

May 2019

Meramec Hills

Upcoming Chapter Events

May 4: Outdoor Skills Workshop at Little Prairie CA

May 11: Native Plant Sale at Rolla Downtown Farmer's Market

May 22: Core Training Graduation at Bray

June 24: Monthly Chapter Meeting at Land Survey Building

July 15: Executive Board Meeting at Alex's Pizza

Native Knowledge...

By Pat Perry

Hoary Puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*)

This spring to early summer blooming wildflower grows to a height of 8 to 18 inches. The alternate leaves and stem are covered with hairs that give it a gray-green appearance as well as the name "hoary".

The flowers are an orange-yellow 1/2 inch across with five lobes. The flowers are replaced by four nutlets that turn white when fully ripened. The plant re-produces by self-seeding. The seeds are difficult to germinate so it has not become



a favorite of the nursery industry despite its striking appearance. The white nutlets were used by some Native Americans as a sacred bead in some ceremonies.

The plants are common in prairies, savannahs, rocky woodlands and dolomite glades. They are found throughout the Ozarks.



The common name "puccoon" comes from an Algonquin word meaning 'used as a pigment'. The woody taproot provides a red dye used in pottery, basketry and human ornamentation.

Graduation Approaching for Class of 2019

Although there will be no Chapter meeting in May, there is an occasion to get together. The Meramec Hills Core Training Committee invites all chapter members to meet and greet the 26 new chapter interns who will complete training Wednesday, May 22nd, at Bray Conservation Area. Mentors are especially urged to attend and welcome

their mentored students.

From 6:00-7:00 the students will hear Libby Sanders describing the Art of Interpretation inside the Bray house. When they exit at 7:00, our graduation celebration will begin, so you may wish to arrive about 6:30-6:45. Syd Hime and Sarah Havens will join us for the

evening. The 2019 Class capstone project will be announced. Cake and snacks will be shared.

Please join us for this celebration.

Lorely Lather & Leslie Bearden,
Co-Chairs of Core Training
Committee

On April 8th, Pat Perry gave a presentation on gardening with natives to Chapter members at Bray ahead of the Bray Day celebration.



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

[https://www.facebook.com/
MMNMeramecHillsChapter](https://www.facebook.com/MMNMeramecHillsChapter)

May							June							July						
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
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Upcoming Activities

May 4 (Saturday)

Outdoor Skills Workshop, 9:00am – 2:00pm, Little Prairie CA. Watch the fish survey, enjoy wildflower hikes, scavenger hunts, a bag lunch break and volunteer trash clean up afterwards. Bring camp chairs, insect repellent, and drinking water. Email Helen Johnston for questions at slvrhawk@embarqmail.com.

May 5 (Sunday)

Big Piney Tie Rafters ST Float Trip, 9:30-4:00pm, Big Piney River. Float a 6 ½-mile stretch & monitor water quality at 4 sites along the way. This will be an hour's drive from Rolla & is subject to postponement in the event of forecasted rain or unsafe river conditions. Email Pam (pamela.barnabee@gmail.com) to get more details or to be added to the email list for future trips.

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.

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 18 (Saturday)

Kids Fishing Day, 9:00am-2:00pm, Meramec Spring Park. Help is needed with the many activities offered to the hundreds of children that attend this annual event. See the email for more details and contact Rachelle at MDC (573-368-2225 or email Rachelle.Kirkwood@mdc.mo.gov).

May 22 (Wednesday)

Core Training Graduation, Bray CA. Join us as we congratulate and welcome the 2019 Core Training Class graduates to the Chapter! See page 1 for more details.

May 22 (Wednesday)

MDC Wild Webcast: Weird Wildlife, 12:00-1:00pm. Learn interesting facts about odd animals and ask your questions! Register in advance for the MDC Wild Webcast on Weird Wildlife at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZNs and view the live webcast.

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 15 (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.

Upcoming Activities, cont.

July 24 (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.

Did you know...

By Lorely Lather

Things have changed in our Chapter—things about our technology and management, important things to help our efforts run smoothly. But, they happened in the background so you may not have heard.

The first thing changed is that our Chapter purchased a laptop computer. The Executive Board realized that we could no longer use the State computer in the Mozarkite Conference Room and that we had to borrow MDC's laptop for any Chapter events at different locations. We realized we needed our own.

The second thing changed is Building Hosts. Ron Lather retired in February leaving Mark Gordon as the only Host from MO DNR. But, Misty Perry is now completing core training, once again giving us two.

In the past, management of the Conference Room computer was part of the responsibility of the Building Hosts and PowerPoints had to be sent to Ron or Mark as an attachment. That is no longer necessary. Speakers can bring their presentation on a

thumb drive or flash drive.

And finally, Misty has been holding our new laptop at her desk during core training. But by the end of May, either Helen Johnson (as Advance Training Chair) or Susan Wrassman (as Volunteer Chair) will hold the laptop at one of their homes to be brought to Chapter meetings or picked up by Chapter members as needed.

Now you know. Changes and improvements keep coming when we grow as a Chapter.



**MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**



Bray Workday Update

By Pam Barnabee

Workdays at Bray CA convene on the second Tuesday of each month in Spring and Fall. Typically, we work on natural resource stewardship projects: invasive species control, habitat maintenance/restoration, and trail improvements. We also spend some time maintaining the nature discovery area, the area where children can climb, dig, build, and otherwise experience nature through play. Members are alerted to upcoming workdays through the newsletter, the chapter website's volunteer

opportunities calendar, and emails to the members mailing list.

In the month of April, weather conditions once again allowed us to do a small burn. We also worked to remove tall goldenrod from one of the plant beds, built split rail fence, and installed a new discovery table in the play area. Another of the Core Training Class joined the Bray Bunch this month: welcome, Janet Miller!



Bray Day: Celebrating 20 Years of Nature Education

By Pam Barnabee

When it appeared that Marguerite Bray Conservation Area, one of our favorite places, was in jeopardy, our Chapter Executive Board held a special meeting to plan a course of action. One suggestion was to hold a special event to demonstrate the importance of Bray CA to our community. Plans for the April 13 "Bray Day" came together very quickly after that, with so many volunteers to lead activities, bring displays, plan, publicize, and help out wherever needed.

The theme was "Celebrating 20 Years of Nature Education," and visitors to Bray that day had a wonderful assortment of activities and displays to explore. Scavenger hunts and wildflower walks encouraged both children and adults to look more deeply at the natural world around them. The Gardening with Natives Workshop educated on the why's and how's of using native plants in our landscapes. Crafts included several options for incorporating nature into artwork, such as using plant-based paints to create a watercolor masterpiece or smashing leaves and flowers with a mallet to transfer their color to a piece of cloth. Children could also

decorate a gourd and take it home to hang as a birdhouse. Displays on a diverse array of topics attracted curious visitors who then engaged with the exhibitors to discover even more. The displays were Trees Inside & Out-Forestkeepers; Mammal Furs; Geological Map of Missouri-Rocks, Minerals, & Fossils; Invasive Plants; and Insects (including stream critters collected that morning at Bray).

Distinguished visitors to Bray Day included Don Mayhew, State Representative for the 121st district; Kyle Lairmore, MDC Outreach & Education Division; and Ben and Andrew Sheeley from the Phelps County Focus newspaper. Total attendance was estimated at 75-80. Thirteen of the individuals or families who signed our guestbook said this was the first time they had been to Bray. Despite several other events, forecasted rain and cooler temperatures, it was a successful outreach event: we introduced people to Bray, they experienced nature in new ways, and everyone had a good time. Thank you to all the Chapter members who made our first Bray Day a terrific one!



Earth Day 2019

By Pam Barnabee

FLW held their Earth Day event on Friday, April 26, 9:00-1:00, and during that time one thousand school kids came through. (I'm not exaggerating - they asked all the schools they contacted to RSVP so they'd know the number to expect.) Nancy Grandgeorge, Carolyn Schlauch, and I manned the Missouri Master Naturalist-

Stream Team display with live stream critters and a banner explaining which critters are sensitive, somewhat tolerant, or tolerant of pollution along with preserved critter specimens in jars and a presentation showing that out of all the water in the world, only 5 drops of every gallon is water we can use.

Not sure what's happening in this picture but I think it's safe to say we made an impression on her!



Paradoxa Walkabout

By Pam Barnabee

March 28 is technically a week into Spring, but possibly premature for scheduling a spring ephemeral walk - at least it was this year at Beaver Creek CA in Phelps County. But when we're not distracted by those delicate spring blooms, we find ourselves taking a closer look at what else there is to see. Our investigations began before we had even left the parking lot. Why do some red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), like the one at the edge of the lot, have an orange cast while others don't? On taking a closer look, we found that the color came from the cones (that had fortunately already shed most of their pollen) lining the branches of this male specimen of the dioecious species. Our next observation was a brown twiggy shrub that had no leaves but was covered with yellow buds, some bursting open to reveal their yellow fuzziness: spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). Two other thorny shrubs were leafing out but had no flowers: the Missouri native, gooseberry (*Ribes missouriense*), and non-native multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). We started to see

patches of grasslike leaves coming up through the leaf litter, and finally found leaves with a stem and white bud attached: spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*). The distinctive leaves of toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*) were also abundant. One of our group finally spotted a fullfledged bloom that most of us had walked on past: the well-camouflaged trout lily (*Erythronium albidum*) with its mottled leaves. It appeared to be one-of-a-kind until we looked a little closer and saw the trail of flowers winding up the hillside. Taking a closer look...a useful habit for students of botany.



[Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi - Implications for Management and Conservation Planning](#)

May 7, 2019 1:00 pm

Gain a more in-depth knowledge of the role of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in the soil ecosystem, and what management practices will result in healthier soil and ecosystems leading to a well-functioning microbial community in the soil.

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:
Citizen Science**

A citizen scientist is a member of the public who engages in scientific work such as data collection in collaboration with or under the direction of a scientist or scientific institution. With the power of the Internet, the possibilities for projects are exploding and whole websites, such as Zooniverse, are devoted to connecting citizens with scientists or scientific research. Sometimes large networks are engaged in doing this work, making it possible for scientists to collect data that would be too

expensive or time consuming otherwise. This collaboration can be rewarding to both the citizen scientist and the researcher.

The Chapter website lists several ongoing citizen science projects under the heading "Wildlife Surveys and Data Collection" but you are not limited to those. Any member can submit a volunteer project approval request online. New projects should be connected to Missouri natural resources but can be national in scope.



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: Bob Perry, Edie Starbuck, Pam Barnabee
Bronze Milestone (250): Anna Ulrich
Pewter Milestone (500): Nancy Grandgeorge

