



Boone's Lick Chapter Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1

February 2006

MEETING ALERT

The February meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Boone County Extension Center. Tim Rielly, volunteer water-quality-monitoring coordinator with the Stream Team program, will talk about Stream Team, its history and function. He also will talk about the Volunteer Water-Quality-Monitoring Program, which is part of Stream Team, and upcoming training workshops for the program. Attendance at a workshop will count as Master Naturalist advanced training.

NAME THE NEWSLETTER

Does anyone have a catchy name for the newsletter? Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists Newsletter seems a little weighty and lengthy to me. If you have a great title, send it to Barbara Fairchild at bfairchild@maain.com. There's an incentive. The person with the winning title will receive a FREE copy of the *Trees of Missouri* field guide. The winner will be announced at the next meeting, so send those suggestions soon.

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

Hot Off the Press

You are among the first to know that a field guide version of *Trees of Missouri* by Don Kurz is available. Based on Kurz's original *Trees of Missouri*, this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood or natural area. The book describes 174 species of trees, 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. The field guide is available at Missouri Department of Conservation nature centers. It can be ordered by calling (877) 521-8632 (toll free) or at www.mdcnatureshop.com. The price is \$7.50. The product number is 01-0092.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

I'll be honest—I put off writing this until the last minute, and only the knowledge that I would be borne down by crushing guilt at outraging Barbara's deadline forced me to sit down at my computer. After all, the first column by the first president in the first issue of the first newsletter—there was some pressure here. I felt I should be inspirational, insightful, incisive, and articulate, and those are all very hard for me to come by in the middle of January. Let's face it, January is a month wherein all good mammals feel the urge to store energy and hibernate. In my case, that means scarfing an entire bag of Chinese rice crackers while curling up with plant catalogs, trying to convince myself that it would be OK to surrender to the urge to buy non-natives as long as they come from Seeds of Change. I tried looking to nature in my backyard habitat for inspiration about being a naturalist, but all I got was a suet feeder swarming with squabbling starlings (curse you anyway, Eugene Schieffelin). So, I did what any self-respecting naturalist would do—I turned to Henry David Thoreau. Sure, he lived in Massachusetts, where the winters are obliged to be picturesque, but still, it's the thought that counts. In his natural history essay "A Winter Walk", Thoreau writes:

"The wonderful purity of nature at this season is a most pleasing fact. Every decayed stump and moss-grown stone and rail, and the dead leaves of autumn, are concealed by a clean napkin of snow.... It is invigorating to breathe the cleansed air. Its greater fineness and purity are visible to the eye, and we would fain stay out long and late, that the gales may sigh through us, too, as through the leafless trees, and fit us for winter, as if we hoped to borrow some pure and steadfast virtue, which will stead us in all seasons. There is a slumbering subterranean fire in nature which never goes out, and which no cold can chill.... What fire could ever equal the sunshine of a winter's day?"

Ah, THAT'S the spirit for dealing with winter. So go forth in the crisp dawn in search of frost flowers and Ozark witch hazel! Take heart from the knowledge that Harbinger of spring will soon be blooming in the woods! As for me, I think there's still a bag of Hershey's kisses and some corn chips hiding in the cupboard

...Celeste Mazzacano



January 12, 2006, Minutes
Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master
Naturalists

Present: Melanie Kaplan, Larry Barringhaus, Meredith Donaldson, Joe Donaldson, Don Day, Barbara Fairchild, Gail White, Troy Gordon, Janine Gordon, Marie Scruggs, Rebecca Allen, Pat Sachs, Phil Sachs, Sharon Reed, Beverly Boyd, Suzanne Wright, Celeste Mazzacano, Sally Swanson.

The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. by Celeste. Snacks were provided by Suzanne and Celeste.

Tim James was introduced by Suzanne. Tim is with the Missouri Department of Conservation. His job at Eagle Bluffs is to regulate water level in the ponds to provide habitat and food for migrating water fowl and shore birds. He explained the significance of Eagle Bluffs as the stop-off point for 265 of the 400 species found in Missouri, and told us about the importance of keeping the right mix of trees, grasses, and other vegetation growing in the area for migrating birds and ducks.

Opportunities for service at Eagle Bluffs include work on wood duck boxes, such as cleaning and checking for occupancy during the breeding season.

Suzanne announced upcoming programs. They include:

- Tim Rielly, Stream Team, February
- Brad Wright, environmentally friendly architecture, March
- Dave Graber water fowl migration, id and banding, October
- Jeff Briggler, amphibians, November

Other potential speakers and topics include Edge Wade from the Audubon Society, Tim Haller speaking on turtles, Celeste speaking on entomology, Justine Gartner speaking on tree identification, Wild Ones and a possible overnight field trip to Mark Twain National Park.

At 4 p.m. February 7, there will be an introductory session for the spring master naturalist class. Classes begin the next week and run until May 16, when graduation will take place. Classes are from 3 to 6 p.m.

We have been invited to have a table with master naturalist information at a wild life event from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Fulton High School.

Fundraising was discussed as the need for a budget came up. All are asked to think of ways to raise money at such events as Earth Day, April 23. Ideas include t-shirts, note cards made from nature photographs, bluebird boxes. Also discussed was the idea of bird seed and wildflower seeds in packets with the Master Naturalist logo as free give-aways for Earth Day.

Phil Sachs accepted the position of advanced training program chair

The Master Naturalist Conference will be April 28-30 Information and registration materials were passed around.

A Level One Burn Workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 15 in Kirksville. It is free and there is room for 15 people. The contact person is Yvette Amerman at 660-785-2424 ext. 232.

The airing of the television show that was shot at Three Creeks with the 2005 class will be at 5 p.m. February 18 on KOMU TV. Don showed a preview of the show.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

--Submitted by Sally Swanson, Secretary



KNOW MORE

"Slaves, Graves and Hidden Treasure," presented from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, February 18, 2006, at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and Jewell Cemetery State Historic Site, will give you new insight into slavery in mid-Missouri. This program explores Missouri's slavery history with particular emphasis on Boone County. Learn how slavery in Missouri differed from other slave states through activities, skits, discussions, and a field trip to view slave graves. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or 573-449-7402.

Volunteer Opportunities

February

When: 9 a.m. February 11, 2006
Where: Jameson Island Unit, Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
What: .Bridge and trail work
For details: www.friendsofbigmuddy.org or (573) 424-9051

When: 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, February 17, 2006
Where: Fulton High School, Fulton

What: Master Naturalist display at Evening with Wildlife, an MDC even to introduce public to various nature organizations
For details: Celeste Mazzacano at dsearles@coin.org

When: Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20
Where: Wildlife refuge near you
What: Great Backyard Bird Count
For details: Troy Gordon at friends@friendsofbigmuddy.org or (573) 424-9051

When: Beginning now
Where: Friends of Rock Bridge State Park
What: Program planning for park events in June and July 2006
For details: Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsn@aol.com

Two New Opportunities

Josh Stevens, Missouri Department of Conservation resource forester in Fulton, needs a volunteer to log landowner contact folders by location. This will assist him in serving private landowners. He has files dating back to the 1940s and recording assistance provided on specific properties in the past will provide an account of historical management that will let him better assess the needs for the property. The volunteer will create an Access database (or use one Josh creates, depending on the interests/abilities of the volunteer) to record pertinent information and log each file into the database. Contact Josh Stevens at Josh.Stevens@mdc.mo.gov or: 573-592-1412.

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area

- Wood duck box servicing (clean-out and refill with cedar shavings) late February/early March. There are 150 wood duck boxes on the area, so all hands are welcome.
- Wood duck banding, August. Volunteers will assemble before dawn, hide in bushes until birds walk up to the baitline, then shoot a rocket-net over them. Banding is done several times during August, with no notice until the preceding day. Volunteers will be notified by e-mail. To be on the list to participate in bird banding, contact Tim James at Tim.James@mdc.mo.gov

Ongoing Opportunities

Friends of Big Muddy activities: Check www.friendsofbigmuddy.org for current opportunities and/or sign up for list serve announcements. That address is FriendsofBigMuddy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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. To volunteer, contact Roxie Campbell at roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov or Kathryn Difoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call (573) 449-7402

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 program; also need volunteers for Nature Detectives, a program for preschool children. For details, contact Meredith Donaldson at Mjdonlsn@aol.com

Raptor Rehabilitation Project: Volunteers needed to feed birds, maintain building, mews and flight cages and do educational presentations. After completing training sessions, can handle and care for birds. For details, contact Diane Kuschel at dgk6b@mizzou.edu or (573) 875-1395



ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

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

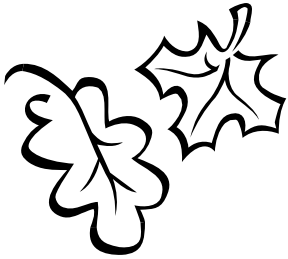
This free, once-a-year training provided by park staff includes information on park geology, ecosystems and watersheds; park rules and regulations; map reading and land navigation skills; a driving tour of the park; an overview of the state park system; and more. This course is required to become official Rock Bridge Memorial State Park park aides and serve as interpreters, park representatives, trail patrol, cave tour guides and/or office assistants. It is highly recommended for those who would like to assist on prescribed burns and conduct butterfly counts, frog and toad surveys, history research and other stewardship projects. Park aides are required to serve at least 40 hours per year. Scheduling is flexible. Group work sessions are held periodically, usually on

Saturdays. Communication is done primarily through e-mail. Training will be partly outdoors, partly indoors, so dress appropriately and bring a sack supper to eat during the break. The indoor portion will be in the basement of Bethel Church, located near the park.

Contact: Call Roxie Campbell at Roxie.Campbell@dnr.mo.gov, Kathryn DiFoxfire at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-449-7402 to register or for details.

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, February 9 at 6:30 p.m., Boone County
Extension Center**

" Stream Team Program "