

February 2019

Meramec Hills

Upcoming Chapter Events

February 25:
Monthly Chapter
Meeting at Land
Survey Building

March 25: Monthly
Chapter Meeting at
Land Survey
Building

April 13: Gardening
with Natives
Workshop at
Wrasmann's

Native Knowledge...

By Pat Perry

House Finch or Purple Finch?

We sometimes confuse these birds when we see them at our feeders. Here are some simple ways to help you identify which one you are seeing.

The first is the time of year in Missouri. House finches are year round residents while purple finches are here only in the winter. Their summer habitat is Boreal Canada.

The second is color. Male house finches are a red or reddish orange color more like a ripe strawberry. Male purple finches are a rosy red more like a raspberry. The color on the male house finch is found on his face, breast and rump.

On the male purple finch, it is on his head, cap, breast, back and rump. The male house finch has two white wing bars whereas the purple finch has rosy color to the wing bars. The female house finch is brown and white with the markings blurred or indistinct. The markings on the female purple finch are more well defined and she has a distinct white eyebrow.

House finches are more likely to be found in city or suburban settings whereas purple finches tend to like open woods or woodland edges.



Photo by: John Benson of Madison, WI

House Finch



Purple Finch

Getting to Know You...Morgan Bearden!

How long have you been in the Rolla area?

Leslie and I moved to Rolla in 1988 due to our jobs. We were working for the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California and were offered an opportunity to move to the Mid-Continent Mapping Center since the Western Mapping Center was scheduled to close.

What got you interested in Master Naturalists?

I have been interested in the natural landscape and environmental issues since childhood. I thought that by taking the Master Naturalist training class that I would learn about the Ozark ecosystem which was new to me.

Tell us about your interests!
Travelling back roads to out of the way destinations and visiting obscure landforms and

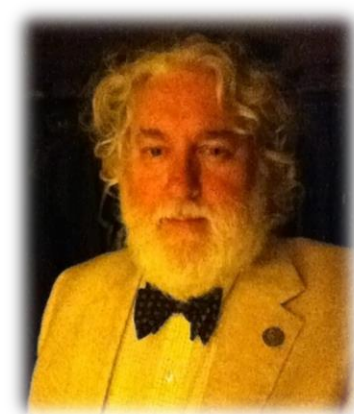
boundary intersections are some of my current interests. Watching people, traffic, wildlife, and the landscape go by are among my favorite pastimes. I had a professor who was fond of saying, "it is the nature of the geographer to observe." He was right.

Tell us about your family, pets, land, etc!

We have two children and a dog. Our older daughter, Emily, works as a graphic designer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Caroline is a social worker at a children's hospital in Kansas City. Tess is an eleven-year-old yellow lab mutt who enjoys managing the wildlife on our wooded homesite a few miles east of Rolla.

What was the last book you read?

I most recently finished *Tennessee Williams: Mad*



Pilgrimage of the Flesh by John Lahr; I very much enjoy the themes and settings of Tennessee Williams' plays. I am currently reading *Annaliese from Off* by Linda Keane Carter. The author was in a Western Literature class I attended at the University of Georgia in 1973...so, why not?

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

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

February

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March

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April

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Upcoming Activities

February 6 (Wednesday)

Core Training Orientation, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). See the article on page 3 for more information.

February 7 (Thursday)

Bray Botanical Collection & Herbarium Project, 9:00-12:00am, Bray CA. Collect, Identify and Press Plant Specimens. For more info, contact pamela.barnabee@gmail.com.

February 19 (Tuesday)

MS&T Observatory Nights: The Moon, 8:30-9:30pm, MS&T Observatory (1550 N. Bishop, Rolla). Due to the moon's incredible brightness on this evening, you will be viewing the moon through a filter. For more info contact, ac62f@mst.edu.

February 21 (Thursday)

Bray Botanical Collection & Herbarium Project, 9:00-12:00am, Bray CA. Collect, Identify and Press Plant Specimens. For more info, contact pamela.barnabee@gmail.com.

February 21 (Thursday)

Woodland Workshop Series: Getting to Know Your Woodland, 6:00-8:00pm, Phelps Co. Extension Office (200 N. Main, Rolla). How has past land use shaped our forest? Learn what you need to know about management plans. This class is geared toward woodland landowners. To register or for more info contact 573-458-6260 or faherty@missouri.edu.

February 25 (Monday)

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

February 28 (Thursday)

Woodland Workshop Series: Managing Your Woodland, 6:00-8:00pm, Phelps Co. Extension Office (200 N. Main, Rolla). What should you do with neglected woodlands? Pine and hardwood management. This class is geared toward woodland landowners. To register or for more info contact 573-458-6260 or faherty@missouri.edu.

March 7 (Thursday)

Woodland Workshop Series: Getting to Know Your Woodland, 6:00-8:00pm, Phelps Co. Extension Office (200 N. Main, Rolla). How has past land use shaped our forest? Learn what you need to know about management plans. This class is geared toward woodland landowners. To register or for more info contact 573-458-6260 or faherty@missouri.edu.

March 12 (Thursday)

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.

March 25 (Monday)

Regular monthly meeting of the Chapter, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). Topic The Four Largest Spring Systems in the Ozarks presented by Bill Duley (Missouri Geological Survey, retired). Social hour & help session for questions regarding activities and entering hours from 5:00-6:00pm.

April 13 (Saturday)

Gardening with Natives Workshop, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Wrasmann Home (1950 Carmel Ct., Rolla). Pat Perry will conduct this workshop on ways to include native plants in your garden. More details to come.

Getting to Know You...Thomas Sawyer!

How long have you been in the Rolla area?

When I was two years old my family moved to Costa Rica where my parents studied Spanish for a year in preparation to be missionaries in Peru. We lived in Peru with brief furloughs back in the US until I returned here (semi)permanently at age 18. Most of that time we live in Iquitos, on the Amazon River. (check it out on Google Earth) Starting in high school, my brother, sister and I commuted to a religious boarding school in Quito, Ecuador, spending summer and Christmas vacations at home the jungle.

I went to college in Santa Barbara and San Francisco, CA and then joined the Army as a private to pay off student loans. After nine years in Explosive Ordnance Disposal

I got a degree in nursing and the Army gave me a commission. When I retired in 2009 I was a Major and a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at Fort Leonard Wood. I met my now wife Becky there and that is how I ended up in Saint James.

What got you interested in Master Naturalists?

I think first heard about MN when I joined the Master Gardeners. Once I had done both, I knew what I was really interested in was native ecology.

Tell us about your interests!

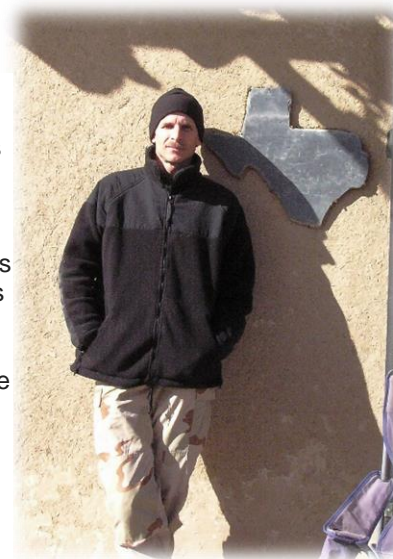
Besides native Ozarks ecology, my main interests are poetry, philosophy and spiritual development. I meditate with the Ishayas here in St James (see theishayafoundation.org).

Tell us about your family, pets, land, etc!

We have 30 acres just across the ravine from the St James Park glade where many of us volunteer a couple times a year. Our property also shares a boundary with our illustrious chapter President Judy Cavender. I am currently working on a 4 to 5-acre glade restoration along the ravine. The last two and a half years I've been building a passive solar, timber frame, light straw-clay house (see Econest.com) while we live in a 700 square foot cabin, both of which are on the property.

What was the last book you read?

I usually read science and the topics I just mentioned but while building the house I haven't really read much beyond how-to-build-a-house



Thomas during his 2006 deployment in Afghanistan where he led a Combat Stress Control detachment.

books. Right now Becky and I are reading "Post-Truth" by Lee McIntyre which I highly recommend to anyone interested in our country's current "state of affairs."

Focus on Nature and Other Things that Matter

Excerpt taken from member Helen Johnston's [Focus on Nature page](#)

...You may think that nature takes a break from beauty in these gray and dormant months...look closer, and you will be surprised at what you will find.

In the conservation area Jim and I visited yesterday, we were surprised at the number of low bushes with bright magenta berries all along our two mile hike.

Coralberry, also known as buckberry and snowberry, is a shrub that grows in open woodlands. In winter this shrub is decorated with clusters of bright pink to dark purple berries, or drupes (remember the dogwood drupes). I love that many of the spent leaves remain on the arching branches, contrasting so amazingly with the color of the berries. The coralberry attracts winter birds as a source of food as well as

for cover, and to serve as good nesting sites. The shrub is prolific as it spreads by runners that grow across the ground, rooting at the nodes where the runners touch the ground surface.

In the bright sunshine the coralberry made for a beautiful winter scene. But if you need more than just one color on your nature palette, keep looking, keep walking, and you will be unable to miss the green of the mosses and lichens. I love them both, and have to admit they are a part of the natural world I know very little about. So, on my to-do list for 2019, I have added them as things about which I need to learn more information...





WOODLAND STEWARDS

A Regional Extension Program for Landowners

*Learn more about your woodlands
Join this course for beginners*

THURSDAYS, 6 TO 8 PM

Phelps County Extension Center, 200 North Main, Rolla, MO

Feb. 21, 2019

Getting to know your woodlands

How has past land use shaped our forests? Why are your woodlands important? Learn what you need to know about management plans.

Feb. 28, 2019

Managing your woodlands

What should you do with neglected woodlands? Pine and hardwood management.

Mar 1-2, 2019

Missouri Woodland Owners Conference

A two-day event to network with resource professionals and fellow woodland owners. Registration required. <https://forestandwoodland.org/70thanniversarycelebration/>

Mar. 7, 2019

Identifying and Managing Woodland Threats

You will learn basic pest principles, be introduced to some common threats, and learn some simple practices to help ensure your woodland remains healthy and productive.

Mar. 14, 2019

Wildlife and Woodlands

Wildlife habitat requirements and enhancing habitat for game and non-game wildlife.

Learn more about how you can take better care of your woodlands in this exciting course! This is the first session of a multi-part course.



For more information and to register, please call or email

Phone 573-458-6260 or email fahertyl@missouri.edu



Extension
University of Missouri

This course is part of a multi-state woodland owner education series

Our chapter was recently informed that at the February 7-8 meeting of the Missouri Conservation Commission, the Education/Outreach division of MDC will be recommending that the Naturalist position at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area be eliminated due to MDC funding issues.

As a result of this recommendation, education programs currently provided by the on-site Naturalist (e.g., Wonderbugs, etc) would end and use of the area by local school groups would likely be negatively impacted.

You can let the commission know your feelings about the issue. Messages can be sent to each of the four Conservation Commissioners at this [link](#) or you can email the Secretary rhonda.maples@mdc.mo.gov and ask for your letter to be forwarded to the Conservation Commissioners.

Missouri Master Naturalist – Meramec Hills

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WEBSITE:
jerry.barnabee@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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

Volunteer Outlets Profile: Public Outreach

Many of the volunteer outlets members regularly serve afford opportunities for interpretation and outreach, in fact they are activities listed under most of the headings on the volunteer outlets page. So exhibiting at community events does not have its own heading but throughout the year there are many opportunities to set up booths, including at Meramec Hills' own event, Evening with Nature. Upcoming events available for direct outreach to the general public include Earth Day Ft. Leonard Wood, Earth Day MS&T, Earth Day in the Garden at Public House Brewery in St. James and Junior Ranger Day at Alley Springs.

- **Earth Day:** Earth Day Ft. Leonard Wood will be held at Nutter Field House on

Friday, April 26. This event will be indoors so weather is not a concern. Contact Pam Barnabee to volunteer to help staff a booth on Stream Critters or Monarchs. The date has not been set for Earth Day MS&T but the Eco Miners are hard at work making plans for the annual event. Watch the Volunteer Opportunities calendar or contact Susan Wrasmann for information. Earth Day in the Garden at Public House Brewery will be held on Saturday, April 20. So far we have one booth, on Monarchs, and we are looking for more to help with this fun event for families.

- **Junior Ranger Day:** This event is organized by National Park Service staff for area schools. Meramec Hills MNs got involved several years ago and have made the annual trek to Alley Spring. Most of the drive is filled with exclamations as spotters identify blooming woodland flowers in the beautiful Ozarks. That is just the beginning of an amazing fun day. Don't miss out! The date will be announced soon but is usually the first Friday in May. Contact either Pam Barnabee or Susan Wrasmann for details and watch the Volunteer Opportunities calendar.



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!

2019 Re-Certification: Arthur Sampe
Bronze Milestone (250 hours): Drew Lane

