Thursday, May 12, 2011, 6:30 pm
MU Extension Bldg.

Global Climate Change
Dennis Figg
Natural History Programs Supervisor – MDC

Dennis will be presenting information on climate change, and wants to have an open discussion type forum, so come prepared with any questions you would like to ask.

This program has been approved for one hour of advanced training.

Refreshments: Dessert – Phil Knocke, Non-dessert – Mary Williamson, Beverages – Jodie Lenser

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS
Becky Bohlmeyer

This week I ran across a couple of unique ways people were involved in preserving our environment.

The first was an article about an undersea museum created by British artist Jason deCaires Taylor: http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/blog/26234/artists+undersea+museum+evolves+into+stunningly+surreal+reef/. He created over 400 sculptures of humans, and placed them on the ocean floor in Cancun’s National Marine Park. It seems counterintuitive to me to be placing manmade objects on the ocean floor, but the idea was to attract scuba divers away from the more fragile natural reefs in the area. Not only has that worked, but a lot of reef fish and sea creatures have actually made their homes among the sculptures.

The other was a TV show I just happened to catch. It’s a series on Animal Planet called Into the Pride: http://animal.discovery.com/tv/into-the-pride/. Dave Salmoni camped for weeks in the Erindi Private Game Reserve in Namibia, South Africa to try to get a pride of lions accustomed to seeing
humans. The preserve is a means of financial support for Namibia, because it brings in eco-tourism dollars. If he couldn’t teach the lions to co-exist with the tourists, then they were going to have to be destroyed. I only saw one episode, but a picture on the website of the link above shows him sitting with the lions, so I’m assuming that means he accomplished his task, and the lions are safe!

Our talents for preservation may not be this unique, but there’s always that possibility 😊

Meet Your Officers

Jane Fore – Treasurer

Jane was a member of the 2007 MMN class and participated in the butterfly inventory at Overton Bottoms for two years. Other activities include prairie seed collection, rain garden maintenance, and stream team. Her absolute favorite project has been monitoring 34 bluebird houses for Audubon with fellow MMN Mary Williamson. They go every Wednesday from early March to the end of August and currently have 8 active nests - 6 bluebird and 2 chickadee. Jane has been a birder for many years and since joining MMN has developed a keen interest in wildflowers.

In addition to MMN projects, Jane volunteers with her church, drives for Meals on Wheels, and works at The Wardrobe. Jane and husband Dave have three sons and two grandsons in New Jersey, Texas, and California – all places they love to visit.

For future Master Naturalists -- Pass this on to a young person you know. The State Parks Youth Corps is gearing up to help young Missourians ages 17-21 gain work skills, experience Missouri’s beautiful outdoors, and put money in their pockets. Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, as well as other state Parks in the state, have positions.

Governor Nixon is bringing back the popular program that will employ hundreds of young Missourians in Missouri state parks, and historic sites throughout the state. Young Missourians will be able to earn cash while building trails, leading tours, excavating historical sites, designing marketing campaigns, and much more.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The State Parks Youth Corps slots are limited, and there will be income eligibility requirements (posted on website).

APPLY ONLINE TODAY.
Visit http://thinkoutside.mo.gov/ today to check out the website, watch the video, and apply!

For information on positions available at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, email Roxie Campbell: roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov
Floral Fireworks Atop the Bluffs of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Those of us not distracted by the promise of spring-time morels have no doubt noticed that the woodland is bursting with color. Spring Beauties and Wild Sweet William have made their presence known across the forest floor. Trout lilies and Dutchman’s Breeches have made their appearances. The Bellwort have burst open and the Trillium are still going strong. The colorful assortment of violets underfoot sure makes it hard to take your eyes off the ground. But something entirely different is taking place on the scenic bluffs at Rock Bridge Memorial State park. Bluffs, or cliffs, are one of several unique plant communities found in Missouri. Bluff tops, like Missouri glades, can be particularly harsh environments for plants. Thin soil, full sun exposure, and high rates of erosion pose significant challenges to plant establishment and survival. However, there is a great variety of plants that can survive, and actually thrive, atop Missouri’s scenic bluffs. As the spring show is beginning to wrap up in Missouri’s woodlands, things are just getting started on top of Rock Bridge’s bluffs. Fragrant Sumac and Service Berry blossoms are the first to bring some color to the bluffs. An eye-catching carpet of Birdfoot Violets and Pussytoes cover the rocky ground; if you look closely you may even be able to find the beginnings of Widow’s Cross, one of Missouri’s native sedums. And of course, the grand finale of Spring on top of the bluffs, Shooting Star is about to fire things up. But don’t worry, that won’t be the end. Summer will bring even more color to the show atop those scenic overlooks.

Photos also by Anthony

Shooting Star

Birdfoot Violet

Service Berry
Missouri River Relief

Omaha-Council Bluffs Missouri River Clean-up
Saturday, April 30
Riverfront Marina at Lewis & Clark Landing
It's our third time cleaning up the Omaha/Council Bluffs area, and we can't wait to get back. The river is getting pretty high, but it looks like we can pull this one off.

- Click here for all the details, and the link to sign up for the clean-up.
- Click here for the flier (pdf).

Rec River Clean-up
Tuesday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 4 we’re teaming up with local partners and private landowners to clean up some old dumps on the Missouri National Recreational River. If you are available to help those days, please contact Steve at steve@riverrelief.org or call: 573.443.0292. Thanks!

Siouxland Missouri River Clean-up
Saturday, May 7
South Sioux City Parks & Rec Boat Ramp
This is our fourth year in a row working with our great friends in the Siouxland tri-state area. Clean-up headquarters is across the river this year on the Nebraska side. Join us for another great clean-up!

- Click here for all the details, and the link to sign up for the clean-up.
- Click here for the flier (pdf).

Yankton Missouri River Clean-up
Saturday, May 7
The hard working folks in Yankton are hosting their 8th annual clean-up on the Missouri River below the Gavin's Point Dam. We're glad to be joining them again! It's the same day as our Siouxland event - it'll be exciting to clean-up both ends of the National Recreational River on the same day!

Click here for all the details, and the link to sign up for the event.

Big Muddy Speaker Series

For a list of future presentations and directions to the meeting place, check the website:
http://riverrelief.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=e19adac188abf87e09113de49&id=edb2bd5a10&e=f7877a26de

May 10, 2011 - "Tales from Overton Bottoms" - writers Fred Oerly and Meredith Ludwig

A Gardener's Vineyard Tour- May 21st & 27th

Want to learn more about growing grapes? Join us the morning of May 21st or the afternoon of May 27th 2011 at Les Bourgeois to visit a couple of vineyards and discuss grape growing. Only $5 per adult & limited to the first 40. Refreshments & a snack are provided. Meet at the Les Bourgeois Gift Shop. A short drive will be required.
‘Rain or Shine’! Come with appropriate footwear and bring an umbrella if necessary. Contact Frankie Anderson andersonfr@missouri.edu; phone 573-445-9792. Registration required by May 18th. Pay that day by check or cash. For more details see the calendar at http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/

Announcement sponsored by MU Extension

Golden Prairie BioBlitz
Potluck Dinner and Campout
June 4 & 5, 2011

Free event! Nature lovers of all ages are invited to team up with experts on birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, moths, bees, ants, true bugs, plants, and snails to help inventory species on this 320-acre prairie owned by the Missouri Prairie Foundation in Barton County near Golden City. This 2nd Annual Prairie BioBlitz begins at 2 p.m. on June 4 and lasts through the morning of the 5th. On June 4, there will be a potluck dinner, stargazing, and free tent camping. For full details, visit www.moprairie.org or the Missouri Prairie Foundation Facebook page. RSVP to info@moprairie.com or call 1-888-843-6739.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

For updated information on advanced training opportunities, please see the online Chapter calendar at http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia. To submit an opportunity for advanced training consideration, use the form on the chapter website and email it to MMNATrain@gmail.com.

STATEWIDE ADVANCED TRAINING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Missouri Master Naturalist state website periodically posts advanced training and volunteer opportunities offered throughout the state and open to all MMNs. To view these postings, go to the state website at http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist and click on the link “For Volunteers.” State Advanced Training is also posted on our chapter calendar.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For updated information on volunteer opportunities, please see the online calendar on the chapter website at: http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/. Please contact the person indicated for more detailed information on any of the projects. To submit a project for consideration, for service hours, fill out a Service Project Form (available at http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/Projectapproval.htm and email it to MMNVolOpps@gmail.com for consideration. You will be notified via e-mail if there are any questions about the project or notified of its approval. Once approval is granted for any person, it is approved for everyone, so it is only necessary to submit one form per project.

Volunteers needed:
For the 2011, 2nd Annual Pallid Sturgeon ‘Round-up’

- Extra volunteer help is needed to capture wild reproductive endangered pallid sturgeon for hatchery production and re-stocking efforts.
- We invite you to work hand-in-hand with Columbia’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fishery biologists on the Missouri River retrieving sampling gear loaded with Missouri River fish!
- We are needing volunteers Tuesday through Friday from March 29 through May 7th. You are invited to volunteer at any point during these dates.
- A coordinated intensive efforts (including Saturdays) will be:
  - March 29 (Tues) through April 2 (Sat)
  - April 4 (Tues) through April 9 (Sat)
  - May 3 (Tues) through May 7 (Sat).
  These dates are when volunteers are needed the most but can be used on other dates also.
- Our volunteers will be asked to help bait, pull and organize trotlines as well as untangle fish from gillnets.
- We have crews working around Jefferson City, Columbia and Boonville and will coordinate sampling locations with you for commuting convenience.
- Slots are limited so sign up soon!
- Contact: Wyatt_Doyle@fws.gov with availability dates and geographic location or call (573) 234-2132. Email is preferred
2011 Officers

President    Becky Bohlmeyer
             mmnblpresident@gmail.com
Vice President Anthony Zukoff
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State Advisory Committee Rep, 2010-11 Cheryl Hardy
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Advanced Training Co-Chair    Sally Swanson
Chapter Historian    Beverly Boyd
Project Approval & Volunteer Opportunities Chris Egbert
Communications Committee    Dan Reeves
Hospitality Committee    Susan Hazelwood
                          Alice Havard
                          Becky Bohlmeyer
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Chapter Co-Advisors

Kent Shannon
University Extension
ShannonD@missouri.edu
Bob Pierce, Interim Co-Advisor
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NEXT MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 2011, 6:30 pm
Fairview Park

Summer Potluck Picnic
Friends and family welcome!

Fairview Park is located on Fairview Road just south of Fairview Elementary School. Parking is along the street or in the Fairview school parking lot. The park has a shelter house with picnic tables and restrooms. Lawn chairs are optional. There is a trail to the west which goes through woods and connects with the Bonny View Nature Sanctuary, which is city property. The Bonny View property is adjacent to the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary, which has hiking trails.

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