



JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Boone's Lick Master Naturalists begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at the Boone County Extension Center. The program speaker is Dave Hamilton, resource scientist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, who will discuss the status and management of fur-bearing mammals in Missouri, with special highlights on mountain lions. For a sneak preview (as well as some handy ways to tell puma prints from dog prints), check out Dave's article in the latest issue of *The Missouri Conservationist*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2006

New Master Naturalists who graduated May 16, 2006, are Elizabeth Balling, Jack Dillard, Carolyn Doyle, Julie Fisher, Ted Fisher, Cheryl-Ann Hardy, Alice Havard, Kirk Keller, Vanessa Melton, Charles Pugsley, Dan Reeves, David Silvey, Jody Stotsky, Marcus Wallace and Mary Jane Wheeling. Congratulations to each of you and a big welcome to the Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists. We hope to see each of you at the June meeting.

DON DAY RECEIVES C. BRICE RATCHFORD MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes a University of Missouri faculty member who personifies the creativity, vision and leadership exhibited by the late Dr. C. Brice Ratchford, president emeritus of the University of Missouri and Dean of Cooperative Extension. Nominations are evaluated by a panel including representatives from the four campuses, off-campus faculty and Missouri citizens.

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PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Being a master naturalist may ultimately destroy my spine. Mind you, I'm not a big fan of bipedalism anyway—great, we can stand up and look around for predators (which we're too slow and un-fanged to deal with effectively anyway), but can we bound down a hill without breaking our necks? Sadly, evolution did not consult me, so here I am, doomed to a lifetime of lugging around a backpack weighed down with 60 pounds of field guides.

As Pliny the Elder once said "*In minimis Natura praestat*" (note my cheap attempt to appear unbearably erudite by quoting from the classics—extra points for including the original Latin). If Pliny were around today, he would have phrased this as "Nature excels in the least things." Now, as an entomologist, I'm already accustomed to peering around intently for small creatures. Even before becoming a Master Naturalist, I have been known to head out with individual guides to dragonflies; moths and butterflies; aquatic insects; crickets, grasshoppers and katydids; and beetles, in addition to a general insect guide, because you never know what you may run into. But nowadays, I have to ask myself—do I want to improve my knowledge of Missouri trees on this hike? Will I be watching birds? Are there still wildflowers in bloom? And ferns, let's not forget about ferns. Looking at lichens? Better bring a hand lens. . . .

Or, as one of the graduates of our 2006 class said on graduation night, "I just never realized how much was out there." As Master Naturalists, we are better able to relate the living things we see to each other, as well as to the eco-regions they exist in, and past and present uses of the land they inhabit. This is fun on a personal level, of course, but it also means that we can

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May Meeting Minutes

Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists met at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 11. Those attending: Sally Swanson, Melanie Kaplan, Larry Barringhaus, Meredith Donaldson, Celeste Mazzacano, Philip Sachs, Pat Sachs, Sharon Reed, Kathryn DiFoxfire, Julie Fisher, Mary Jane Wheeling, Ron Wheeling, Suzanne Wright, Don Day, Beverly Boyd, Caroline Brown, Eleanor Mitty, Alice Havard, Carolyn Doyle.

The meeting was called to order by Suzanne Wright. She introduced Jean Leonatti, a member of the Audubon Society, who outlined statistics regarding birding as an outdoor activity—there are 46 million birders in the world, spending 21 billion dollars per year on equipment. There are 9,900 species of birds in the world with 943 plus species in the USA. More than 410 bird species are found in Missouri. Jean gave four clues that held identify birds: field markings, songs and vocalizations, behavior and habitat. She suggested as references books by Peterson and National Geographic, Sibley Guide, as well as books on individual bird families. She finished her talk with pictures taken of birds in Missouri.

It was announced that Don Day is the 2006 recipient Brice Ratchford Fellowship Award. He displayed the plaque he received in recognition of this honor.

Topics for upcoming meeting will be Missouri furbearers in June and butterflies later in the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Swanson

promote use of native plants. They also work to remove invasive species.

After a snack break, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities were discussed. For Earth Day (April 23 from 11:30-6:00), the chapter will have a table with owl pellets available, so children can see what owls eat. The chapter also will sell t-shirts, raffle a quilt, and sell prints. Volunteers signed up for time slots and details were discussed. There are a number of opportunities for volunteers at the conference April 29 and 30 in Rolla. Missouri Department of Conservation will have a display June 3 and 4 at the Art in the Park and is looking for volunteers. Other opportunities include Rock Bridge State Park, Audubon mowing, Flat Branch Watershed, Clover Kids Wonder Day Camp, and something with frogs and Toads on Saturday, April 29.

Sally set up a display of t-shirts - two designs - one design will be sold only to Master Naturalists and the other to the general public. Twelve shirts were sold to members attending the meeting for \$12 each.

The program for May will be Jean Leonatti from the Audubon Society. She will give tips on bird identification.

The program for June will be on mountain lions and other fur-bearing mammals.

Chapter members were reminded to report volunteer hours.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Swanson

April Meeting Minutes

The April 14, 2006, meeting of the Boone's Lick Chapter, Missouri Master Naturalists, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Celeste Mazzacano.

Lesa Beamer, of The Wild Ones, presented a program that included reasons to grow native plants and the many uses of wildflowers. She showed beautiful pictures of wild flowers and other plants that are well adapted for growing in Missouri. She then explained what Wild Ones does for the community. They are a not-for-profit organization that plants gardens in Columbia to

Don Day Honored (Cont. from page 1)

For those of you who know Don only as a facilitator for the Master Naturalist program, here is a quick review of his background. He serves as a natural resource engineering specialist, Central Missouri region, for University of Missouri Extension and received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, both in agriculture, from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Don began his Extension career as a farm management specialist in Bates County, then worked in farm management in Osage County. He is a leader in the use of technology in educational programs, partnering with his colleagues on the Columbia campus and in the community to develop the Columbia Online Information Network (COIN), one of the first community-based information networks in the nation.

He actively partners with others to deliver the Master Gardener program, which, among other projects, brings gardening expertise to juvenile justice facilities, prisons and community centers. In addition, Day coordinates the Master Naturalist program, a cooperative effort between the Missouri Department of Conservation and Extension that works to create a better understanding of the role of natural resources in our daily lives.

He has been recognized statewide in the development and implementation of agriculture engineering programs and curriculum on such topics as energy conservation, residential housing, youth safety, and material handling and processing (even gives advice on building dog pens).

One of Don's colleagues wrote in the nomination remarks: "To many farmers and citizens in central Missouri, Don Day is University of Missouri Extension. You won't find a better candidate for the Ratchford Award." Another wrote: "It is impossible to put into words the knowledge and support Don Day has given to agriculture and the community over the years. His dedication is one that is rare and cannot be engrained or learned, but exists in his being."

Congratulations, Don!

HELP NEEDED

Anyone interested in helping at the MDC children's activity booth Saturday, June 3, or Sunday, June 4, at Art in the Park should let Celeste know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, so she can tell the organizers if anyone from the chapter will be participating.



Presidential Ponderings (Cont. from page 1)

communicate our knowledge and excitement to others (Hey, look—it's hoary puccoon!) and in turn make them more aware of the world around them. As the great outdoors becomes increasingly a disconnected entity that blurs past the car windows, it becomes even more important to help people connect to and value the landscape—even if it's just the wildlife in their own backyard. And so, to paraphrase Shakespeare, we have not only eyes to wonder, but also tongues to praise (and educate). Although you might want to be careful about how far your zest for learning about nature takes you; Pliny the Elder may be remembered for writing *Naturalis Historia*, but he's also known as that wacky dead Roman who sailed through the Bay of Naples to more closely observe the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. . . . Celeste Mazzacano

Trailside Nature Center Opens for Summer Months

The Audubon's Trailside Nature Center will open for the summer this month. Staffing the center is a project that was approved. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. Last season Columbia Audubon Society had difficulty keeping the museum staffed. If the same problems arises this season, they will be facing difficult decisions regarding its future—one being closing the museum and returning the building to the City of Columbia. This will create a problem of what to do with the artifacts. This would be a terrible loss to the community.

The Boone's Lick Chapter MMN met in September 2005 at the museum, but only a handful of the group attended. Members are urged to stop by and look around the museum. There are some pretty amazing things, not just bird things, in this very (Continued page 4)

small space. Columbia Audubon sponsors a Tuesday evening program for youngsters and also offers trail birding trips, if there is interest.

If you have questions about the facility or would like to volunteer, please contact Denny Donnell by email: hddonnell@hotmail.com. CAS would have their members provide training if needed. However there is a big notebook at the Center that has all the information needed. Suzanne Wright will bring a sign-up sheet to the June meeting to give chapter members a chance to volunteer at the museum.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Below are the volunteer opportunities for June 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>).

May/June Volunteer Opportunities

Bird Banding at Eagle Bluffs

Wednesday, May 24, Sunday, June 4th, Saturday, June 10, Tuesday, June 20th

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.

Spring Cleaning of the Big Muddy Refuge May 30th (Tuesday) through June 2nd (Friday)

Sponsored by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Staff and volunteers will be doing spring cleanups and maintenance at several of the units. Work done will vary each day and will depend upon the weather. Contact Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or call 573-424-9051.

Project is approved.

Forum Trailside Expo

Saturday June 3rd, 9 am - noon, Forum Nature Area

Sponsored by City of Columbia Parks & Recreation
We need people to help out at the Master Mater Naturalist display and spread the good word about our program to the interested public.

Contact Celeste Mazzacano at

cmazzacano@gmail.com.

Project is approved.

Art in the Park

Saturday June 3 & Sunday June 4, 10 am - 5 pm, Stephens Lake Park

MDC needs help with their children's activities booth at the art fair. You don't have to commit for an entire day or for both days.

Contact Celeste Mazzacano at

cmazzacano@gmail.com.

Project is approved.

Bats on Parade—Bat Decorating

Saturday, June 10, 10 AM to 1 PM or June 13 at the public library 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

A summer series of summer programs for families and children to learn about bats and their importance in their ecosystems. We need volunteers to assist the presenter for several programs:

Contact: Meredith Donaldson at

Mjdonlson@aol.com or 815-9255.

Project is approved.

Butterfly garden maintenance, mowing and butterfly walk at Wild Haven Nature Sanctuary Saturday, June 24th

Sponsored by Columbia Audubon Society
Butterfly garden maintenance, mowing and butterfly walk. They may also do some trail maintenance and cedar cutting
Contact John Besser at 874-5675 or jbesser@coin.org.
Project is approved.

Truman Lake Wetland Restoration Partnership June 24th (Saturday)

Sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation, Audubon Society of Missouri, Ducks Unlimited, as well as several other partners.
This monitoring project needs volunteers who will be documenting nesting and breeding marsh birds, migrant and resident waterfowl, breeding song birds, and wintering birds on several sites in the flood basin. Volunteers will need a pair of binoculars and appropriate clothing as some locations may have standing water, and it will also involve several hours of walking. Contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@hotmail.com or Jerry Wade at 573-445-9967.
Project is approved.

Ongoing Opportunities

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.

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

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@yahoo.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 573-449-7402.
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.

FOR YOUR BACKPACK

Two guides that Celeste needs in her backpack (see Presidential Ponderings) are *The Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants* and *The Trees of Missouri Field Guide*.

The Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants, jointly produced by the Natural

Resources Conservation Service and Missouri Department of Conservation, features 40 of the most commonly seeded native prairie grasses and wildflowers. Color photos illustrate seed, seedling, juvenile and flowering stages. Brief text provides additional identification help in the durable, easy-to-use field guide. It costs \$6.00

Based on Don Kurz's original *Trees of Missouri*, the *Trees of Missouri Field Guide* is concise, easy-to-carry field guide that will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood or natural area. Some 174 species are described, with visual organization of species by leaf arrangement and shape. Easy-to-understand descriptions, range maps and full-color illustrations add to the guide's appeal. It costs \$7.50. Both guides can be ordered by going to www.mdcnatureshop.com and clicking on plants.

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, June 8 at 6:30 p.m., Boone County Extension Center

“Status and management of fur-bearing mammals in Missouri, with special highlights on mountain lions”



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