



SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of the Boone's Lick Chapter of the Master Naturalist will be on September 14 at 6:30 PM. Suzanne will be e-mailing the details. She has been in contact with speakers, but has not gotten a response. A field trip has also been suggested. Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

My friendly little spadefoot pin has been blinking at me for a couple of weeks now, and Ginny keeps dropping tantalizing hints regarding the fact that spadefoots (spadefeet?) are neither toads nor frogs, so I thought a little taxonomic investigation might be in order. Now, I may be biased (these toxic little amphibians do EAT insects, you know), but at first glance, spadefeet (spadefoots?) don't generate a deep thrill, and they do look an awful lot like toads. But, if you probe a little deeper, you'll find some endearing traits.

My initial quest brought me to an online comic strip called Spadefoot, an interstellar frog last seen fleeing the giant Maggots of Hwarth. Creative, but less scientifically valid than I had hoped. Back on Earth, while a spadefoot is often called a toad, it's not: toads are in the family Bufonidae, and the American spadefoot occupies the family Scaphiopodidae, which has only 7 species (in a sad display of U. N. breakdown, the European spadefoot now has its own family). Scaphiopodidae is from the Greek for "digger foot", as their feet have hard little protrusions that help them burrow into the soil (backwards, usually). Unlike a toad or frog, a spadefoot has a vertically elliptical pupil (kind of like a cat's eye), as opposed to the

round or horizontal pupils of its Anuran colleagues. Also, they are "explosive breeders", meaning they hide in their burrows until sufficient rainfall brings them all out for a wild night on the town.

Of Missouri's 25 species of toads and frogs, only 2 are spadefoots (spadefeet?): the Plains Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus bombifrons*, formerly *Spea bombifrons*) and the Eastern Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*). The explosive breeding thing doesn't seem to be a big help to the Eastern spadefoot, as it is a species of conservation concern in Missouri (and elsewhere). This is largely due to habitat destruction (what a surprise) and a preference for forested areas with loose sandy soil, but they're also just hard to find—my sources accuse them of being subterranean and secretive (although their call is described as being a low-pitched grunt that sounds like a young crow, which I find obscurely pleasing).

If you feel a love for spadefoots (spadefeet?) burgeoning in your heart, or are concerned about the worldwide decline in amphibian populations, check out Frogwatch USA, a long-term monitoring study managed by the National Wildlife Federation and U. S. Geological Survey, at <http://www.nwf.org/frogwatchUSA/>. You can contribute to their national database by volunteering to monitor one or more wetlands in your community, and the site provides a lot of resources for novice amphibiophiles—yet another way to gain service hours to qualify for your very own spadefoot re-certification pin!

AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of the Boone's Lick Chapter of Master Naturalist was held on August 10, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Celeste Mazzacano, President.

Suzanne Wright introduced Donna Brunet who presented the evening's program on "Insects and Photography". Donna is an entomologist and a macro photographer. Her program gave us an up-close look at many of the butterflies, dragonflies and insects common and uncommon to our area. The photographs were beautiful and demonstrated the complex details on these small life forms.

Upon conclusion of the presentation we had a short break for snacks followed by our regular business meeting.

It was announced there will be a Prairie Walk at the Prairie Garden Trust at 1:30 PM, next Saturday, August 12, 2006. The Prairie Garden Trust is located near Fulton, Ginny will send out an email with exact direction. Henry Dompke and Donna Brunet will lead this annual walk.

Benedict Nagy, the Prairie Forks Education and Outreach Coordinator, submitted a request for additional environmental education programs for school aged children. He is looking for both ideas for these programs and volunteers to assist when groups of children from area schools attend day long field trips at Prairie Forks Conservation Area. This would be building upon the educational program which is already in place at Prairie Forks.

There was also information presented regarding the Missouri Toad and Frog Breeding Survey which is being conducted by Kate Kelly and the MDC. They are needing volunteers to help monitor 33 driving routes through out the state on spring evenings. Volunteers will receive a CD of Mo. frog and toad calls and will be required to pass an official quiz before driving a route. Contact Kate Kelly at Kate.Kelly@mdc.mo.gov or 573-522-4115 ext 3607, to sign up or for more information.

Troy Gordon presented a list of volunteer opportunities for the month of August which will be available via email. Included in this list

is a day long hummingbird banding on Sunday, August 20th, at Troy's residence. Anyone wanting additional information or directions can contact Troy. Suzanne had a list that detailed the dates still available at the Audubon Nature Center, you can contact her or Denny Donnell for the opening dates if you'd like to work a shift.

Updates were given by the graduates of the '06 MMN Class on their Capstones. The Capstone group working with Rock Bridge Memorial State Park announced they will soon be holding their "Weekends on the Boardwalk" programs. These include presentations on Prairie Ecosystems, Insects, Birds, Forbs and all RBMSP has to offer. These are family oriented outings.

The '06 Class involved with the Butterfly Inventory at Overton Bottoms North at the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge, gave a report on their Capstone. They had samples of the butterflies they had collected, identified and mounted. Many are interested in continuing the collection process into the fall and build on what they have learned. They also did some night collections of moths using black lights and stationary nets. They put together a Preliminary Checklist that included all the butterflies and moths collected in that area.

The Capstone group working with the Native Plant Seed Identification/Collection for Natural Community Restoration (MDC), have been busy identifying and collecting seeds at various location around the area. Seeds from plants which were in bloom last spring are now being harvested for planting in October and November on the native prairies under restoration. Seed collection will continue through the fall as more seeds are ready for harvest.

Reports from standing committees included the organization of a small group to research the possibility of the Boone's Lick Chapter hosting and holding the state MMN convention in Columbia next year. Also there will be a meeting of the advanced training committee to research ways to make acquiring advanced training more available and accessible.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. by Celeste.

STATE PARK MEETING

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park will hold an informational meeting on Tuesday, Sept, 12, 2006 from 6:30-8 PM at the Rock Bridge Mills Shelter House, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss with the public the safety concerns the Department of Natural Resources had regarding the rock bridge and to inform them of the changes to the Devil's Icebox Trail. (For those of you that are unaware, on June 9, 2006, a large slab of Rock fell from the Rock Bridge itself and destroyed the section of boardwalk just upstream of the dam under the Rock Bridge. Since then, sections of the trail have been closed and/or re-routed.)

MASTER NATURALISTS AT WORK

Fourth Annual "Weekends on the Boardwalk" Hits Record Numbers

Judging by the numbers, the popular "Weekends on the Boardwalk" program, now in its 4th year, was even more popular this summer. Perhaps it was the extreme heat that lured visitors this June and July to the 56 degree coolness of the Devil's Icebox and Connor's Cave at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. What many of those visitors did not expect, however, was to find Master Naturalists and park volunteers providing interpretation of karst systems and free tours of Connors Cave on select weekend afternoons.

Master Naturalists Carolyn Doyle, Mary Jane Wheeling, Dan Reeves and Meredith Donaldson and four park volunteers contributed a total of 64 hours and provided interpretive services to 1131 visitors over nine days. This is a record high. Previous attendance is as follows: 2005: 716 contacts for 8 days; 2004: 499 contacts for 7 days; and 2003: 570 contacts for 11 days. Thanks for all your help. This program also served as the capstone project for Carolyn, Mary Jane and Dan.

Master Naturalists Have Been *Batty* this Summer

Our Master Naturalists have helped children learn more about bats and their importance in the ecosystem through *Bats on Parade*. This program is cosponsored by the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, the Div. of State Parks of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Columbia Public Library and the Columbia Downtown Optimists. Master Naturalist, Kate Pyatek coordinated *Bats on Parade* that resulted 250 bats flying in the public library - each hand-made by a child. Melanie Kaplan helped some of the children decorate bats at a library. *Bats on Parade* also included a preschool and bat viewing programs lead by park staff.

Thanks to a UPOP grant from the Missouri Park Association and volunteer help from Boone's Lick Master Naturalists, we were able to offer a UPOP *Bats on Parade* to include children from the Boys and Girls Club and Fun City. The Urban Populations Outreach Project was begun three years ago by the Missouri Park association to fund opportunities for urban youth to learn about the resources of our state parks. Forty children, their teenage counselors and adult teachers joined in the first UPOP Bats on Parade Field Day at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Master Naturalists, Carolyn Doyle, Melanie Kaplan, Phil Sachs, Mary Jane Wheeling led activities such as bat games, nature hikes, cave tours, and camp skills such as orienteering and camp cooking. It was a very hot day, but somehow no one seemed to notice!



Phil Sachs teaching map skills

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Using, map reading skills and a compass, children learned how to find the state park on a city map and then to locate the recreational opportunities on the park map. The Booneslick Master Naturalists offered the children a combination of fun, learning experiences in the state park they hope will encourage them to bring their families back to visit Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.



"Here's Looking at You" Kate Pyatek with group hanging out after hiking to explore Conner's Cave

LEARN MORE

Lost in the Woods

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006 1-4 p.m.

Sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Learn basic map, compass and navigation skills and then use your new skills to search for hidden treasures along on a guided hike on and off trail to a park feature known as Red Rocks which are two glacial erratics. Reservations required. Free.

Contact: Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state/park@dnr.mo.gov or at 573-449-7402

Orienteering Meet and Ecohike

Sunday, October 1, 2006, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Rock Bridge Learn about the sport of orienteering and the natural history of the park. Four courses (one beginner, 2 intermediate, and one advanced). The beginner's course is free. The other three courses involve a small fee (\$8-15) and is part of a fundraising event for educational programs.

Contact Jan Weaver at 573-874-0176 for information or to register.

Below are the volunteer opportunities for September 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.

September Volunteer Opportunities

Moth Collecting at Overton Bottoms

Friday, September 15th, 8:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Sponsored by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Big Muddy We will be collecting Please bring flashlights and any extra batteries you think you will need. Bug spray and long pants are highly recommended. See web page for directions.

Contact Wedge Watkins at

Wedge_Watkins@fws.gov or 573-441-2788; or

Troy Gordon at

friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or 573-424-9051. Project is approved.

Wetland/Wet Prairie Restoration at Cranberry Bend

Saturday, September 16th, meet 7:00 AM, return before 5:00 PM

Sponsored by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

We will plant prairie cordgrass plugs into a wet depression beside a farm field, helping to restore the wet prairie habitat that is largely missing from the floodplain. Volunteers should bring shovels, work gloves, water bottles, and a sack lunch. We will have extra shovels and gloves if you need them. Long pants and sturdy shoes are strongly recommended. Plan on being gone all day, but we will be back in Columbia by 5:00 PM. See web page for directions.

Contact Tim Haller at Tim_Haller@fws.gov or 573-441-2799. Project is approved.

15th and Saturday, September 16th BioBlitz of the Flat Branch Watershed

Friday, September

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. The main contribution of a naturalist in the "professional" group will be to boost species numbers in the Flat Branch Watershed over the 24 hour period and does not involve the general public. The main contribution of a naturalist in the "public" groups will be to provide expertise during educational walks consisting of at least two to three BioBlitz naturalists.

Contact Katy Klymus at ekate78@gmail.com. Project is approved.

Bird Banding at Eagle Bluffs

Tuesday, September 19th 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Sponsored by Audubon Missouri Andy Forbes, ornithologist with MDC and Audubon Missouri, will be conducting bird banding activities at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area. Volunteers interested in participating should dress for the field (hiking boots or sturdy shoes, long pants, sun block, water, etc.). Participation is limited to 12 people, interested parties should contact Andy to register.

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

Columbia Stream Extravaganza 2006 Thursday September 21st, 6-8 p.m., Flat Branch Park

The City of Columbia will again be hosting this community education event on urban watershed issues. Volunteer opportunities include a Master Naturalist table display, which should include some stream-related activity, and/or guiding educational walks along Flat Branch Creek. Training for the walks will be provided.

Contact Celeste Mazzacano at cmazzacano@gmail.com or (573) 239-4267 no later than September 12th if interested.

Wet Prairie Restoration at Overton Bottoms North

Saturday, September 23rd, meet 8:00 AM

Sponsored by the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

We will again be planting prairie cordgrass plugs near the parking kiosk, augmenting past plantings that now have healthy stand of cordgrass growing. Volunteers should bring shovels, work gloves, water bottles, and a snack. We will have extra shovels and gloves if you need them. Long pants and sturdy shoes are strongly recommended. We expect to be done in time for a late lunch. See web page for directions.

Contact Tim Haller at Tim_Haller@fws.gov or 573-441-2799.

Project is approved.

Forest Restoration/Tree Planting along Hinkson Creek

Saturday Sept 23rd, 8am- 11am?

Sponsored by Hinkson Creek Watershed Restoration Project

We will be planting 8 acres of trees within the floodplain of the Hinkson in an effort to restore the riparian buffer around the creek. The restoration will take place in an old field by the soccer fields at Vawter School Rd and Scott Blvd. There is a parking lot off of Scott that is close to the trail that people can use to park. We will begin at 8 am and go until we are tired (probably 2-4hrs). Please bring a shovel and clothes that can get dirty.

Contact Scott Hamilton at 882-9909 ext 3257 or Columbia Volunteer Services.

Project is approved.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Prairie Fork Conservation Area Field Trip Naturalists

There are currently no programs scheduled in September, but this will likely change.

Sponsored by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, the University of Missouri and the Prairie Fork Trust.

Prairie Fork CA has a need for naturalists to staff environmental education stations during field trips for school students. Most programs take place Monday through Friday from about 9 am till 2 pm. For this fall semester, every effort will be made to schedule programs on either Tuesdays or Fridays. Most programs involve 3 small group activities from 9am till noon with children rotating through the stations and one large group activity after lunch. Help is most needed during the morning activities.

Contact Benedict Nagy at (573)254-3262, or benedict62@yahoo.com.

Project is approved

Prairie Fork Conservation Area Program Development

Tour/Training in September, program development for fall semester

Sponsored by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, the University of Missouri and the Prairie Fork Trust.

Prairie Fork has a need for naturalists to help develop new, exciting, and innovative outdoor environmental education programs. These programs MUST be designed to help teachers meet goals described in Missouri state and National educational standards. Our goal is to help teachers meet curriculum standards in as many subjects as possible, not just math and science. Currently, emphasis is being placed on elementary aged students particularly 4th graders. A tour/training session is being organized sometime in the month of September.

Contact Benedict Nagy at (573)254-3262, or benedict62@yahoo.com.

Project is approved.

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 Memorial State Park

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 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 573-449-7402. Projects are approved.

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, September 14 6:30 p.m



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