexible hours until completed.

Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy and the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. A volunteer is needed to research and write about the history of areas for each of the units of the Big Muddy refuge. Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051. Project is approved

Landowner Contacts Database

Flexible hours until completed.

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The volunteer will create an Access database or use a database already completed (depending on the interest/abilities of the volunteer) to record pertinent information about landowner contact information and log each file into the database. Contact Josh Stevens at Josh.Stevens@mdc.mo.gov or 573-592-1412. Project is not yet 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. Check <http://www.friendsofbigmuddy.org> for current opportunities or sign up for list serve announcements of activities by e-mailing FriendsOfBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051. Projects are approved.

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Needs include invasive species removal, interpreters for Connor's Cave tours, updating bulletin boards, patrolling trails, assistance in office, historical research. Contact: Roxie Campbell at Roxie.Campbell@dnr.mo.gov, Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7402. Projects are approved.

Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Volunteers needed the third Saturday of each month in spring and summer to lead hikes, develop activities related to the hike, and help develop publicity for programs; also need volunteers for Nature Detectives, a program for preschool children. Contact: Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsn@aol.com. Projects are approved.

Raptor Rehabilitation Project

Sponsored by Raptor Rehabilitation Project. There are a variety of things we need help with: maintenance and upkeep of building, compound, mews and flight cages; care and feeding of the birds, educational presentations, etc. Contact: Diane Kuschel at dqkb6b@mizzou.edu or 875-1395. Project is approved.

Scholarship Available

A chapter scholarship is available to a member of the Boone's Lick chapter to offset the registration cost for the Missouri Master Naturalist Conference. This scholarship is for a chapter member who would be unable to attend the conference without financial aid. To apply, contact Ginny Wallace at gabby.wallace@mdc.mo.gov or Don Day at daydr@missouri.edu. All scholarship recipients must register prior to the April 12 deadline.

A GOOD READ

Jan Weaver, editor of the MU Environmental Network News, has written an interesting piece called "Junkyard Science." To give you a flavor of the piece, the opening paragraphs are printed here. The entire article can be read at www.missouri.edu/~esiwww/news/Feb2006news.html.

Science is seen by the public as objective, pragmatic, egalitarian and shielded from political and economic interests. Therefore it provides ideal cover for political and economic interests, and it makes sense, from their point of view, to try to manage the public perception of what science is saying. These attempts to manage perception can be particularly intense when it comes to health and environmental issues.

Two main strategies are used. One is to create the impression that a large number of scientists support your position. This is done by creating 3rd party interest groups (or "front groups") that obscure your identity, but still push your agenda; by finding scientists who favor your position and grooming them to speak directly to the media (who are always looking for the dissenting voice to provide "balance") instead of going through peer review; and by setting up invitation only meetings that circulate petitions or reports which are presented as a disinterested statement of concern about the other sides' misuse of science .

The second strategy is to call the other side's science "Junk Science" - your own science is, in comparison "Sound Science". This approach relies on the average person's perception that "real" science involves experiments with controls and replication. However many serious problems do not lend themselves to direct experiments. For

example, by the "direct experiment" criterion, there is no proof that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer in smokers. The only evidence of the link is statistical correlations, animal studies and modeling of known physiological processes. There is no randomly selected group of people who were made to smoke and then compared to a randomly selected control group (because it would be unethical). For similar reasons, we cannot "prove" the effects of pesticides or other pollutants on humans. And for problems like climate change, there is only one earth, so it is not possible to compare our earth to a control whose inhabitants are not adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

The "Junk Science" strategy was initiated as a project of The Advancement of Sound Science Coalition (TASSC), a group launched in 1994 under the directorship of Steven Milloy by the PR firm APCO Associates on behalf of Philip Morris. TASSC is gone, but the "Junk Science" strategy lives on, still under Milloy's direction and currently available on Fox News' website.

To see how the "Junk Science" strategy is used in debates surrounding climate change, read the entire article at www.missouri.edu/~esiwww/news/Feb2006news.html.

2006 OFFICERS

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Secretary/Treasurer - Sally Swanson (573) 874-2043

NEXT MEETING - Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m., Boone County Extension Center

" How to be a Better Birder "