

Meramec Hills

Upcoming Chapter Events

June 24: Monthly Chapter Meeting at Land Survey Building

July 21: Executive Board Meeting at Alex's Pizza

July 22: Monthly Chapter Meeting at Land Survey Building

Native Knowledge...

By Pat Perry

Tulip Tree

(Liriodendron tulipifera)

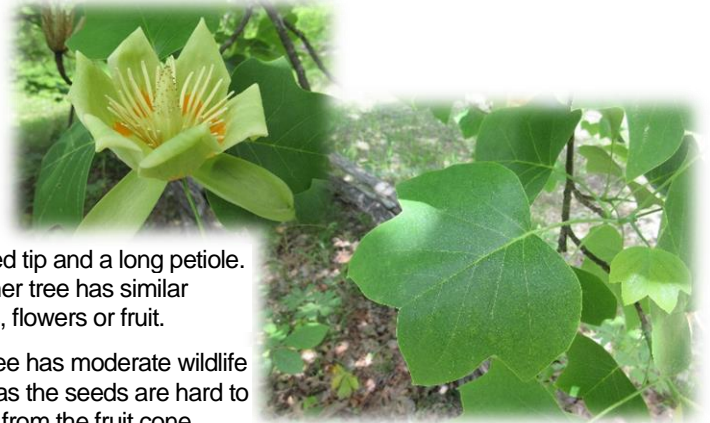
This large tree is the tallest hardwood tree in North American and can grow to 175' tall & live to 400 years. It has an arrow straight trunk and a pyramid shaped crown. It is one of the most valuable timber-producing trees in the eastern US but only grows naturally in southeast Missouri.

The flowers occur in May and June and are large, greenish-yellow with orange banding at the base and shaped like a tulip. The fruit is an upright woody cone 2-3" long & forms in September and October. The leaves are alternate and simple. They are four-lobed with a

notched tip and a long petiole. No other tree has similar leaves, flowers or fruit.

The tree has moderate wildlife value as the seeds are hard to obtain from the fruit cone. White tail deer eat the leaves. Bees do harvest the nectar produced by the flowers.

The tree is more known in Missouri for its ornamental value. It creates a fairly dense shade and has a golden yellow fall color in addition to the spring flowers. It is a fast growing tree.



It is also known as tulip poplar or yellow poplar although it is not a poplar but rather a member of the magnolia family. Early lumbermen gave it this name due to its light weight wood similar to poplars and birches. The wood is used for various things including musical instruments, furniture, cabinets, and veneer.

A New Look for Bray

By Pam Barnabee

A Bray garden group formed last fall, with a mission to renovate the native plant gardens there. Our goal is to create gardens that will demonstrate how beautiful and well-kept a native plant garden can be, when plants are chosen with site conditions in mind and the gardens are regularly maintained. After much planning, four Monday prepping/planting workdays, and with help from the regular once-a-month Bray workday bunch, seven garden areas have been dug up, replanted, and mulched. Cedar rail fence has been added to two of the areas, and redbud trees transplanted to better

locations. Special thanks to MU Extension friends who joined us on our May 14 Bray workday as part of Extension Week activities: Rachel Buenemann & Sarah Havens. If you're interested in joining the garden group, please contact [me](#). Garden maintenance will be ongoing and you can work whatever hours are convenient for you.

Bray is also a great place to see wildflowers, shrubs, and trees in their natural habitats. Helen Johnston is using photos she's taken there to create seasonal brochures that visitors can use to identify and learn more about the plants in bloom. The Spring

brochures have now been replaced with ones featuring a selection of Summer blooms, and you can pick one up from the box at the base of the Bray Loop Trail.

On top of all that, this year's core training class has taken on creation of a "Monarch meadow" at Bray as their capstone project. The meadow will be located across from the parking lot. Once the area is cleared of brambles, trees and other vegetation, it will be seeded and planted in forbs to support Monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Please plan to visit Bray soon to see all the changes!

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

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

June							July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30																				

Upcoming Activities

June 1 (Saturday)

Capstone Project, 8:00am-4:00pm, Bray CA. Join the 2019 Core Training Class as they begin Phase 1 of the Bray Monarch Meadow under the power line near the new parking lot. Bring your own lunch.

June 2 (Sunday)

MS&T Ozark Research Field Station Wetland Restoration, 8:00am. Trimming pasture grass & planting 80 State Nursery wetland tree and shrub seedlings, then mulching to reduce competition while they get started. Come out and bring tools, especially string trimmers, shovels, mulch forks and buckets (to carry mulch). RSVP to Susan at swras@fidmail.com.

June 11 (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.

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.

July 21 (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.

July 22 (Monday)

Regular monthly meeting of the Chapter, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). Topic: Missouri's Native Bees with Dr. Girardo Camilo from St. Louis University. Social hour & help session for questions regarding activities and entering hours from 5:00-6:00pm.

August 26 (Monday)

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

September 21 (Saturday)

Fall Family Fun Day, 10:30am - 3:30pm, Round Spring Campground. Come on out and join the fun with family & friends! Neal Humke of the L-A-D Foundation will lead us on a tour through part of the Pioneer Forest followed by a pot luck lunch. Volunteer Opportunity: TBD

September 23 (Monday)

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

October 28 (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.



Initial Certification was completed by 24 out of the 26 members of the 2019 Core Training Class. Way to go!



Spring Catfish Survey



Little Prairie Conservation Area

WHAT: This Spring Catfish Survey is being conducted by the Meramec Hills Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists at the request of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The Survey will use baited traps at six locations in the Lake. Traps will be retrieved after 1.5 days. Species of fish will be identified and length measured, including turtle catches by species and length.

Nine species of fish are expected to be trapped, two Catfish, (channel and yellow bullhead), and five species of turtles.

WHY: To determine the overall health of the Catfish population in the Lake.

The data will provide input into a statistical analysis of the size and age mix of each species and the number of Catfish spawning at those locations.

The data could indicate that a change in species management is needed.

The data will indicate the relative mix of adults, juveniles, and young which is used for future species management. If the total population of Catfish or the age mix is out of balance, adjustments may be needed. For example, if there are too many adult Catfish, then the harvest limits could be increased to reduce the adult population in the Lake.

Catfish don't have many predators, so a periodic survey is required to determine if management adjustments are needed to keep the population healthy, while providing improved fishing opportunities.

The population target is directly related to the size, depth, and habitat of the Lake.

Learn about how the fish survey went on page 4...



Outdoor Skills Workshop

By Helen Johnston

On May 4, 36 chapter members gathered at Little Prairie Conservation Area for an Outdoor Skills Workshop. It was a cold, gray and drizzly day, but a good time was had by all.

Our two major events were a fish survey conducted by John Johnson and his well-trained staff, and kayak instruction presented by Emily Brown and Mike Sneed.

Both were great, and even those of us who stood and watched learned so much.

The fish survey was conducted for the benefit of MDC, which needs to conduct a survey of this kind periodically. We feel it was a great way for our chapter to aid in the important work done by MDC, and hope to be able to repeat this activity in the future.

Stats for the day:

- 72 fish trapped
- 7 turtles trapped
- 7 fish species recorded included channel catfish, yellow bullhead, black crappie, white crappie, green sunfish, redear sunfish, carp
- 3 fish species not recorded included largemouth bass, bluegill, and longear sunfish
- No fish or turtles were trapped at trap #1

- A single 30" carp was trapped at trap #5
- 3 turtle species (common snapping, red-eared slider, and northern map)
- Mortality was 1 small redear sunfish and 3 turtles

The kayak instruction was helpful to those of us who are thinking about trying out the sport, as well as providing important pointers to help us be successful from the time we go to the store, or online, to purchase a kayak.

As we reviewed the event, noting lessons learned and ideas for the future...one lesson stood out above all the rest. The AT Committee chairman is no longer allowed to suggest a date for future workshops, as she has

already taken us outdoors on one of the hottest days of 2018, then followed it up with one of the grayest, coldest, and most drizzly days this spring!

The Advanced Training Committee encourages everyone to check for announcements for future outdoor skill workshops in coming months.



Missouri Master Naturalist – Meramec Hills

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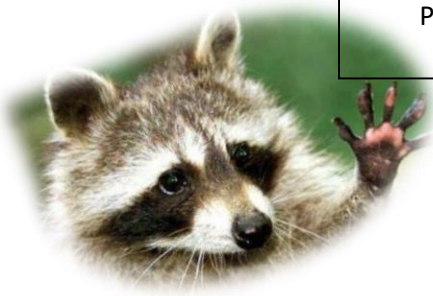
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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



Volunteer Outlets Profile: Your Project

Through the Missouri Master Naturalist program, you have been introduced to many places and events where you can practice natural resource stewardship, nature interpretation, or citizen science projects.

But let's say you've seen a need and have an idea for a new project that interests you. What are the steps you need to take to make sure your project can be used for Master Naturalist volunteer hours?

First, review the list of pre-approved volunteer opportunities on the.

Volunteer Service Outlets page of our Chapter website. From the home page, you can select either "Help Wanted" or "Members Area" and then select the link to "Volunteer Service Outlets." This page has a list of all the outlets and activities where Chapter members are currently volunteering. You can click on each link to go to a description of the activity, information on resources or training you would need, and a point of contact. Is the project you are considering already on the pre-approved list?

If not, you should fill out a New

Project Approval Form. This is an electronic form that you access either from the Volunteer Service Outlets or Help Wanted webpages. The form goes to the members of the Volunteer Committee, who will determine if your proposed project meets the criteria for Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer hours. Keep in mind that you must receive approval before any of your hours will count! If approved, your project will be added to the "My Applications -> Volunteer Events" menu for entering volunteer hours.

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: Marcia Baumgartner, Hairl Dayton, Carrie Dayton

2019 Re-Certification: Leslie Bearden, Nancy Grandgeorge, Jerry Barnabee, Conway Hawn, Terry Pilkenton

Bronze Milestone (250): Leslie Bearden

Pewter Milestone (500): Tom Schlauch