Experience the Magnificent Ozarks

Missouri Master Naturalist Advanced Training

May 1–3, 2015 • Springfield
The Springfield Plateau Master Naturalists invite you to join them for a weekend to Experience the Magnificent Ozarks. This three-day event brings together Master Naturalists from across the state for advance training, networking and interacting with natural resource and education professionals.

Options for advance training start on Friday, followed by an evening social and opening session at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Oasis Conference Center. Advance training continues with two concurrent sessions on Saturday and one on Sunday morning. Saturday evening activities include dinner, music, and comedy.

The event is open to active Missouri Master Naturalists. This includes those certified, working on certification, interns in training, and chapter advisors. The registration deadline is April 10. We anticipate a large number of attendees so you are encouraged to register early. This is an event you don’t want to miss!

We look forward to seeing you,

Springfield Plateau Master Naturalists
Jay Barber, Chapter Advisor, Missouri Department of Conservation
Patrick Byers, Chapter Advisor, Missouri University Extension
Syd Hime, Master Naturalist State Program Coordinator, Missouri Department of Conservation
Bob Pierce, Master Naturalist State Program Coordinator, Missouri University Extension
Location and Accommodations

The conference will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Oasis Conference Center conveniently located off I-44 at 2546 N. Glenstone Ave. Offering comfortable guest rooms, an indoor pool and hot tub nestled in a gorgeous tropical atrium, and ample meeting space the Oasis is a bit of paradise in the heart of Springfield.

Training sessions will take place at the hotel and nearby venues including the Springfield Nature Center, Valley Water Mill, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, local conservation areas, and other locations. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to offsite locations. Carpooling will be encouraged and organized at the hotel.

Participants are required to make their own lodging reservations. Lodging is not included in the registration fee and must be paid separately by conference participants.

Additional information about the conference and the Springfield area can be found at www.magnificentozarks.com

Lodging

On-site
The Ramada Plaza Hotel offers comfortable guestrooms with flat-screen TV’s, refrigerator, coffeemaker, and free wireless Internet for $86 per night plus tax. A complimentary hot breakfast is included for each registered guest.

For reservations call 888-532-4338 and reference Master Naturalist or go to http://ramadaoasis.com

Nearby Hotels on N. Glenstone Ave.
Comfort Inn 417-869-8246
Drury Inn and Suites 417-863-8400
Hampton Inn 417-869-5548
Holiday Inn and Suites 417-869-5548

Camping
The Springfield Route 66 KOA, located 12 miles from the Ramada, offers a shady retreat with tent and RV camping and cabin rentals. For more information call 800-562-1228 or go to http://koa.com/campgrounds/springfield - route-66/

Meals
Full conference registration includes Friday evening hors d’oeuvres, snacks, lunch and dinner on Saturday. Saturday-only registration includes snacks, lunch and dinner.

Registration
Registration is required for all conference attendees and guests participating in conference activities open to them. The registration form is included in this booklet. Registration deadline is April 10, 2015

If you cancel your registration on or before April 15, you will receive a full refund. Fees will not be refunded to registrants who do not cancel by April 15, even if you do not attend the conference. To cancel registrations call Shelli Cannon at 573-522-4115 ext. 3292 or email shelli.cannon@mdc.mo.gov.

Scholarships
The Master Naturalist program provides a scholarship to each chapter to cover the registration cost for one full registration (does not include lodging) for an attending member. Recipients are selected and approved by each chapter’s board members. To apply for a scholarship contact your chapter President. Scholarship recipients should be identified prior to registering for the conference. Once approved, recipients need to contact Syd Hime, 573-522-4115 ext. 3370 or syd.hime@mdc.mo.gov, for registration instructions.

Guest Activities
If you are being accompanied this weekend by an adult guest they’re invited to join a few of the conference activities that perhaps will inspire them to become a Master Naturalist. Guests can join you for a Friday pre-conference training session and evening activities as well as Saturday evening dinner and entertainment. The local area offers a variety of activities for guests. Recommendations can be found at www.magnificentozarks.com. Be sure to include guest information on the registration form.

What to Bring
Dress for the weekend is casual. Bring appropriate field gear for your training sessions. Also pack a notepad, bug spray, sunscreen, water bottle, binoculars, camera, and rain gear.

Registration must be received no later than April 10.
Special Features

Pre-Conference Advance Training Sessions
On your way to Experience the Magnificent Ozarks in Springfield you are invited to enjoy some pre-conference exploring. If sustainability and energy efficiency interest you look into the permaculture farm or Dan Chile’s home tour. The stream ecology session will appeal to those of you with an interest in aquatics and the cave session will meet your needs if you like to go underground. Those of you who enjoy a good hike will find the La Petite Gemme or Linden’s Prairie sessions appealing. Glade enthusiasts will want to explore Rocky Barrens.

Registration is required for all pre-conference sessions. Participants will go directly to their session location prior to coming to the conference center. If you are carpooling please plan accordingly.

Chapter Exhibits
Master Naturalist chapters across the state are actively involved in stewardship, citizen science, and education projects that support conservation in their local communities. These exhibits showcase those efforts and the activities of chapter members. Chapters are invited to bring their exhibits to share and any chapter products you are particularly proud of. For more information contact Syd Hime at syd.hime@mdc.mo.gov.

ImagiNature Art Contest
Artistic talent abounds among Master Naturalists. This contest provides a venue to share your talent with peers. Wood, metal, glass, clay, fabric, photographs, and natural materials are all acceptable media. Use your imagination and creativity, allowing your artwork to describe some facet of nature. People’s Choice Awards will be given to the top three vote getters. Winners will be announced at the closing session on Sunday. For more information email info@magnificentozarks.com.

Art Contest Guidelines
• Entrants must be Master Naturalists registered for the conference.
• Items must be original and handmade (no kits) by the entrant.
• Photographs must be entrants own work.
• Items must be able to be displayed in the ballroom. Tables will be provided. Any further materials needed to transport or display the art item will be the entrant’s responsibility.
• All contest entries must be set up by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.
• Participants are limited to two entries.

Silent Auction
The silent auction provides a great opportunity for conference participants to share treasures from their collections and take home a new one. Bring along a new, slightly used or handmade item such as books, outdoor equipment, artwork or crafts, and gift baskets for the auction. Determine a bidding strategy and join the fun of this friendly, competitive activity. The auction starts Friday evening and closes Saturday evening. The proceeds from the auction help support scholarships for future conferences.

Commemorative Shirt
Custom artwork featuring a dogwood bloom and dragonfly blend with the conference theme Magnificent Ozarks across the front of the shirt. The Master Naturalist logo and Springfield 2015 are imprinted on the shirt sleeve. These heather brown short-sleeve shirts are a 50/50 cotton-polyester blend. They are available in adult sizes small to XL for $14, 2X for $16, 3X-5X for $17. Shirts can be purchased only with a registration. They will not be for sale at the conference. Mark your order on the registration form and take this opportunity to purchase a unique keepsake.
Friday Evening Social and Opening Session
Get reacquainted with Master Naturalist friends from across the state, check out the silent auction items, stroll through the art contest and enjoy some light hors d’oeuvres. Following the social an opening session will help set the tone for the weekend with a special welcome to the Magnificent Ozarks. A look at chapter accomplishments will close out the evening.

Saturday Morning Birding
Join amateur and seasoned birders for an early morning outing at Valley Water Mill Park located 2.7 miles NE of the Ramada. Meet at the park’s Watershed Center at 6:15 a.m. Bring along your binoculars and field guide and be on the watch for spring migrants. The walk will conclude in time to get to your first session.

Saturday Evening Dinner and Entertainment
Join us in the Grand Ballroom on Saturday for an evening of food, friendship and fun. Experience the frenzy of the last minute silent auction bidding, vote for your favorite art contest entry, visit with friends during the social hour and enjoy a delicious dinner.
Musicians from the local ecologically-aware community will provide entertainment ranging from bluegrass to folk to rock and roll. Interspersed between music sets you’ll laugh out loud at comedy sketches performed by the Master Naturalist Players.

Sunday Closing Session
We’ll join together at the conclusion of the last training session to wrap up the weekend’s activities. The winners of the art contest will be announced, upcoming program events will be shared and participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their experience at the conference.
Session Descriptions

Pre-Conference Sessions

All sessions will start at the scheduled time. Participants are responsible for their own transportation. Keep this in mind if you are carpooling. Registered guests are welcome to accompany you. Include their information on the registration form. Directions for each location will be sent with confirmation letters two weeks prior to the event. Directions are also available at www.magnificentozarks.com.

Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Stream Ecology Float

Joe Pitts, Executive Director, James River Basin Partnership

Starting in Webster County the James River flows northwest then turns southeast as it flows pass Springfield to eventually become an arm of Table Rock Lake. Along the way it’s a rural, urban, industrial, and agricultural river. This float trip will look at riparian borders, stream dynamics, water quality indicators, and impacts of human activities. Some canoe experience is required. Shuttle service, canoes and lunch are provided. This session is dependent on weather conditions and river levels. The launch site may change.

Limit: 20 people
Guest Fee: $15
Location: Launch at MDC Shelvin Rock Access, Nixa

Friday 1- 4 p.m.

Caves, Karst, and Bats

Melvin Johnson, Springfield Plateau Master Naturalist

Discover connected systems, water sources, and habitats. Starting at Fulbright Springs, learn about the connections between Fulbright Cave, losing streams, dry creeks and the surrounding watershed. Go underground to explore Giboney Cave. Once a show cave, today it serves as an outdoor-underground classroom. The cave supports a winter bat population and the Bristly Cave Crayfish, a Missouri species of concern. Shoes may get wet or muddy. Do not wear clothes, shoes or equipment worn in another cave unless it has been properly decontaminated. Easy to moderate walking.

Limit: 20 people
Location: Meet at the Ramada Hotel at 12:45 p.m. for carpooling

La Petite Gemme Prairie

Mike Skinner, Retired Natural History Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation

This small prairie takes its name, meaning the Little Gem, from the French heritage of the area. Recognized as a biologically valuable grassland, the site has been declared a Natural Area. A total of 321 species of plants occur here including Missouri primrose, prairie turnips, pale purple coneflower, and prairie hyacinths. Animal life includes northern crawfish frogs and prairie mole crickets. Enjoy the beauty and sounds of this unique prairie.

Location: 2 miles south of Bolivar, Polk County
Directions and more information: www.mopriaire.org

Linden’s Prairie

Jeff Cantrell, Educator and Naturalist, Missouri Department of Conservation

Linden’s Prairie, a 171-acre original native prairie landscape, is known for its high plant quality. Early spring will bring a burst of color to the landscape with the blooms of bird’s foot violets, beard tongue, coreopsis, lousewort, and shooting stars. You may see the first of the regal fritillary butterflies and enjoy the beauty of the grassland neotropical birds including the bobolinks.

Location: 6 miles west of Mt. Vernon, Lawrence County
Directions and more information: www.mopriaire.org
Living Efficiently
Dan Chiles, Owner and Entrepreneur
This state-of-the-art energy-efficient, contemporary, concrete home was constructed in 2013. Designed with the environment and future in mind, the home features radiant heat flooring, solar panels, a thermal hot water system, and rooftop gardens. Built with all local materials it’s both comfortable and functional. The owner’s ambition was to build something that’s extremely long term, structurally sound, and can be passed on to many future generations.
Location: 11750 Farm Road 124, Springfield

Practicing Permaculture
Richard Herman, Owner and Certified Permaculture Consultant
Working with rather than against nature, permaculture combines ecological engineering with environmental design and water resource management to develop sustainable agriculture and habitat systems. Investigate these practices at a working farm designed to be a self-sufficient forest model of food production. The capture of solar energy through a diversity of plants, rainfall collected in tanks and ponds, and soil saturation controlled through berms have turned a once-dry creek into one with an almost year-round flow.
Location: 25 miles NE of Springfield

Rocky Barrens Glade
Kevin Hedgpeth, Wildlife Management Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation
Rhonda Rimer, Natural History Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation
Located within the boundaries of the largest Mississippian limestone glade ecosystem in the region, Rocky Barrens Conservation Area has some of the state’s most unique glades. The federally-endangered Missouri bladder-pod has historically been found here. Neotropical birds favor the area during spring migration. Look at habitat restoration practices and discover unique wildlife adapted to these extreme conditions.
Location: Rocky Barrens Conservation Area, 14 miles NW of Springfield
Direction and more information: www.mdc.mo.gov, Conservation Area Atlas
Concurrent Session I  
Saturday 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

*Mileage listed is from the Ramada to offsite locations*

**Archeology and Primitive Tools**  
*Bo Brown, Founder and Director, First Earth*  
As a fast moving, technologically-induced society we have come a long way from the lifestyles of native people of the Ozarks. Connect with these ancestors and relive the moments they experienced as you learn about the tools, lives, and lifestyles of these earliest cultures.  
*Location: Ramada/Classroom*

**Community Partnerships**  
*Springfield Master Naturalist*  
*Chapter Partner Representatives*  
Partnerships with local conservation organizations within the community are a key component of a successful chapter. The panel will discuss how their partnerships were formed and sustained, benefits to both parties, and how they work together to build a strong conservation community.  
*Location: Ramada/Classroom*

**Discover Nature Fishing**  
*TBA, Missouri Department of Conservation*  
The Department of Conservation's newest education program, Discover Nature Fishing, helps youth and families gain the confidence to go fishing on their own. This session provides you the skills needed to instruct a series of four sessions. It's fun, engaging, and provides another education program for you to offer in your community.  
*Location: Valley Water Mill, 2.7 miles*

**Fire Ecology**  
*Sherry Leis, Fire Ecologist, Missouri State University*  
Fire plays an important role in maintaining grassland and woodland habitats. Results of burning vary depending on a range of factors including fuel load, moisture, and fire frequency. Not using fire also has consequences on habitat and ecosystem management. Find out how to effectively apply this management tool.  
*Location: Ramada/Classroom*

**Forest Health and Urban Forests**  
*Dean Alberty, Director, Midwest Tree Health Care*  
*Cindy Gardner, Urban Forester, Missouri Department of Conservation*  
*Francis Main, Resource Forester, Missouri Department of Conservation*  
Trees and forests are Missouri's greatest renewable natural resource. Urban forests provide unique environments for wildlife and provide clean air and water for residents. Faced with threats from many fronts, maintaining good forest health is a challenge. Find out what you can do to help with this challenge. Learn the basics of tree identification and put your new skills to work.  
*Location: MDC Regional Office, 2.6 miles, Indoors/Outdoors*

**Fungi and Lichens**  
*Dave Catlin, Greater Ozarks Audubon Society*  
*Hammons and Nancy Schanda, Springfield Master Naturalists*  
As warm weather awakens spring flora it also brings the first fruiting fungi of the year. This session introduces you to spring mushrooms with an emphasis on morels and related species. Learn to identify lichens and enjoy a search for fungi in a riparian woodland.  
*Location: Ramada/Classroom and Wilson's Creek, 17.5 miles*

**Marvelous Mushrooms**  
*Jay Justice, Mycologist*  
Missouri is a great place to find all kinds of wild mushrooms. Some people look for edible species, others enjoy the challenge of identification, and some just love the pure beauty of mushrooms. Discover all of this as you explore the world of mushrooms.  
*Location: Ramada/Classroom*

**Mussels and Endangered Aquatic Species**  
*Dr. Chris Barnhart, Missouri State University*  
*Bryan Simmons, Aquatic Biologist, United States Fish and Wildlife Service*  
Mussels are a vital and diverse, yet often ignored, part of our waterways. These fascinating naiades have unique life cycles and play an important role in aquatic systems. Some are endangered while others are contributing to the endangerment of their neighbors. Learn all about freshwater mussels and the challenges they face.  
*Location: Ramada/Classroom*
Concurrent Session II
Saturday 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Bat Awareness
Shelly Coalatskie, Wildlife Management Assistant, Missouri Department of Conservation
Tony Elliott, Resource Scientist, Missouri Department of Conservation
Melvin Johnson, Springfield Plateau Master Naturalist
Lynn Robbins, Biology Professor, Missouri State University
Kara Warren, Board Member, Greene County Parks

Missouri is home to 14 kinds of bats. Find out what research and surveys are telling us about their roosting habits, population dynamics, and impact of human activities including wind turbines. Management challenges of an urban cave utilized by an endangered species will also be discussed.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Energizing a Sustainable Future
Dan Chiles, Ozarks New Energy
Dr. Alexander Wait, Biology Professor, Missouri State University
PJ Wilson, Director, Renew Missouri

The use of clean and sustainable energy sources can slow down the many negative impacts of climate change. Gain a scientist’s perspective on the impact of climate change on Missouri’s natural systems. Discover ways you can tap into sustainable energy use.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Flintknapping
Bryan Simmons, Aquatic Biologist, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

A technique of making tools, spears, knives, or arrowheads by a process of chipping away material from high silica stones, flintknapping was once a vital part of daily living. This lost art is being revived by modern craftsmen. The tools they create are useful as well as beautiful. Try your hand at a new skill.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Outdoor Survival Skills
Don Brink, Educator
Larry Magard, Springfield Master Naturalist

Over 80% of people stranded in the woods intended to be day users. Situations change and often these day users find themselves stranded overnight or for multiple days. Find out what the ten essential items for every outing are and what to do if you find yourself stranded.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

River Bluff Cave Natural History Museum
Matt Forir, Executive Director, Missouri Institute of Natural Science

Discovered accidentally, this nationally significant cave contains unique evidence of prehistoric mega fauna. Findings indicate the cave was used heavily for shelter by a number of species, including the extinct short-face bear. Discover the treasures of this site through the natural history museum.

Location: River Bluff Cave, Institute of Natural Science, 19 miles

Wild Edibles and Medicinal Plants
Bo Brown, Founder and Director, First Earth

Many plants have fascinating life histories concerning edible and personal uses, folklores or medicinal qualities. Learning to identify, collect, and prepare wild edibles and medicinal plants is an art. Learn these skills as well as conservation practices to insure sustainable populations of these plants.

Location: Valley Water Mill, 2.7 miles

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield
Karola Mlekush, Biologist, National Park Service

Explore the site of the first major Civil War battle fought east of the Mississippi. The nearly pristine landscape allows you to experience one of the best preserved battlefields in the nation. Learn about the park’s landscape management, walk the trails soldiers travelled, and stand along the Overland Butterfield Stagecoach Route.

Limit: 14 people

Location: Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield, 17.5 miles

Hiking in the Ozarks
Mike Mihalik, Springfield Plateau Master Naturalist

Featuring limestone bluffs, steep terrain, crystal clear streams, numerous caves, and heavily forested areas, the Ozarks are a “mecca” for hikers. Discover the best places to go and features to see. Enjoy a short hike through a diverse ecosystem.

Location: Ramada/Classroom and Valley Water Mill, 2.7 miles
Concurrent Session III
Sunday 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

American Burying Beetle and Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
Dr. Amy Smith, Owner, Smith Environmental and Research Consulting House

Once found in 35 states the American Burying Beetle is now a federally endangered species. Find out about the unique habits, life cycles, and ecosystem connections of these small scavengers. In addition, discover the amazing lives of some of our most unique aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Bears, Feral Hogs, and Mountain Lions
James Dixon, Wildlife Damage Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation

These large mammals have growing populations in Missouri and we have questions. Where are they? How many are there? Are there safety concerns? Learn the answers to these questions and the management approaches being considered.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Bird Banding
Dr. Janice Greene, Biology Professor, Missouri State University

Become familiar with the science of bird banding, the process of attaching a small metal or plastic band around a bird's leg in order to identify individual birds from the band's unique number. The practice is essential to bird conservation and contributes significantly to the study of birds' habits. Bird identification will also be covered.

Location: Springfield Nature Center, 13.4 miles

Education Partners
Sue Gardner, Educator, WOLF School
Greg Swick, Retired Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation

Springfield Plateau Master Naturalists have developed strong partnerships with local education programs. GLADE is a summer ecology program designed to connect high school students with their environment. Curriculum used at the WOLF school is designed to connect all subjects to the environment. This session presents ideas to inspire your chapter to take environmental education to a new level.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Flying WILD
Courtney Broser, High School Science Instructor

This national program uses birds as a focus to engage middle school students in environmental education and stewardship. Special emphasis is placed on creating an approach readily adaptable for urban schools. Participants will receive their instructor certification, a comprehensive activity guide, and the training needed to lead multiple activities.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Hellbenders and Turtles
John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager, Missouri Department of Conservation

Endangered, strictly aquatic, and solitary by nature, hellbenders are the largest salamander in America. Two subspecies occur in Missouri. Learn details of these unique animals, why their populations are threatened and what is being done about it. Explore the world of turtles including identification, habits, habitats, and population status.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Karst Geology
Jonathon Beard, Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy
Douglas Gouzie, Department of Geology, Missouri State University
Mike Kromrey, Director, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

Karst landscapes formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks. They are characterized by underground drainage system with sinkholes and caves. Look at the impact of human activities on these systems including construction and dump sites. Discover the importance of karst geology for drinking water.

Location: Ramada/Classroom

Perfecting Presentations
Jay Barber, Education Consultant, Missouri Department of Conservation

A good presentation takes planning. The skills used to develop and deliver presentations that have impact and meaning to your audience is essential to volunteers engaged in public speaking. Get ideas, learn techniques, and discover resources to help you deliver top-notch presentations.

Location: Ramada/Classroom
## Schedule at a Glance

**Friday, May 1**

- **6 AM**
- **7 AM**
- **8 AM**
- **9 AM**
- **10 AM**
- **11 AM**
- **12 PM**
- **1 PM**
- **2 PM**
- **3 PM**
- **4 PM**
- **5 PM**
- **6 PM**
- **7 PM**
- **8 PM**
- **9 PM**
- **10 PM**
- **11 PM**

- **10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Pre-Conference Session
  - Stream Ecology Float

**Saturday, May 2**

- **6:15 a.m.** Bird Walk

- **8:30 – 11:30 a.m.** Concurrent Session I
  - Archeology and Primitive Tools
  - Community Partnerships
  - Discover Nature Fishing
  - Fire Ecology
  - Forest Health and Urban Forests
  - Fungi and Lichens
  - Marvelous Mushrooms
  - Mussels and Endangered Aquatic Species

- **11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** Lunch

**Sunday, May 3**

- **6:15 a.m.** Bird Walk

- **8:30 – 11:30 a.m.** Concurrent Session III
  - American Burying Beetle and Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
  - Bears, Feral Hogs, and Mountain Lions
  - Bird Banding
  - Education Partners
  - Flying WILD
  - Hellbenders and Turtles
  - Karst Geology
  - Perfecting Presentations

- **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Closing Session

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**Friday, May 1**

- **1 - 4 p.m.** Pre-Conference Sessions
  - Caves, Karst and Bats
  - Living Efficiently
  - Practicing Permaculture
  - La Petite Gemme Prairie
  - Linden’s Prairie
  - Rocky Barrens Glade

- **4 – 7 p.m.** Registration

- **6 – 7 p.m.** Social

**Saturday, May 2**

- **5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** Social

**Sunday, May 3**

- **6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Dinner

**Friday, May 1**

- **7 - 9 p.m.** Opening Session

**Saturday, May 2**

- **8 – 10 p.m.** Entertainment
If one really loves nature, one can find beauty everywhere.

—VINCENT VAN GOGH