

Meramec Hills Chapter
Missouri Master Naturalists

Minutes

July 22, 2019

The July 22, 2019 meeting of the Meramec Hills Chapter, Missouri Master Naturalists, was opened at 6:00 pm with President Judy Cavender presiding. Helen Johnston informed us that our scheduled program on native Missouri bees would be delayed until next year as our speaker, Dr. Girardo Camillo from St. Louis University, had suffered a biking injury and was to have had surgery today. Instead, Susan Wrasmann presented a program titled 'From Ideker to the Flood Control Prioritization Act.' She briefly described litigation between Ideker Inc. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a Phase 1 judgement that found the U.S. liable for flooding and loss of revenue resulting from the Corps' de-prioritizing of flood control in their management of the Missouri River. Three endangered species [the least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon] will also be affected by the related 2019 Missouri River Flood Control Act, which removes wildlife and habitat preservation from priority in river management. Susan then shared with us a video about USGS studies of the Missouri River. The video featured a presentation by Carrie Elliott, a USGS geomorphologist, and was titled 'Probing the Depths of the Big Muddy.' Elliott discussed studies of the bottom of the Missouri River, tools and techniques used for those studies, and spoke about how the pallid sturgeon uses the river. While some of her talk was rather technical, it was extremely interesting.

There was a short break for refreshments and Judy called the business meeting to order at 7:15 pm. She thanked Phyllis Murphy for presiding last month, and thanked those who had brought snacks. Next the Minutes were approved as written. There was no Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Next Helen Johnston reported for the Advanced Training Committee, thanking Susan for this evening's program. Our next outdoor event will occur on September 27, a Friday, and will be a dark sky viewing event led by Susan and Ed Wrasmann. PLEASE NOTE that this represents a change from the previously-

announced date! The September Chapter meeting on September 23 will feature Don Ficken, the president of the Missouri Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association and will be an excellent precursor to the dark sky viewing event that will follow on the 27th.

Meantime our next meeting will be on August 26, 2019, and the topic will be 'Fire Ecology at the Ozark Field Station.' Helen also mentioned that her committee will begin meeting in August to begin planning for the 2020 advanced training program. If you have suggestions about topics you'd like to see covered, or particular people you would like to hear speak, please let Helen know. Since there is now a new Conservation Education Consultant in our area, Dwight Warnke, Helen will invite him to come to our August Chapter meeting and introduce himself to our group. She also related that the Chapter has agreed to continue the Bray Wonder Bugs programs, 4 in spring and 4 in fall, and she will head the program. She will need help, and participating will be an excellent volunteer training opportunity..

Susan Wrasmann, chair of the Volunteer Committee, reported that discussion of the project to clear and maintain the short trail at the Rolla tourist center continues. Kari has drafted a memorandum of understanding detailing a plan for our participation and when the proposal is formalized and accepted by both the Chamber of Commerce and the Chapter's Executive Board, it will be brought to the membership.

Susan also told us that a second wildflower vendor will be added to Doolittle Gardens for the fall Pollinator and Birding Festival, offering a greater selection of plants for shoppers.

Susan also announced that the monthly Bray work days will resume in September.

Announcements

Carolyn Schlauch reported that the Fall Family Fun Day will be held on September 21 At Round Spring Park. Lunch will be at 11:30, with Advanced Training, featuring Neil Humpke of the LAD Foundation, to follow. The Volunteer Opportunity will be a choice of 2 activities, woody plant eradication or collecting seed. She also mentioned several options for fun activities for those attending: a hike to the spring or to the cave entrance, a 3-mile hike of the Round Spring portion of the Ozark Trail, a 45-minute drive to Peck Ranch. Carolyn will not head

the Fall Family Fun Day planning next year, so if you are interested in chairing this committee, please let Carolyn know.

Dale Carpentier announced that Legends of Conservation will be hosting Doug Tallamy on Oct. 2, 2019, at the Rolla Middle School. He will offer a talk titled 'Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home.' Tickets will be available soon at MidMoTix. Additional details will follow.

Judy mentioned that it will soon be time for elections for Chapter officers for the upcoming 2-year terms. She will be appointing a Nominating Committee in September, to prepare a slate of candidates for the November election.

Awards

Judy next awarded Leslie Bearden and Helen Johnson their bronze dragonfly pins to mark 500 hours of volunteer work. Phyllis Murphy earned her pewter dragonfly recognizing her 250 hours of volunteer work. Recertification pins went to Edie Starbuck, Ron Lather, Dale Carpentier and Phyllis Murphy. Other people earning awards but not present will receive their awards next month. Judy outlined the cumbersome procedures for requesting and receiving the awards pins, and explained why it often seems to take a month or two to receive one's award.

She also announced that Kathy Gallagher and Lorely Lather will bring snacks for the August meeting and encouraged us to sign up to bring snacks to future meetings.

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on August 26, 2019.

There being no other business, Judy adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gallagher, Secretary