

April 2019

# Meramec Hills

## Upcoming Chapter Events

April 6: VOQ  
Workday at Camp  
Brim Shire

April 8: Gardening  
with Natives  
Workshop at  
Wrasmann's

April 13: Bray Day  
with Gardening with  
Natives Workshop  
at Bray

April 22: Monthly  
Chapter Meeting at  
Land Survey  
Building

April 28: Executive  
Board Meeting at  
Alex's Pizza

## Native Knowledge...

By Pat Perry

### Golden Currant

(*Ribes odoratum*)

This small shrub is also called flowering currant, buffalo currant and clove currant. It grows to a height of 4-6 feet with a spread of 5 to 8 feet. It will grow in full sun to part shade.

The flowers appear in mid-March to mid-April. They are yellow in color and have five petals. Flowers have a strong, clove-like fragrance. Fruit is blue black and occurs in June if the plants are cross-pollinated. If you only have one plant, you will only get flowers.

Leaves are simple, alternate, 3 to 5 lobed with petioles  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1 inch long.

Its native habitat is high rocky limestone or dolomite bluffs along the White River drainage. It was never abundant in Missouri in the wild.

Makes a nice garden/ yard plant. Tolerates moderate to dry soils. It provides early nectar for bees and birds and small animals eat the fruit.

The name buffalo currant



comes from the use of the fruit found on the Great Plains prairies. It was used by many of the Native American tribes as well as early settlers.

## Core Training Update

By Lorely Lather

The 2019 Core Training Class completed five evening classes in March and enjoyed their first field trip to Woodson K. Woods Conservation Area with Mike Fleischhauer on March 23rd. It was reasonable weather that day, not sunny but sufficiently warm. Twenty-four of the 26 students attended. Mike Doyen, Louise Wilkinson, Linda Sidwell, and Lorely Lather served as Chapter Hosts for the trip.

We consolidated riders and entered the Woods about 9 AM, meeting Mike at the cabin to discuss tree identification. After spending the morning in and around the cabin, studying both tree ID and forest management, we ate our lunches and drove back through the Conservation Area, stopping to identify and discuss more trees. After a

while, we turned away from the river bottom to drive to and study Timber Stand Improvement areas, seeing how they develop after cutting. As it concluded, we were standing at the top of a woodland hill and thanked Mike with applause and smiles. It was a good day; everyone learned a lot.



<http://www.meramechills.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MMNMeramecHillsChapter>

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## Upcoming Activities

### April 6 (Saturday)

Volunteer Outlet of the Quarter: Camp Brim Shire Workday, 9:00am – 2:00pm, Camp Brim Shire (St. James). Help with the preparation of camp for opening with weeding, grounds cleanup and other tasks. For more information contact, Ron Lather [cavinron@centurytel.net](mailto:cavinron@centurytel.net).

### April 8 (Monday)

Gardening with Natives Workshop, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Susan Wrasmann's Home (1950 Carmel Ct, Rolla). Learn the importance & advantages of using native plants in your garden, selecting plants for every season, how to get started and maintain your plantings, milkweeds for Monarchs, and solutions for soggy spots: establishing a rain garden. Includes a tour of Susan's native plantings. Attending this workshop will free up space at the Bray Day workshop and let you still volunteer at the event. To sign up, email [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).

### April 9 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00 – 5:00pm, Bray CA. Come out and join the Bray Bunch! Dress for the weather and bring work gloves, hat, drink and a snack. For more info, contact [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).

### April 13 (Saturday)

Bray Day Celebration with Gardening with Natives Workshop, 9:00am - 4:00pm, Bray CA. Volunteer in a booth, activity, on the parking crew or just as a visitor! Please carpool to help save parking. For more info, contact [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).

### April 20 (Saturday)

Earth Day, 1:00pm – 5:00pm, Public House Brewery (St. James). Outdoor booths to celebrate Earth Day have been requested. This event will attract families with children so interactive is best but not required. For more information contact Susan at [swras@fidmail.com](mailto:swras@fidmail.com).

### April 22 (Monday)

Regular monthly meeting of the Chapter, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). Topic: Restoration efforts for Ruffed Grouse in MO with Jason Isabelle, MDC. Social hour & help session for questions and entering hours from 5:00-6:00pm.

### April 26 (Friday)

FLW Earth Day, 7:00am – 3:00pm, Nutter Field House (Fort Leonard Wood). Host a booth for a large public event that has 600-800 elementary school children. For more information contact Pam at [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).

### April 28 (Sunday)

Executive Board Meeting, 5:30pm - 8:00pm, Alex's Pizza Palace (122 W 8th St, Rolla). All Chapter members are welcome to attend. Arrive at 5:30 to order food or drinks with the meeting to start at 6:00pm.

### May 3 (Friday)

Junior Ranger Day, 9:00am – 2:00pm, Alley Spring & Mill (Alley Spring). Work in one of at least two booths, monarchs & pollinators or stream critter. For more information contact Susan Wrasmann at [swras@fidmail.com](mailto:swras@fidmail.com).

### May 4 (Saturday)

Outdoor Skills Workshop. More details to come.

### May 11 (Saturday)

Native Plant Sale, 7:00am – 1:00pm, Rolla Farmers Market. Annual native plant sale at Rolla Farmers Market with the sale hours from 8:00am-Noon but volunteers are needed for set up and tear down. For more information contact Susan Wrasmann [swras@fidmail.com](mailto:swras@fidmail.com).



## Upcoming Activities, cont.

### May 14 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00-5:00pm, Bray CA. Come out and join the Bray Bunch! Dress for the weather and bring work gloves, hat, drink and a snack. For more info, contact [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).

### May 22 (Wednesday)

Core Training Graduation, Bray CA. Join us as we congratulate and welcome the 2019 Core Training Class graduates to the Chapter! More details to come.

### June 24 (Monday)

Regular monthly meeting of the Chapter, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). Topic: TBD. Social hour & help session for questions regarding activities and entering hours from 5:00-6:00pm.

### June 28 (Friday)

Hamilton Natives Field Day, 9:00am – 5:00pm, Elk Creek. Join experts for a day of learning about native grass pastures and unlocking the N, P, & K in your soil. End the day with watermelon and discussion! To register or for questions, contact 417-967-2190 or [natives@hamiltonnativeoutpost.com](mailto:natives@hamiltonnativeoutpost.com).

## Successful “Pot Fest” prep for Native Plant Sale

By Emily Brown

We had 8 Master Naturalist members total volunteer to pot over 200 seedlings from the MDC nursery. These seedlings are for the upcoming Native Plant Sale.

Volunteers included, current trainees: Lou Didier, Marc Didier & Marcia Baumgartner along with members Kathy Gallagher, Lorely Lather, Linda Sidwell, John Johnson, & Emily Brown.

We had quite a production line going from potting, to labeling, to placing in the mulch bed. Awesome job on such a beautiful Ozark day!

Striped Skunk  
front 2"  
hind 2"



Raccoon  
front 2 1/2"  
hind 4"



Muskrat  
front 1 1/2"  
hind 2 1/2"



Bobcat 1 7/8"



## Bray Work Day

By Pam Barnabee

The March workday at Bray was postponed for a week, but the rain date of March 19 turned out to be perfect for a burn. Welcome to one of our core training students, Hairl Dayton, who joined the Bray bunch!

## Volunteer Opportunities at Bonebrake Center

By Nancy Moenster

Please see the following schedule for activities at Bonebrake Center (601 North Hickory Street, Salem, MO) in the next several months. All these qualify for volunteer hours (the with exception of the Spring Creek Artisan event). If you are interested in helping with any programs, contact Libby Sanders at (573) 729-3400.



**Monday, April 8, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Bird Nests!**      **4:30-6:00 p.m.**

This amazing new activity/club, led by Janet Price of Moonshadow Moments, will focus on getting kids out and about on the property, running and playing and learning! This session is the 1<sup>st</sup> focusing on “housing” for our friends. Bird nests is the theme, and we will find bird nests, make a bird nest, and make an aid for birds in *your* yard making nests.

**Monday, April 22, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Squirrel Nests! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> session focusing on “housing” for our friends. Squirrel nests is the theme, and we will explore the property, find squirrel nests, and maybe make one!

**Monday, May 6, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Fairy Houses! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Fairy houses is the theme, and we will explore the wonderful folklore of fairies in the Ozarks and find perfect nooks for fairy houses, and maybe even make one!

**Monday, June 3, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Gardens! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> session focusing on stuff that grows! Gardens is this session’s theme, and we will establish and tend a garden as well as plant something to take home.

**Monday, June 10, 2019**      **Mother Goose Returns with Flora and Fauna! 6:30 p.m.**

Mother Goose returns this year with a series of programs with fun, songs, and activities about various aspects of the natural world. A few stories, a couple of songs, snacks, and maybe short walks on trails close to the house, depending on the weather.

**Monday, June 17, 2019**       **Mudbugs Club—Seeds and Pollination! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> session focusing on stuff that grows. We will play with seeds and learn about pollination (we might even pollinate some plants!).

**Monday, July 1, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Flowers! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> session focusing on stuff that grows. Ever “pounded” a flower? It is fun! Flowers is the theme, and we will explore importance of flowers.

**Wednesday-Friday, July 10-12**      **Bonebrake Discovery Camp 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

Bonebrake Discovery Camp is a day camp for children from the ages of about seven to twelve, providing an enthusiastic experience of the outdoors, coupled with art and cultural programs. All activities are designed to nourish and strengthen, as well as enrich the growing child.

**Monday, July 22, 2019**      **Mother Goose Goes Buggy! 6:30 p.m.**      

Mother Goose returns to talk about bugs! Stories, songs, and activities about the creepy, crawly, squirmy, buzzing critters in our lives. Especially designed for preschoolers

**Monday, August 19, 2019**      **Mother Goose Gets Wet and Wild! 6:30 p.m.**

Yup, Mother Goose is back! Learn about the special qualities & importance of water in our lives & how much of YOU is just plain H<sub>2</sub>O! Be prepared to get WET as we carefully (?) water some of our yard plants. Especially designed for preschoolers.

**Monday, September 9, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Rocks and Soil Crayons! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> session focusing on rocks & the earth. We will MAKE soil crayons!

**Monday, September 23, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Nature Art with Earth Paints & Mud Sculpting! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> session focusing on rocks and the earth. Did you know the earth is a wonderful source of paint?

**Monday, October 7, 2019**      **Mudbugs Club—Nature Mosaics! 4:30-6:00 p.m.**      

This is the third session focusing on rocks and the earth. Make a work of art with nature stuff!



# Introduction to Landscape Design

with the Phelps County Master Gardeners

Do you want to enhance your entrance or entertain some new ideas for your patio? In these classes you will choose one area of your landscape that you want to improve. Each week you will go home and apply the skills learned in class. The following week you will have time to share your design and ideas with the class.

**Dates:** Thursday, April 25-May 16

**Times:** 6:30-8:00 PM

**Location:** Bray Conservation Area (located on Bridge School Road)

**Cost:** \$20

**Deadline to Register:** Tuesday, April 23

**Register on-line at [www.rollamoparks.org](http://www.rollamoparks.org) or at the  
Parks & Recreation Office (901 N. Elm, Room 306)**



Course being taught by MG & MN Kirsten McIntyre

## Missouri Master Naturalist – Meramec Hills

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### We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.meramechills.org/>  
and

<https://www.facebook.com/MMNMeramecHillsChapter>

## Volunteer Outlets Profile:

### Camp Brim Shire - Volunteer Outlet of the Quarter Workday

The 2019 VOQ Workday at Camp Brim Shire will be on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Work will include helping with prepping camp for opening by clearing paths, weeding, cleaning and other tasks as needed. Bring a lunch and your own tools or use some available from the Camp. For questions, contact Ron Lather at [cavinron@centurytel.net](mailto:cavinron@centurytel.net).

Camp Brim Shire was created in 1980 by Richard and Sherry Hashagen. The Association for Midwest Disadvantaged Youth (AMDY) oversees Camp Brim Shire and is an entirely all-volunteer effort, designated as a 501(c)3 foundation. Armed with \$100, a handful of volunteers, a 40-acre parcel and a vision, the Hashagen's began their journey to bring Camp Brim Shire to life. They strove to create a fully ADA accessible camp to mid-Missouri youth and organizations."

In July 1980, the first visitors arrived: a group of 13 Boy Scouts from Troop 271 of North St. Louis County. These scouts camped with very limited resources, but great enthusiasm for learning. Troop 271 still returns three times a

year. Today Camp Brim Shire serves children to veterans from the nearby Missouri Veterans Home at our fully ADA accessible campus.

Camp Brim Shire serves disabled and disadvantaged youth and adults along with seniors, local military families and many other organizations.

Key to Camp Brim Shire and AMDY's success are the many volunteers who take time to make the Camp Brim Shire experience memorable. Meramec Hills Master Naturalist play an important role at Camp Brim Shire with the various volunteer projects and service hours spent on-site. Other volunteers include civic organizations, local businesses, students from MS&T, scouting groups, military personnel from Fort Leonard Wood and many others.

Camp Brim Shire was designed, built and continues to be operated solely on donations. From 1980 to 1988 Brim Shire was totally free to all children and agencies. Today, the AMDY & Camp Brim Shire continue to operate with no paid employees and 90% of visitors are still able to stay free of cost with the

remainder paying a modest fee of \$2 per day.

Programs offered at Camp Brim Shire are based on conservation, protection and appreciation of wildlife and the outdoors. Brim Shire is a certified wildlife habitat, long-term member of Forest Keepers Network and has been recognized by national, state and local organizations. The camp serves over 4,500 folks in the mid-central Missouri Region each year from Lebanon to St. Louis.

**Update:** *Rich has been caring for Sherry after a series of serious health issues. In 2019, Sherry has spent a month at Barnes in St. Louis, 3 weeks at a rehab home in Cuba and, due to insurance issues, she is now at home although they are struggling to manage her care and finding appropriate home health.*

*They welcome visitors to help engage Sherry and appreciate all the prayers and support from the Master Naturalists. Rich was a founding member of the Meramec Hills Chapter.*

## About the Master Naturalists...

The Missouri Master Naturalist™ program is a community-based natural resource education and volunteer service program for adults sponsored by Missouri Department of

Conservation and the University of Missouri Extension. Our mission is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based

education and volunteer community service. Our chapter is comprised of residents primarily from Phelps, Pulaski and Dent County. Meetings are held once a month in Rolla.

### A High Five to our Members!

Initial Certification: Kirsten McIntyre

2019 Re-Certification: Helen Johnston, Linda Sidwell

Pewter Milestone (500): Virginia Applegate, Helen Johnston

