



JUNE MEETING

The next meeting of the Boone's Lick Master Naturalists be purely social and will take place on Thursday July 13th at 6:30 pm AT THE HOME OF SALLY AND BOBB SWANSON AT 9250 EAST HIGHWAY WW. If you plan to attend, please reply to Sally's social director Suzanne Wright, at suzwright@centurytel.net

Sally will provide utensils and meat /mushrooms which she will "char on the grill". Bring a side or dessert to share, along with family members, binoculars for birdwatching (Sally reports recent sighting of a blue grosbeak), and a canoe or kayak if you wish to be part of the Master Naturalist regatta. Celeste will bring collecting nets, so after dinner those who are interested can go in quest of insects.

Directions: Take WW East (Broadway) from Columbia and travel about 8 miles from the spot where you cross 63. Pass the Olivette Church and when you cross Rangeline, which is the next crossroads, put on your right blinker. We are the second drive on the right (9250 E. Hwy WW) and you don't want a crazy to run into your back bumper.

PREPARE TO VOTE AUGUST 8

Amendment One on the August 8 ballot asks for Missouri residents to continue paying 1/10 of one cent to provide \$82 million to support parks (\$41 million) and soils (\$41) programs. This tax has been in place since 1984 so there is no tax increase. The tax provides the only revenue for state parks and soils programs and cannot be used by the legislature for any other purpose. The tax supports 83 state parks and historic sites that serve 18 million visitors each year—there is no additional cost to enter Missouri state parks. Many

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PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

As poster children of the conservation world, insects, alas, don't quite cut it. Most people, when told there is a risk of having fewer species of insect in the world, would be hard pressed to find a downside. Now, I myself can't understand how any Missourian would want to run the risk of never again hearing the slightly-musical cone-head katydid, seeing glimpses of the immodest grasshopper; fleeing from the tyranny of Creighton's slave-making ant, or trading glares with a truculent camel cricket (Linnaeus wouldn't approve, but ya just gotta love common names sometimes).

The 2006 Missouri Species of Conservation Concern lists 89 insect species. Many of these have a conservancy ranking of S3, which indicates a species that is "vulnerable in the nation or state either because rare and uncommon or only found in restricted range". Typically 21-100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals." Many more have a global ranking of GNR, which means that the status has not been assessed-insects aren't as big and showy as, say, a fanged predator, and so it's easier to overlook them-unless you happen to stumble across one, that is.

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CERTIFIED?

Ah, the question of certification. What does it mean to be a *certified* Master Naturalist? This question arose at the recent Boone's Lick chapter board meeting, and we figured that if board members are confused, it is quite possible that other members may be as well. If this includes you, then see pg. 3 If you already know all about what certification means, then you also should turn to page three anyway because there are pretty pictures ...

See page 3 for more about certification

other states charge fees to enter state parks. In addition to providing recreational venues, these parks provide habitat for wildlife. The tax helps to provide clean water, reduce soil erosion and flooding. The tax expires in November 2008 unless renewed. The Parks and Soils sales tax should not be confused with the 1/8th percent conservation sales tax. That money funds Missouri Department of Conservation. Please educate yourself and tell your friends and neighbors about this important amendment.

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

More than 300 people have a deeper appreciation of the natural wonders of Rockbridge Memorial State Park thanks to master naturalists Dan Reeves, Mary Jane Wheeling and Meredith Donaldson. They are volunteer interpreters on the boardwalk above the Devil's Icebox - the most popular trail in the park. On a recent weekend, the trio greeted visitors from far and wide, including Korea and Minnesota, as well as Missouri. They provided information about the park, Devil's Icebox Cave and cave life and offered tours into Conner's Cave. More than 150 entered the cave with them on Saturday and 197 on Sunday. Visitors may have been "in the dark for a while", but no more, thanks to the dedicated work of Dan, Mary Jane and Meredith.



Dan Reeves prepares to lead visitors into Conner's Cave

Which brings me to the point of this story-the regal fritillary (to placate Linnaeus, that's *Speyeria idalia*).



An attractive orange butterfly with black bars and black and white spots on its wings, it was historically present across most of Missouri. A denizen of tallgrass prairie, its decline corresponded to the destruction of its habitat; adults rely on nectar from prairie plants such as clover and milkweed, and the only acceptable food for developing larvae is violets. In the course of collecting Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) for the 2006 class capstone project of performing a butterfly survey at Overton Bottoms, our own Troy Gordon skillfully netted a large orange butterfly that turned out to be nothing less than a male regal fritillary.

He was photographed extensively (both the butterfly and Troy, actually; we have several photos of chapter members attempting to insert torso and camera into the aerial net that may be used for blackmail purposes later) and released unharmed to find the female fritillaries doubtless fluttering about the refuge as well. Although we don't know how many regal fritillaries may persist in the refuge area, *Speyeria idalia* will be added to the official species list at Overton Bottoms, and we can be sure of two things:

1. Maintaining a sufficient number of refuge areas with remnants of appropriate habitat can make a big difference for the survival of an endangered species; and
2. Master Naturalists make significant contributions to natural resource agency efforts in the course of their volunteer service. So keep up the good work-and if you happen to

nab a sizeable orange butterfly this summer, give it a nod and let it go*

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

The June 8, 2006, meeting of the Boone's Lick Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Celeste Mazzacano. Suzanne Wright, vice president, introduced Dave Hamilton, Missouri Department of Conservation, who talked about fur bearers of Missouri. He discussed muskrat, beaver, nutria (not a Missouri fur bearer), gray fox, red fox, coyote, red and gray wolves, badger, otter, mink, skunk, raccoon, weasel, bear, bobcat, and mountain lion. Dave explained predation, the relationship between predators and prey. He discussed the history of wolves and how coyotes replaced them in the landscape as wolves were hunted to near extinction. Coyotes are adaptable, eat almost anything, and can live close to people. The red and gray fox population decline has been slow and steady. Raccoons have increased in population. They are quite numerous in cities. Raccoons carry canine distemper and every few years there is a large die-off of the population. They also carry a round worm that is dangerous to people. Dave discussed trapping, the myths, animal rights, the opinions of those interested in animal welfare, as well as management practices. The MDC policy is that trapping is fine as long as it is done humanely. Otters used to be prevalent in Missouri, but were hunted out. In 1982 a large number of otters were released into streams in southern Missouri. Between the years of 1982 and 1992 they multiplied faster than was expected, creating an otter surplus. They eat large quantities of fish from farm ponds and lakes and streams. They can now be hunted again in the Ozarks to help reduce the number of otters. The bear population is growing slowly. The presence of cougars has been documented in a very few places in the state, but calls frequently come into MDC with mistaken sightings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 and cake was served to celebrate the completion of a master's degree by Ginny Wallace.

Those present: Sally Swanson, Troy Gordon, Janine Gordon, Celeste Mazzacano, Beverly Boyd, Sharon Reed, Larry Barringhaus, Meredith Donaldson, Kirk Keller, Marcus Wallace, Cheryl Hardy, Mark Baltzer, Charles Pugsley, David

Silvey, Caroline Brown, Don Day, Suzanne Wright, Melanie Kaplan, Jody Stotsky, Dan Reeves, Vanessa Melton, Buffie Balling, Barbara Fairchild, Ginny Wallace. - Sally Swanson

KNOW MORE

The Missouri Department of Conservation and its partners have identified several Conservation Opportunity Areas, which are some of the best places in the state to conserve native wildlife and their habitats. It's part of MDC's comprehensive wildlife strategy (CWS). To learn more, go to www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/cws/coa/. This site features a clickable map that provides an overview of each conservation opportunity area and their priority projects. Boone's Lick Chapter also has a notebook of these circulating among members. Boone County's Bonne Femme Karst is included along with the Manitou Bluffs near Rocheport. Amy Buechler, CWS Project Manager, spoke at the Master Naturalist Conference in April and encouraged Master Naturalists to become involved with the project. Contact her at amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov or 573.522.4115 x3154 if you would like to be connected to the group working in a particular area.

CERTIFIED? Cont. from Page 1

The ground rules for being certified for the first time are fairly simple. This is the part where you complete a minimum of 40 hours of initial training, complete eight hours of advanced training, and 40 hours of volunteer service within 15 months after beginning a master naturalist class. Once you accomplish that, you receive an official certificate, name badge, and the cool dragonfly pin, seen here.



Once you're certified, there is no time to rest on your pin (ouch!), because you need to obtain recertification every 12 months. So, the minute you get your aforementioned certificate, name badge and dragonfly pin, you are working towards becoming recertified the next year.

To maintain certification, you must complete eight hours of advanced training, and 40 hours of

volunteer service during the next 12 months. Every year you successfully recertify, you receive a limited edition pin that is available for that year only. These are truly collector's items. We here at the state headquarters only have their designs figured out as far out as 2008, but rest assured that the future pins will be as beautiful as these.

If you recertify this year, you will receive a very neat spadefoot pin. The spadefoot is a fun choice for this year's pin, because the species is unique, in that it's neither a frog or a toad.



If you recertify in 2007, you will receive a flowering dogwood pin, which is the state tree of Missouri. As Master Naturalists, though, you probably already knew that. Now, my being a forester may be biasing my opinion, but this is my personal favorite pin.



If you recertify in 2008, you receive get a great blue heron pin, a very majestic bird to behold, especially in flight; it's wingspan is about six feet. Sorry, the pin is not actual size.



These limited edition pins aren't something we ordered out of a catalog. You're far too special for that. The images of these pins were drawn by one of our resident MDC artists, David Besenger, and are custom made for the certified Master Naturalists of Missouri.

You may be asking, but Angela, what if I don't manage to be certified in the first 15 months? The answer: You are still a Master Naturalist. You just won't receive your official certificate, name

badge and dragonfly pin until complete requirements the next year. What if I am certified this year but unable to recertify next year? You are still a Master Naturalist, but you won't get the nifty limited edition pin for that year. In both cases, you'll start fresh for the next year with everyone else, working towards recertification and the next year's pin.

Oh, but we have even more treats for your faithful service to your region's natural resources. Whether or not you successfully recertify every year, your volunteer hours add up to even more beautiful pins. The first time you log in your hours, you're on your way to attaining the first of many milestone pins. The milestone dragonflies are not limited editions, but timeless classics.

When you achieve 250 hours of service, you receive this bronze dragonfly pin.



If it takes you 11 days or 11 years to achieve 250 hours, it doesn't matter. You deserve a milestone award. Then you're half way to your next milestone dragonfly pin. When you achieve 500 hours of service, you receive this pewter dragonfly pin.



And once again, you're half way to your next one. When you achieve 1000 hours of service, you receive this gold dragonfly pin.



1000 hours, that's a big milestone. But you shouldn't quit there. When you achieve 2,500 hours of service, you receive this silver dragonfly pin.



And last but not least, there's the granddaddy of milestone awards. If you achieve 5,000 hours of service, you receive a polished gold dragonfly pin with a diamond in its thorax.



So you see, there are great benefits to volunteering (and logging in) more than the required 40 hours per year; there are cool milestone pins to work toward!

Lastly, I have one final pin to show you. This really doesn't belong in a certification article, but hear me out. This last pin is a lovely copper dragonfly.



This pin is reserved for someone that your chapter decides is worthy of being an Honorary Master Naturalist, or someone that you decide to designate as a Friend of the Master Naturalists.

I hope this little article gives you even more incentive to give your all to certification, and the Master Naturalist program. We're so proud of what you do. You deserve a pin!

Editor's Note: *This article was written by Angela Belden, master naturalist intern.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

<http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/VolunteerOpportunities/Volunteer%20Opportunities.pdf>

<http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/VolunteerOpportunities/Volunteer%20Opportunities.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>).

Remember to report your hours! Keeping track of all the time donated by Chapter members allows us to see and celebrate the impact we're having in our community. And the hours you contribute can be used as a match on many of the grants our partners rely on to support their operations. Instructions of how to log hours and what counts have been posted to the website.

Nature Detectives at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Wednesday, July 12, 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Volunteers needed to assist with nature program for preschoolers and their parents/grandparents. Wear shoes that can get wet and bring a flashlight.

Contact: Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlns@aol.com or 815-9255 or Eleanor Mitter at 442-1367 or 443-7677.

Project is approved.

Bird Banding at Eagle Bluffs

Saturday, July 8, Wednesday, July 12th,

Saturday, July 22nd, Monday, July 31st

Sponsored by Audubon Missouri

Andy Forbes, ornithologist with MDC and Audubon Missouri, will be conducting some bird banding activities at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area. Interested people should meet at the south parking lot, near the river trail entrance, at 6:15 AM.

Contact Andy Forbes at Andrew.Forbes@mdc.mo.gov or 573-447-2249 for more information.

Project is approved.

Bats on Parade—Urban Populations Outreach Program -Bat Camp

Friday, July 14 9am - 5 PM

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and Missouri Park Association

18 volunteers needed for a camp day for downtown kids that will provide activities to help kids learn to learn about natural resources and to how to use state parks with their families. Opportunities for volunteers to help half-day or all-day with activities including camp skills, bat activities, nature explore hike, and tour of cave. Contact: Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsn@aol.com or 815-9255. Project is approved.

Bats on Parade—Urban Populations Outreach Program- Bat Camp Preparation

Wed. July 5 1 - 2 pm at Boys/Girls Club
Tues. July 11 10 -11 am at Boys/Girls Club
Tues. July 11 3 - 4 pm at Fun City
Thurs. July 13 3 - 4 pm at Fun City

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and the Missouri Park Association
One programs of hands-on activities teaching about bat natural history and their importance in the ecosystem and camp skills will be offered to the youth clubs in the central city in preparation for camp day on July 14th.
Contact: Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsn@aol.com or 815-9255.
Project is approved.

Butterfly Count at Overton Bottoms Saturday, July 22nd 9:00 AM to noon

Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy
We need volunteers to help lead butterfly observation hikes, help with children's activities, and talk to people about attracting butterflies and about the refuge. You do not need to have helped with the capstone to participate, and we will train you with any info you need before the day starts.
Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051.
Project is approved.

Ongoing Opportunities

Staff Audubon's Trailside Nature Center Museum Saturdays and Sundays

Sponsored by Columbia Audubon Society
Volunteers are needed to help staff Audubon's Trailside Nature Center Museum, located at the MLK parking lot of the Katy trail. The shifts are: Saturday mornings 9:00-12:30, Saturday afternoon 12:30-4:00 PM, and Sunday afternoon 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

Contact Suzanne Wright: Suzwright@centurytel.net or Denny Donnell: hddonnell@hotmail.com to schedule a time.
Project approved.

Flower Bed Weeding at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Office

Date: Anytime this summer

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
Work can be done on weekdays or weekends during 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at other times if you provide your own tools.
Contact Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7400.
Project is approved.

Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Explore Rock Bridge third Saturday of each month

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bride MSP
Volunteers needed to assist with hike each month; volunteer to assist selecting topic and speakers for future programs.
Contact: Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsn@aol.com or 815-9255.
Project is approved.

Hummingbird Banding in Central Missouri

Flexible hours throughout the summer
Assistance is needed with a hummingbird banding project in the Columbia area Trainees will begin with assisting in catching birds and removing them from the traps and will gradually be trained to do the actual banding over time. Contact Troy Gordon at tgordon@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 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.

Raptor Rehabilitation Project

Ongoing

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 dgkb6b@mizzou.edu or 875-1395. Project is 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 573-449-740

2006 OFFICERS	
President	Celeste Mazzacano (573) 499-1913
Vice-President	Suzanne Wright (573) 446-2217
Secretary/Treas.	Sally Swanson (573) 874-2043
COMMITTEES	
Program	Suzanne Wright
Communication	Barb Fairchild
Project Approval	Carolyn Broun
New Class	Vacant

NEXT MEETING - Thursday, July 13 6:30 p.m
AT THE HOME OF SALLY AND BOBB SWANSON AT 9250 EAST HIGHWAY WW.

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