



## Boone's Lick Chapter Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2

March 2006

### MEETING ALERT

The March meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at the Boone County Extension Center. Brad Wright, Peckham & Wright Architects, Inc., will discuss environmentally friendly architecture. A current PWA project is for the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. PWA is developing a functional, energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive design for a 16,000-square-foot office building located in the sensitive Hinkson Creek watershed.

### NAME THE NEWSLETTER - SECOND CHAPTER

There are three great suggestions for newsletter titles. They're all so good, I couldn't make a decision. Therefore, we will vote on them at the March meeting. Here are the names for your consideration - I won't reveal the names of those who submitted them, until the title is selected. These are listed in order of submission.

**The Devil's Darning-Needle** (a common name for dragonfly)

**Skimmers** (the person who submitted this name notes that three dragonflies have skimmer in their common name and adds that a reference to the dragonfly ties the name to the logo. It also was noted that most of us do a quick skimming of the newsletter.)

**The Nature Journal** in large print, with "of the Boone's Lick Master Naturalist" in small print beneath the main heading. (The person who submitted this title notes that journal is a play on words, meaning both newsletter and personal journal. It also was noted that such a title might encourage members to contribute articles, photos

and drawings—journal entries—allowing the newsletter to take on a more personal nature.)

See why I couldn't decide.

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

### PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

"Birds do it. Bees do it. Even educated fleas do it. Let's do it—let's fall in love." Cole Porter

For the shortest month of the year, February is jam-packed with a variety of weirdly artificial holidays. Take Groundhog Day—a hapless somnolent rodent is hauled out of its warm den to stand blinking in the glare of television cameras while resentful polyester-clad local reporters with dreams of CNN rack their brains for a trite aphorism for the 5 o'clock news. Really, the poor beast should be left alone; we all know the weather is going to be lousy for a good, long while, regardless of whether he sees his shadow or not. February is fickle, mercurial, and heartless; it teases us one day with balmy zephyrs and sunny skies, then slaps us across the face the next with icy sleet and marrow-chilling gales. Not a bad month for Valentine's Day, the official holiday of either romance or mass murder, depending on your historical leanings. And though I pause to give a friendly greeting to snowdrops blooming downtown (an act that prompts passers-by to cross the street to avoid me), I have to wonder if the hellebore shyly displaying its understated purple flowers in my front yard isn't doomed to bitter disappointment when the temperatures inevitably drop. Then again, maybe they do know (continued on page 2)

## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS (continued)

something—this short month also marks the start of mating season for many creatures on land, water and air. A partial list of animals getting down to the business of finding a mate includes Canada geese, groundhogs (they were awake anyway), mink, great horned owls, flying squirrels, cardinals, and skunks. Unfortunately for the skunks, mating season appears to coincide with a sharp increase in the number of traffic fatalities, as a jaunt down Highway 63 will fast reveal—love hurts. Goldfinches are getting, well, gold again, and chickadees are singing their hearts out. (I point this out mainly because aside from a cardinal, a chickadee is the only bird call I can reliably identify. I like to think that simply by standing in the woods, cocking my head at a two-note whistle and saying “ah yes, chickadee” with an air of dreamy erudition, I leave the indelible impression that the world of birdsong is an open book to me, and that I could reveal the mysteries of other tuneful warbling if I so chose. (This technique also works well in politics.) Coyotes are howling, rabbits are running, and salamanders are casting speculative eyes on one another. So believe in the promise of spring, set out your native seeds to stratify—and give the skunks a break; romance is tough enough as it is.

*Celeste Mazzacano*



## HELP WANTED!!!!

Volunteers are needed to staff a booth and develop a display for the Columbia Earth Day Festival & Street Fair Sunday, April 23. The rain date is the next Sunday, April 30. The festival runs from noon to 6:30 pm, and all booths must be set up by 11:30 am. Depending on how many people are willing to contribute their time, each pair of staffers likely will spend one to two hours at the booth, so there will be plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the festival. If you are interested in staffing the booth, setting up or tearing down at the end of the day, and/or helping to develop an educational display, please contact Celeste Mazzacano at [dsearles@coin.org](mailto:dsearles@coin.org)

## KNOW MORE

### The Time and Space of Learning

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

Monsanto Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO

This one-day symposium aims to bring together professionals and students from the informal sector (museums, science centers, zoos, gardens and community centers) and the formal sector (K-12, secondary schools and universities).

### Weekly Wildflower Walks with Naturalist Randal Clark

Wednesdays, 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.



## Volunteer Opportunities

Additional information on each project is at:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/Volunteeropportunities.htm>. 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>.)

## March

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

Saturday, March 11

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

We are going to be building stairs from the new bridge up the levee to the existing trail. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Arrow Rock, or contact us to car pool. Contact Troy Gordon at [friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org) or call 573-424-9051.

Project is approved.

## Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

### Frog and Toad Surveys

March 11 or March 18 (dates TBA), time: after sunset

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park  
Frog and toad surveys will be several dates scheduled during the survey period (March - July). The first one will likely be either March 11 or March 18 (call the park to verify exact date and times). Contact: Roxie Campbell at [roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov) or 573-449-7402  
Project is approved.

### Water Quality Monitoring at the Overton Bottoms North Unit of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (across the river from Rocheport)

Sunday, March 12

Sponsored by Friends of Big Muddy and the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.  
We will be sampling macroinvertebrates at several locations on the refuge unit to assess water quality of stream on the refuge. We will meet at 1:00 PM at the main parking lot. Contact Troy Gordon at [friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org) or call 573-424-9051.  
Project is approved.

### Controlled burn at the Albert Area Saturday, March 18

Sponsored by Columbia Audubon Society  
We plan to burn one-half of the prairie grass planting at the Albert Nature Area. We may not know in advance if conditions will allow a burn on the 18th. If conditions are unfavorable Saturday morning, we'll try on Sunday, March 19.  
Contact: John Besser (874-5675 or [jbesser@coin.org](mailto:jbesser@coin.org)) to confirm date so we can inform you of any change in plans.  
Project is not yet approved.

### Wood Duck Nest Box Maintenance

Late February/early March  
Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area  
Wood duck nest boxes on the area will be cleaned out and refilled with cedar shavings. Dress appropriate for the weather forecast. Contact: Tim James at [Tim.James@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Tim.James@mdc.mo.gov) for this and other wood duck projects.  
Project is not yet 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FriendsOfBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).  
Contact Troy Gordon at [friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org](mailto: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](mailto:Roxie.Campbell@dnr.mo.gov), Kathryn DiFoxfire at [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov) or call 573-449-7402.  
Projects are approved.

## Ongoing Opportunities (continued)

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](mailto:Mjdonlsn@aol.com).  
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 [dqkb6b@mizzou.edu](mailto:dqkb6b@mizzou.edu) or 875-1395.  
Project is approved.

## Reminders

Please remember that projects need to be pre-approved. The project approval form is on the website, as are the e-mail addresses of committee members. If you have questions about filling out the form, contact any of the committee members.

Items for the newsletter are always due the second Friday after the meeting. Minutes, volunteer opportunities, program information for

the April newsletter should be sent by Friday, March 17 - a green day for green news.

## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (RBMSPP)  
Volunteer Park Aide Certification Training  
Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 from 4:30-8:30 p.m.  
Must attend all three sessions.

This free, once-a-year training provided by park staff includes information on park geology, ecosystems and watersheds; park rules and regulations; map reading and land navigation skills; a driving tour of the park; an overview of the state park system; and more. Contact: Roxie Campbell at [Roxie.Campbell@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:Roxie.Campbell@dnr.mo.gov), Kathryn DiFoxfire at [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov) or call 573-449-7402 to register or for more info.

### 2006 OFFICERS

President - Celeste Mazzacano (573) 499-1913  
Vice-President - Suzanne Wright (573) 446-2217  
Secretary/Treasurer - Sally Swanson (573) 874-2043

**NEXT MEETING - Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m., Boone County  
Extension Center**

**“ Environmentally Friendly  
Architecture ”**