

Meramec Hills

Upcoming Chapter Events

September 7: Fall Native Plant Sale, Birding & Pollinator Festival at Audubon Trails Nature Center

September 21: Fall Family Fun Day at Round Springs Campground

September 23: Monthly Chapter Meeting at Land Survey Building

October 5: VOQ Workday at Truman Elementary

Native Knowledge...

By Pat Perry

Does Missouri Have Poinsettias?

We are all familiar with Christmas poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*). They appear in Missouri shortly after Thanksgiving in foil wrapped pots at florists or garden centers. They are native to Mexico and do not thrive outdoors here.

However, there are two native plants related to that poinsettia that do grow in Missouri. The first is commonly known as toothed spurge or green poinsettia (*Euphorbia dentata*). It is an annual, with toothed leaves and hairy stems. Its leafy bracts are green or white at the base. The flowers are the green round items in the center of the bracts. It grows in full sun and mesic to dry conditions.

The second is commonly known as Fire on the Mountain



or wild poinsettia (*Euphorbia cyathophora*). It is an annual as well with thinner leaves. It has red toward the base of the bracts. It prefers sun and a moister soil.

Both of these plants are members of the Spurge family and are considered herbs. Bees, wasps and butterflies visit them for their nectar. The sphinx moth eats the leaves of the plants. Toothed spurge is considered a weed by



Missouri Extension as it often appears in pastures.

Both are currently blooming in the Ozarks.

New Species of Beetle Discovered in New York City

USFS Press Release

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service scientists recently discovered a new species of jewel beetle while surveying trees in The Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

Agency scientists from the Eastern Region's State and Private Forestry program were working on a large-scale survey of urban arboreta to look for invasive insect species when the beetle was discovered. Green-Wood Cemetery is an accredited arboretum and was chosen as a study site due to its diversity and abundance of rare and non-

native trees and shrubs as well as its proximity to a major shipping port of entry. The scientists worked cooperatively with Green-Wood staff to collect samples of trees as they were pruned. While analyzing collected samples, scientists discovered they had found a species of beetle that is new to science.

The new species will be formally named and described at a later date, but the beetle is currently being called *Agrilus* sp. 9895. DNA analysis of the new beetle suggests it originally came

from Europe, though it has not yet been detected there. Although *Agrilus* has the most species of any genus of animal on the planet, new species are typically discovered in relatively unexplored tropical areas. According to Forest Health Technician Marc DiGirolomo, "It's very surprising to discover a new species in New York City. *Agrilus* 9895 traveled halfway around the world to be discovered in Green-Wood."

The beetles emerged from a wood sample pruned from a European beech tree & ...

Continued on page 5

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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

September

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October

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November

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Upcoming Activities

September 4 (Wednesday)

[Webinar - A New Pest: The Spotted Lanternfly](#), 12:00pm - 1:00pm. Learn what you can do to help slow the spread & how to report sightings of this invasive pest outside of the quarantine zone. For more info, contact karilynnlane@gmail.com.

September 7 (Saturday)

Fall Native Plant Sale, Birding & Pollinator Festival, 8:00am - 1:00pm, Audubon Trails Nature Center. Volunteer and get some great AT with speakers, hikes and demonstrations of all kinds. See page 3 for detailed events flyer.

September 10 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00pm - 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.

September 14 (Saturday)

Centre Workday, 8:00am - Noon, Centre (1200 Holloway St, Rolla). Come help guide MS&T Students as we work to clean up the pollinator beds. Share tool and knowledge of native plants with students. If your able to help, contact swras@fidmail.com.

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 to follow.

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 5 (Saturday)

VOQ Workday: Truman Clean Up, 8:00am - Noon, Truman Outdoor Classroom. Join parents & teachers as we remove invasives and work to tidy up the outdoor classroom for the new school year. See the article on page 4 for more info.

October 8 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00pm - 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.

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.

November 12 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00pm - 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.

November 25 (Monday)

Regular monthly meeting of the Chapter, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). Topic: Show & Tell (bring your favorite book, tools, etc to show & tell). Social hour & help session for questions regarding activities and entering hours from 5:00-6:00pm.

December 10 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00pm - 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.

FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE, BIRDING & POLLINATOR FESTIVAL

September 7, 2019

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Audubon Trails Nature Center



Jill Marie Eoff

SPEAKERS

Mitch Leachman, St. Louis Audubon - Build Your Own Bird Sanctuary 11:00 am

Sarah Havens, Univ. of MO Extension - Invasive Plants 9:45 am

Colleen Smith, Turtle Earth Healing & Arts - "Missouri Medicinal Plants" TBD

ACTIVITIES

- Birding Walks 8:15, 9:45 am
- Wildflower Walks 8:30, 10:00 am
- Nature Photography 9:00 am
- Medicinal Plants Walk 11:00 am (subject to change)
- Stone Painting 9:00 am to noon
- Coloring for Kids 8:00 am, while supplies last
- Face Painting 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Hummingbird Banding 11:00 to 1:00 pm



Fall Volunteer Outlet of the Quarter Workday: Truman Outdoor Classroom

By Pat Perry

The Meramec Hills Chapter has been asked to provide advice and assistance on the removal of invasive plants from the Truman Elementary School Outdoor Classroom. The school is located at 1001 18th St in Rolla. The Outdoor Classroom is a 7-acre area behind the school. It has a pond, small prairie planting and woodland. It has been overrun with Japanese and bush honeysuckle, privet and some poison ivy.

The new principal (Dr. Mandy Welch) and PTO president (Gina Root) would like to see the area utilized for nature activities for the students. They have set October 5 as Clean Up Day. It will run from 8:00 am until noon. They are inviting parents, teachers and us to

help on that day. Activities planned include invasive removal and treatment, sign maintenance, spreading gravel/mulch and hanging bird houses and feeders.

If you are interested in helping, you can come for 1 hour or all four. Please bring work gloves and your favorite tools. Truman does have rakes, loppers, pruners, shovels and wheelbarrows. Parking is on the east side of the school and then you walk across the playground and down to the classroom.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Pat Perry) at 573-364-8440 or email perryrpinridge@embarqmail.com.



****This event has been chosen as the Volunteer Outlet of the Quarter Workday, so mark your calendars and come on out to help tidy up this great outdoor space!**



Dry Fork #3713 Summer Stream Team Monitoring

By Judith Dudley

Six members of the Dry Fork team came together to perform the summer monitoring on our three sites.

The weather was perfect and we were contented being out there by the stream doing what we were trained for. Up to now it was very difficult to do any testing. We accomplished water discharge, chemistry and macroinvertebrates in June which is late to begin. And now we have completed discharge, chemistry and visual survey. Our

Site 5 was changed visually. Gravel had been removed from the outer bed surface, however we don't think the usual stream bed has been disturbed. In fact, our struggle to get to the site was much easier due to the leveling.

We planned for one and a half days to do the work but we went on to our farthest Site #1 and finished before noon. Tired and on-course now, we go on to something else.



Additionally, we are allowed to mentor members on procedures and did mentor one member on chemical testing for the August testing.

Thank you all,
Susan, Leslie, Morgan, Helen,
Phyllis & Judith

September AT Focuses on Night Skies and Nature

By Susan Wrasmann

The presenter for the September Chapter meeting will be Don Ficken, president of the Missouri Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association. Don is a retired business executive whose passion for protecting our night sky from light pollution grew out of his love for nature and the science of astronomy. His description of the program he will present: For billions of years, all life has relied on Earth's predictable rhythm of day and night. It's encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. Humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night. Don will talk about the impact of light pollution on wildlife and ecosystems, energy waste, human health, and our night sky, IDA's global effort to reduce light pollution and our Missouri Chapter's plans to protect our night skies for present and future

generations. His talk will also include a brief review of the upcoming 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, which will cross southeast Missouri. He will discuss an exciting program launched in St. Louis where amateur astronomers partnered with the St. Louis Audubon Society to place over 100 binoculars kits into libraries for checkout like a book.

That same week, on Friday, September 27, at 7:30, the chapter will offer a citizen science star magnitude viewing workshop at Bray CA. A brief classroom session will be followed by a "Globe at Night" session on the Bray lawn. Globe at Night is an international citizen-science campaign to raise public awareness of the impact of light

pollution by inviting citizen-scientists to measure and submit their night sky brightness observations. This will be "naked eye" astronomy; no telescopes or binoculars needed! Please bring a chaise lounge or blanket for comfortable viewing of the sky overhead. If you have a planisphere bring it, but "Uncle Al's Hands-On Universe Sky Wheels" will be provided. There will be red lens flashlights to borrow to keep your eyes adjusted to the darkness so you can make accurate measurements. We will be looking up at the stars to identify the constellation overhead for September, Cygnus, counting the stars that are visible and comparing to a chart of magnitude to estimate the light pollution at that location. Results can be recorded on a smartphone app or computer.



Beetle, continued...

were then found on additional trees during subsequent surveys of European beech in the arboretum. European beech are native to Europe and are commonly planted in the United States as ornamentals. The beetles cause damage to the outer twigs of the trees but do not appear to cause tree mortality.

In order to gain a better understanding of the range and host preferences of this and other wood-boring beetles, the Forest Service is funding a new three-year survey of trees throughout Green-Wood and the greater Brooklyn area, including Prospect Park. Forest Health staff will focus on trees in the beech family, which also includes oak and chestnut trees. Surveyors will examine trees that appear to be stressed and then collect branch samples for further analysis and rearing.

Forest Health staff with the Forest Service's Eastern Region work with states, federal agencies, tribes, landowners and other partners to provide technical and financial assistance on forest health-related

matters, particularly those related to disturbance agents such as native and non-native insects, diseases, and invasive plants.

To read more about this study, visit the European Journal of Entomology website at <https://doi.org/10.14411/eje.2019.028>

Green-Wood is a 478-acre active cemetery, National Historic Landmark and an accredited Level III arboretum. There are more than 7,000 trees throughout Green-Wood representing 723 tree species. "We are proud of our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, and we hope

that the discovery of this new species of *Agrilus* will help protect the urban forest," said Joseph Charap, Greenwood Cemetery's director of horticulture.



Missouri Master Naturalist – Meramec Hills

PRESIDENT
Judy Cavender

VICE PRESIDENT
Phyllis Murphy

SECRETARY
Kathy Gallagher

TREASURER
Drew Lane

NEWSLETTER:
karilynnlane@gmail.com

ADVANCED TRAINING:
slvrhawk@embarqmail.com

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:
Truman Outdoor Kids Classroom**

Harry S. Truman Elementary School is one of three elementary (pre-K thru 3rd) schools in Rolla, located at 1001 East 18th St. There are 25 classes totaling about 450 students. Behind the school building is a chain link enclosed 'outdoor classroom' totaling 6+ acres. Three of the acres have been developed into three areas: wetland with a creek and small pond, woodland with trails and tree species identified, and about one-half acre prairie. There is also a small greenhouse located between the school and the outdoor classroom.

The Outdoor Classroom was established in 1993 and the area is heavily infested with bush and Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive, and Asian bittersweet. Several groups have cleared some areas but did not treat the stumps so they have

grown back worse than before clearing. Chapter members Bob & Pat Perry have had a long history working with the school to provide programs and support for the Outdoor Classroom. Program topics include tree survey for Forestkeepers Network, scent stations and animal tracks, composting/recycling, etc. Program assistance is always welcome.

Teachers have also asked for help with programs in the classroom with topics that have included: Spiders, Frogs and Toads, Owl pellet dissection, Bird beak adaptations and Mammals of Missouri Prairies. These activities are hands-on and help reinforce what the teachers have covered in their lessons.

The Master Naturalists have



adopted the entrance area and are working on removal of exotics. This is an ongoing process and everyone is invited to help. The Chapter calendar will be updated with info on future workdays.

If you are interested in helping with any of these different things or have questions, please get in touch with Bob & Pat Perry at 573-364- 8440 or perrypineridge@embarqmail.com.



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: Thomas Sawyer, Emily Brown, Tina Heusler, Tom Schlauch, Kari Lane

Gold (1000): Kari Lane

Polished Gold with Diamond (5000): Emily Brown

