

Meramec Hills

Upcoming Chapter Events

March 25: Monthly Chapter Meeting at Land Survey Building

April 6: VOQ Workday at Camp Brim Shire

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

Hematite

Hematite is one of the most abundant minerals on the Earth's surface and in the shallow crust. It is iron oxide with the chemical composition Fe₂O₃. It's variable in appearance. The color can range from red to brown to gray to black. The luster varies from earthy to metallic. Whatever its appearance, it will always produce a reddish streak when rubbed on paper. This is one easy identifying characteristic. It is also not magnetic.

Hematite has a wide variety of uses. The most important is iron ore. It is also used to produce pigments, gem materials, healing stones, radiation shielding and ballast.

The photo is of kidney ore hematite. Some hematite

precipitates in cavities and forms what is called an unrestricted habit. Kidney ore is one type and it is named for its visual appearance to an internal organ. This type of hematite has a higher purity than other forms and that makes it the best for making pigments. This specimen was found on our property in Phelps County. It is 5" long and 3" high.

This is the iron ore that was produced at Maramec Iron Works near St. James. The story is that the Mr. James saw Native Americans with red paint on their faces and asked where they obtained the materials to make the paint. The Native Americans were using a pigment made from hematite and they



offered to show him where the pigment came from and that is how the iron deposit was discovered. Maramec Iron Works was the first commercially viable one established in the United States west of the Mississippi River. It produced ore from 1827-1876. During the Civil War, it produced iron used for cannonballs and James B. Eads gunships which were built in St. Louis.

It's Turtle Time!!

By Emily Brown

It's time once again for the annual Missouri Spring turtle survey! So, join other Master Naturalists & citizen scientists throughout Missouri with this important (and fun) survey.

The Missouri Spring Turtle Cruising begins on April 1 and ends on June 30 every year.

The survey is technically called, cruising, which means a quick evaluation. The Spring Turtle Cruising is an important tool for the MDC's State Herpetologist, Dr. Jeff Briggler. The data is used in part to assess the health of Missouri's turtle populations. Dr. Briggler provided our Chapter with a 2019 status report on Missouri's turtles: "Most turtle species in Missouri appear to be stable, except for some of Missouri's

State Endangered turtle species. Unfortunately, loss of habitat and fragmentation (of habitat) has been the primary threat for most turtle species. Also, last year (2018), the Department ended commercial turtle harvest in the State that will further add in keeping Missouri's more common species still common."

Two documents (click on the links) provide instructions on [HOW](#) to do the cruising and the [FORM](#) to use. As data collectors, remember, it is just as important to record dates when you DO NOT see any turtles, as dates when you do see living or dead turtles.

So why is the annual data important?

Missouri's turtles have been



declining in numbers for many years. They prefer stable habitat conditions for long periods of time, have a long lifespan, and a low reproductive rate. Factors contributing to the considerable decline include: habitat destruction, pesticide poisoning, predation, disease, and collection for pet trade and for food (every heard of turtle soup?).

Every year thousands of turtles are killed on Missouri's roads and highways by vehicles. Sadly, some motorists deliberately run...

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

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

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

April

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May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Upcoming Activities

March 5 (Tuesday)

Composting Workshop, 7:00pm, Rolla Technical Institute (1304 E. 10th, Rolla). Learn from Stan Slaughter about the secret synergies of compost! For more information, contact Jill Hollowell from MRPC at 573-265-2993.

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 (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.

March 14 (Thursday)

MS&T Workday, 8:15am-11:45pm, Bray CA/The Centre. Join in and help with MS&T students during their day of service as they work to maintain new native plant beds and other areas in preparation for spring. To help with the group at Bray, contact pamela.barnabee@gmail.com and to help with the group at the Centre, contact swras@fidmail.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.

March 28 (Thursday)

MONPS Hike, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Beaver Creek (Hwy 63, 3 miles south of Rolla). Join the Paradox MONPS group in a hike of Beaver Creek looking for spring ephemerals. Contact Pam for more information at pamela.barnabee@gmail.com.

March 31 (Sunday)

Big Piney Stream Team Watershed Association Meeting, 1:00 – 5:00, Piney River Brewing Company (15194 Walnut Grove, Bucyrus). Enjoy pizza, drinks and learn about "Missouri Riparian Boundaries and Issues" with Dick Elgin. For questions, contact swras@fidmail.com.

April 2 (Tuesday)

Native Plant Sale Workday, 9:00am – 11:00am, John & Emily's home. Pot up 200 bare root shrubs from nursery and mulch in for May 11 sale. For more information contact Susan Wrasmann at swras@fidmail.com.

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.

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.

April 13 (Saturday)

Bray Day Celebration with Gardening with Natives Workshop, 9:00am - 4:00pm, Bray CA. See page 5 for more details.

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Getting to Know You... Kirsten McIntyre!

How long have you been in the Rolla area?

My husband and I moved to Phelps county in 2001 from Christchurch, New Zealand.

What got you interested in Master Naturalists?

I heard about the MN from Leslie Bearden and it echoed the family culture which my Dad had been instilling in us all our lives on our 7th generation family farm. The Core Class topics were fascinating to me and they didn't let me down.

Tell us about your interests!

I have just finished my degree in landscape design and am obsessively gathering local plant knowledge and doing designs. Just throwing in a big thanks to Susan Wrassman and Pat Perry for their wildflower expertise.

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

I have big landscaping plans with my husband Andrew and two boys Finn (15) and Taite (13) when the ground thaws but don't know how this is going to play out. I am hoping their need to eat will work in my favor. Soccer has dominated our lives up till now but with High School soccer in the fall this has eased the weekend commitments. Since we have just less than an acre in Rolla it will be easy for you to see the evidence come summer.

What was the last book you read?

The last book I read (that wasn't about gardening) was 'Death in Yellowstone' by Lee H. Whittlesey, in my defense his was recommended by the lady in the Yellowstone

bookstore and this follows on from my enjoyable previous reading experiences- 'The Loop' By Nicholas Evans, an ideology of integrating wolves into Yellowstone area, and 'Yellowstone Ranger: Stories from a life in Yellowstone' written by the ranger himself Jerry Mernin - both excellent, thought provoking reads. I only mention the last two books to give you an idea of how I am building up from girl hiking in land of literally nothing can hurt you (New Zealand) to hiking in Missouri - we use to have big things that could hurt you and a friend saw a mountain lion on a game cam once....to walking in Yellowstone clapping, laughing and talking loudly. The detailed writing in 'Death in Yellowstone' made me feel



as if I was there, I was terrified and couldn't sleep at all after reading the first story. Not bedtime reading for the intelligent readers but definitely recommended to those people who would ignore the signs and sit on the rocks over Yellowstone Canyon or walk up to a bison for a close photo or tent overnight by a strawberry patch. Knowledge is key right?

Turtle, continued

Continued from page 1...

over them. Some wildlife biologists believe that most types of wildlife populations are not as severely affected by road kills; the exception is for reptiles and amphibians. There are research models that show some turtle species cannot continue to survive if losses of adult turtles continue. Dr. Briggler notes that "Box turtles did not evolve amid thousands of miles of

busy highway. We don't know very much about how highway mortality will affect their long-term survival, but the implications of our casual observations are worrisome. Animals with low reproductive potential usually cannot sustain the sort of continuing mortality that we see on our roads."

So why does the turtle cross (or lay-on) the road? Like

other reptiles, turtles are cold-blooded, which means they cannot heat-up their own bodies and must rely on the warmth of the sun. Asphalt and pavement heat up quicker than the surrounding ground and provide a warm place for reptiles and amphibians to bask on. By the numbers of turtles seen on Missouri roads, they seem to like this convenient warm location,

except for those pesky vehicles.

Turtles are some of the oldest living groups of reptiles on earth. Turtle fossils have been found that date to over 200 million years ago. There are approximately 260 species of turtles in the world, and Missouri has 17 of those.

Sources: MDC & US Army Corps of Engineers

What we know about Asian longhorned ticks in the U.S.

- In other countries, bites from these ticks can make people and animals seriously ill. As of October 2, 2018, no harmful germs have been found in the ticks collected in the United States. Research is ongoing.
- Researchers are looking for these ticks to find out where they live.
- As of October 2, 2018, longhorned ticks have been found in Ark., Conn., Md., N.C., N.J., N.Y., Pa., Va., W.Va.

What you should do if you think you have found an Asian longhorned tick

- [Remove](#) any tick from people and animals as quickly as possible.
- Save the ticks in rubbing alcohol in a jar or a ziplock bag, then:

Contact your local [Extension Office](#). To learn more, click [here](#).

Asian Longhorned Tick



Nymph and adult female, top view.

Cool Caves for Summer

By Terry Pilkenton

I guide Photo Cave Tours at Onondaga Cave State Park once a month during their open season. We tour Cathedral Cave from 9am to Noon and then Onondaga Cave from 1pm to 4pm.

As a volunteer we guide the guest thru the caves, answer any questions they may have, point out special features, and help them any way to ensure they get good photos of the cave.

Cathedral Cave is a ¼ mile hike to the cave and it is unlit. So we hold flashlights or any other light they may be using. Onondaga Cave has electric so we can turn off & on lights for them as needed.

It is a Wonderful way to spend a HOT Missouri summer day. The

dates I will be guiding tours are:

April 28---Sunday
May 18---Saturday
June 23---Sunday
July 27---Saturday
August 18---Sunday
September 21---Saturday
October 6---Sunday

Other Naturalist are welcome to come help with the tours. I never know how many people I will have in advance. The dates and times are on the [Parks](#) website and on [Onondaga Friends Association](#) site as well.

If you'd like to assist with a tour or learn more, contact new Chapter member Terry Pilkenton at terry@pilkenton.net

Core Training Orientation

By Lorely Lather

Our formal presentation was short. Judy Cavender welcomed them. Pat Perry presented an overview of Master Naturalists and opened the room to questions. We had an enthusiast group although not a lot of questions!

Pam Barnabee and Judith Dudley displayed Stream Team activities and Citizen Science projects were displayed by Emily Brown. People gathered around displays, enjoyed the snacks and talked to each other. We easily ended by 8 PM.

Leslie Bearden and Lorely Lather obtained signatures on background check and liability release forms and clarified

enrollment questions. At the start of the evening we had 26 enrollments and placed 3 on a waiting list. The next day, 2 people withdrew and we were able to include those waiting. A further enrollment clarification gave us one more for a total of 28 students.

Admittedly a large class, we are happy with such intense interest and look forward to bringing this group into our Chapter.

Classes start March 6th and conclude May 22nd with graduation. Mark that date--May 22nd--and plan to join us in welcoming the students when they complete core training.

Upcoming Activities, cont.

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.

April 22 (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.

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.

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.

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 at swras@fidmail.com.

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.

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.

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:
Bray Day Celebration!**

On Saturday, April 13, Meramec Hills Chapter will invite the public to a day of nature-related displays, activities, and crafts plus a Gardening with Native Plants workshop at Bray CA. The day will mark (almost!) twenty years of conservation education programs there.

Bray CA was established in 1995 when Mrs. Marguerite Bray donated to MDC 131 acres of land and \$175,000 for the purpose of "providing the residents of Rolla and the surrounding area with an increased opportunity for natural resource interpretive and outdoor education services". The property included two spring-fed ponds, a year-round creek, 90 acres of forested hills with remnant savanna and glade habitats, a sinkhole, a residence, garage, and large storage shed. A part-time naturalist position was authorized in 1998, and the current Bray Naturalist, Connie Schmiedeskamp, was hired in January, 2000. We were disappointed to learn, at our January chapter meeting, that MDC plans to eliminate Connie's position as well as

the Education Consultant/Outdoor Skills Specialist position, located in the Rolla Office, that serves schools in the surrounding six counties. There are also unconfirmed reports that the former Bray family residence, now used for meetings, workshops, and storage, will be torn down.

Refusing to accept these plans as irreversible, our chapter's executive board has chosen to respond with a positive message: that local outreach and education services provided by MDC are vital to our community. With our Bray Day celebration, we hope to bring together families, schoolchildren, teachers, Boy and Girl Scouts, hikers, and all who have enjoyed Bray over the years, as well as those who haven't yet discovered its attractions. Here's how you can help get that message across:

- Volunteer to lead a family-friendly activity or bring a display for the morning and/or afternoon of the event. It will be open to the public from 10am to 3pm.
- Volunteer to help where

needed. We'll need greeters to direct visitors to the different activities, to mind the guest register and encourage visitors to add comments, to assist in the Nature Discovery Area, hand out brochures for the self-guided Tree ID Trail, point out the route of the Animal Tracks Trail, help with other activities, etc., etc.

- Spread the word: encourage your friends and neighbors to come to the event. Post on [social media](#). Put up a [flyer](#).
- Come yourselves and bring your families. Don't miss out on the workshop, Gardening with Natives, that will be presented by Pat Perry and Susan Wrasmann!

Contact Pam at pamela.barnabee@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

Remember, log your hours as you help with this event under "Chapter Interpretation & Outreach" -> "Nature Workshops" -> "Marguerite Bray CA".

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: Alice Sampe, Susan Wrasmann, Pat Perry
Polished Gold with Diamond Milestone (5000): Susan Wrasmann

