



## ***Missouri Master Naturalist***

***A summary of program impacts and achievements during 2019***

*“The mission of the Missouri Master Naturalist program is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of the state’s natural resources through science-based education and community service.”*

## Introduction

The Missouri Master Naturalist program results from a partnership created in 2004 between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and University of Missouri Extension. These two organizations are the sponsors of the program at the state level. Within MU Extension, the Missouri Master Naturalist Program has the distinction of being recognized as a named and branded educational program. The MU School of Natural Resources serves as the academic home for the program.

The program is jointly administered by state coordinators that represent the MDC and MU Extension. The state program coordinators provide leadership in conducting the overall program and facilitate the development of training and chapter development with Chapter Advisors representing both organizations as interest is generated within a local community.

Partnerships created at the community level are an integral part in the development of a Missouri Master Naturalist program and organization of a chapter. These partnerships serve to provide volunteers with learning experiences and opportunities for community service. Local partners may include a variety of entities such as state, federal and municipal government agencies; businesses; private, nonprofit organizations; and others that value the educational and service objectives that are within the scope of the program.

## Program Objectives

1. Improve public understanding of natural resource ecology and management by developing a pool of local knowledge that can be used to enhance and expand educational efforts within local communities
2. Enhance existing natural resources education and outreach activities by providing natural resources training at the local level, thereby developing a team of dedicated and informed volunteers
3. Develop a self-sufficient Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer network through the Chapter-based program.

An increasing number of communities and organizations across the state have relied on these skilled volunteers to implement natural resource educational programs for adults and youth audiences, for the expertise of these volunteers in implementing a variety of conservation projects, and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.



*Missouri Master Naturalists are actively involved in conducting conservation and education projects throughout the state.*

## A Snapshot of Program Impacts for 2019

- During 2019, **179 volunteers** participated in training conducted by ten Chapters.
- Through December 2019, with combined efforts of 12 recognized Chapters, **2,551 volunteers** have been trained as Missouri Master Naturalists since the program was first organized in 2004.
- Over **13,379 hours of advanced training** were obtained by Master Naturalist volunteers.
- A total of **811 volunteers** became **Certified Missouri Master Naturalists**, maintained Certification or were active members during 2019.
- During 2019, volunteers provided **74,538 hours of community service**.
- Over **665,000 hours of volunteer service** have been provided to local communities since 2004.
- Approximately **125 organizations** have partnered with Master Naturalist chapters at the local level to accomplish natural resource education efforts and service projects within the community.
- The economic impact of Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer service during 2019 is valued at **\$2,122,961<sup>1</sup>**.
- The cumulative economic impact of Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer service is valued at **\$16,006,478<sup>1</sup>**.

<sup>1</sup> The value of volunteer service calculated using Independent Sector's \$25.43 per hour for 2019. The hourly value is based on the average hourly earnings for private nonagricultural workers as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This figure is increased by 12 percent to estimate fringe benefits. <http://www.independentsector.org>

## Missouri Master Naturalist Chapters

Chapters identify with a specific community as their home base. However, they serve surrounding communities in a multi-county area.

Boone's Lick, Columbia  
Chert Glades, Joplin  
Confluence St. Charles  
Great Rivers, St. Louis  
Hi Lonesome, Cole Camp  
Lake of the Ozarks, Camdenton

Loess Hills, St. Joseph  
Meramec Hills, Rolla  
Miramiguoia, Washington  
Mississippi Hills, Hannibal  
Springfield Plateau, Springfield  
Osage Trails, Kansas City

## Missouri Master Naturalist State Program Coordinators

Syd Hime  
Volunteer and Interpretive Programs Coordinator  
Missouri Department of Conservation

Robert Pierce  
Extension Associate Professor and  
State Wildlife Specialist  
University of Missouri

## Highlights of Chapter Volunteer Service Projects

Boone's Lick Chapter, Columbia

[www.booneslick.missourimasternaturalists.org](http://www.booneslick.missourimasternaturalists.org)

### *Highlights of selected activities:*

- The Chapter was a major sponsor of the Boone County Extension's Mid-Mo Farm Expo in April. Members helped with activities, displays, lectures, and demonstrations.
- An invasive plant removal at Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site in Cole County involved more than 8 members donating 426 hours.
- In conjunction with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, several members donated 111 hours to build 40 nest boxes for placement in urban parklands where they are also helped establish natural areas.
- Several members assisted MDC resource science staff with the Department's furbearer survey in Boone and Howard counties
- Working with US FWS bat biologists and Big Muddy Refuge staff, members spent 77 hours learning and taking part in a bat mist-netting survey in August.
- The Chapter continues to support and expand native plant conservation with children in local public schools. Several school garden projects benefited from 175 milkweed seedlings provided by MDC's Milkweeds for Monarchs Master Naturalist project. Members contributed 367 hours working with school outdoor classrooms.
- Several interested parties were invited to present project requests at monthly meetings which resulted in new volunteer opportunities ranging from plant assessments to helping 4th graders enjoy a Missouri River boat trip.
- Chapter members provided educational outreach at seven events, including the Missouri River Bird Observatory Birds and Bees Festival which was attended by an estimated 500 adults and youth.
- The Chapter sponsored a Native Seed Collection and Propagation Workshop for Chapter members, Master Gardner's, and Native Plant Society members.



*Members at Bonne's Lick Salt Spring Historic Site, building habitat boxes, and a group of new, proud trainees.*



## Chert Glades Chapter, Joplin

[www.chertglades.org](http://www.chertglades.org)

### *Highlights of selected activities:*

- Members recorded 334 volunteer service hours on citizen science projects including bird surveys, stream quality monitoring, micro invertebrate's surveys, and prairie flora inventories.
- In partnership with MDC and the city of Stella, the Chapter conducted the Festival of Eagles event in Stella. The Chapter takes a lead role in this popular winter event that was attended by over 2,000 people.
- The Chapter maintains Monarch gardens in Joplin parks and other restoration projects have included a substantial amount of milkweed plantings along with other native flowers. Members actively collected milkweed seed for the MDC state nursery.
- The Chapter partnered with MDC, City of Joplin Park and Recreation, Wildcat Glades Friends Group, and Liberty Utilities, to host an Arbor and Earth Day event. Chapter members promoted Monarch habitat and migration. The event had over 300 attendees.
- Members had over 420 hours of stewardship service on a glade restoration project at Redings Mill Bridge. Members also maintain an education kiosk at the site.
- As part of their restoration project at Webb City's wastewater treatment plant, members have established a bluebird nesting box trail. Several boxes are registered with Nestwatch and data collected contributes to breeding bird population studies.
- The Chapter participated in Carver Days at George Washington National Monument where they educated the public on the use of native plants verses non-native species.
- Members assisted MDC staff with Kids Fishing Day at Kellogg Lake in Carthage, and at Shoal Creek Water Festival in Joplin
- The Chapter hosted a Monarch Migration Education Day in conjunction with the native plant sale at Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center.
- Several members hosted a wild edibles booth at Prairie Days which had over 3,000 people in attendance.



*The Chapter conducts a variety of educational activities at several community events.*



## Confluence Chapter, St. Charles

<http://mmnconfluence.org>

### *Monarch tagging at Weldon Springs*

#### **Highlights of selected activities:**

- Chapter members helped with MDC Eagles Day at Chain of Rocks by assisting with parking, monitoring spotting scopes, and providing educational information to attending students.
- Several members worked with MDC staff on major honeysuckle hacks at Busch Wildlife CA and Castlewood Park.
- The Chapter has established bluebird trails at four St. Charles County parks. Members observe and collect nesting data and in the 2019 nesting season 134 bluebirds, 25 tree swallows, and 10 chickadees fledged from these bird boxes.
- In partnership with St. Charles Parks, Chapter members provide outdoor education classes to school districts from St. Charles and Lincoln Counties at Towne Park near Wentzville.
- Several Chapter members assisted MDC with school and public programs at Rockwoods, Busch, and Columbia Bottom Conservation Areas. These included the Winter in the Woods program at Rockwoods Reservation.
- The Chapter has an ongoing amphibian and reptile monitoring project in St. Peters. This project is part of a St. Charles County watershed health initiative.
- Members actively supported the incorporation of native plants in urban landscapes by distributing potted Missouri native plants at several public events throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area.
- Several members helped with Monarch tagging at Weldon Spring Interpretive Center. Over 200 Monarchs were tagged this year. Members also provided education to the public about the tagging, the Monarch life cycle, and the need to increase Monarch habitat.
- In partnership with the Frontier Middle School in Wentzville, members worked with school administrators, maintenance staff, teachers, and students to establish a native plant pollinator garden on school grounds.
- The Chapter supports the efforts of Forest ReLeaf by assisting with tree planting and distribution.



*Chapter activities included an outdoor nature garden at Frontier Middle School, bluebird nest monitoring and potting native plants.*



## Great Rivers Chapter, St. Louis

<http://greatrivers.org>

### *Highlights of selected activities:*



*Eagle Days at Chain of Rocks*

- Several enthusiastic members braved the winter weather and assisted with the Eagle Ice Festival at the Audubon Center at Riverlands, and MDC Eagle Days at Chain of Rocks Bridge. Over 2,000 people attended the Chain of Rocks event.
- The Chapter participated in MDC's Winter in the Woods event at Rockwoods Reservation where they assisted with logistical tasks, greeted visitors, and worked the information booth. Approximately 1,300 people enjoyed the day.
- Members volunteer at Litzinger Road Ecology Center providing students and teachers with place-based education by using the local ecology to study a variety of subjects. During the winter months, they teach ECO-ACT or 'ecology in action' to junior and senior high school student teachers.
- Along with MDC and several local conservation partners, the Chapter helped host the Meet Me Outdoors Festival at various locations throughout St. Louis.
- Members helped plant 180 trees as part of Forest Parks lowland tree restoration project.
- Chapter members initiated a Pollinators in the City project with neighborhood associations to plant and care for native plants in small urban gardens called "wedges".
- In partnership with Forest ReLeaf, the Chapter assisted with the CommuniTree Gardens Nursery Tree Camp, where middle school students learn about trees, soil, birds, water, pollinators, and orienteering during a week-long event.
- Several members helped with a Spanish Lake clean-up project including multiple bush honeysuckle hacks.
- Chapter members helped Forest Park Forever with the mid-summer Bee Blitz, where they helped to track bee populations by counting those passing through a grid and photographing them to upload the data for further studies.
- Working with MDC staff, members are involved with the Calvary Cemetery prairie restoration project.
- The Chapter is in the early planning stages to remove invasive species, restore native plants, and create wildlife habitat at Jefferson Elementary School.



*ECO-Act Students learning about river dynamics. One of many honeysuckle hacks.*



## Hi Lonesome Chapter, Cole Camp

<http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/colecamp>

### *Highlights of selected activities:*

- Chapter members assisted with Eagle Days at Truman Visitor Center in Warsaw. Over 400 people attended the event including 130 youth.
- Several members are monitoring eagle nests in Benton and Pettis County for MDC's Eagle Watch program. They reported seven fledging's in 2019.
- The Chapter assisted MDC staff at the Lost Valley Hatchery Kids Fishing Day. Approximately 600 people attended the event with 336 kids fishing and 46 first time anglers.
- Members participated in several citizen science surveys including Great Backyard Bird Count, Global Big Day Bird Count, Christmas Bird Count, Bird-A-Thon, barn owl nesting, and monitoring regal fritillary populations. The Christmas bird count netted 71 species observations with 9,788 individual birds.
- Several members collected survey data for MDC's Breeding Bird Survey, Frog and Toad Survey, and Photo-point Survey.
- In partnership with the Missouri River Bird Observatory, the Chapter had an educational booth and activities at the Birds and Bees Festival in Arrow Rock which was attended by approximately 750 people.
- The Chapter assisted with prescribed burns, frog surveys, and fish contaminant monitoring at Knob Noster State Park.
- Members helped with seed mixing day at Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie and assisted MDC staff with the American Burying Beetle reintroduction project at Taberville Prairie.
- Partnering with the City of Cole Camp and MPF, the Chapter hosted an educational booth at Prairie Days and helped MPF conduct their bioblitz.



*Volunteers assisted with American Burying Beetle restoration, highway beautification, and prescribed burns.*



## Lake of the Ozarks Chapter, Camdenton

<http://lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com>

### *Highlights of selected activities:*

- Members donated more than 150 hours of service at Bennett Spring, Ha Ha Tonka, and Lake of the Ozarks State Parks. Service work included invasive species removal, trail development, and trail maintenance.
- In the fall the Chapter received 150 milkweed plants from MDC's Milkweed for Monarchs Master Naturalist project. These were planted in pollinator gardens at Willmore Lodge, the School of the Osage, the Camdenton MDC office, and the Osage Beach Senior Center.
- The Chapter planted more than 30 native hardwood trees provided by MDC in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, in Eldon. This area was hit hard by a tornado in May.
- Members spent more than 180 hours on citizen science projects including Feeder Watch, Great Backyard Bird Count, and bird banding with the Missouri River Bird Observatory. They also spent over 360 hours monitoring eagle nests for MDC's Eagle Watch Program.
- Several members conducted spotlight and transect surveys of whitetail deer at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. These efforts assist the area managers in assessing potential damage to park vegetation from deer.
- In collaboration with several local partners, the Chapter sponsors the Lake of the Ozarks Eagle Days. Members help with logistics, conduct several education activities for youth, provide support for eagle viewing, and answer questions from the many visitors.
- In the spring, the Chapter initiated a Meet Mother Nature, family-focused event at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The free, Saturday event featured hands-on skill-development in camping, fishing, kayaking, outdoor cooking, and hiking. More than 60 families attended.
- The Chapter conducted kayak meet-ups, one Saturday a month, during the summer. The event provides free instruction for kayaking and paddle boarding.
- An informational bulletin board at Laurie Park is refreshed monthly by members with educational displays focused on items of local conservation interest.
- The Chapter awarded \$1,500 scholarships to two qualifying lake-area students enrolled in natural resource or conservation-related studies.



*Educational Outreach*



*Volunteers helped kids learn to cast, and provided education activities at community events.*



## Loess Hills Chapter, St. Joseph

<http://loesshills.wordpress.com>

### *Highlights of selected activities:*

- Chapter members assisted with the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge Eagle Days event. They helped at the visitor center, monitored spotting scopes, and staffed stations on the auto tour. The two-day event hosted 2,375 visitors.
- Members helped with Smithville Lake Eagle Days. They monitored viewing scopes and hosted an information table promoting the Master Naturalist program and chapter activities. Approximately 2,000 people attended the event.
- The Chapter played a major role in the Wings over Weston festival with members recording over 100 hours of service. Members helped children build 300 birdhouses, conducted a Binoculars 101 class, led bird identification walks, built and gave away hummingbird feeders, and instructed attendees in a variety of bird related activities. Nearly 1,100 people enjoyed this event.
- Members assisted MDC with fringed prairie orchids and breeding bird count surveys. They also participated in the Massasauga rattlesnake survey at Loess Bluffs NWR in early spring, and tagged migrating monarchs at the refuge in September.
- The Chapter handed out seed balls on Family Day at Loess Bluffs NWR, worked with the MWSU Wildlife Society to plant 250 native trees, continued weekly maintenance of the newly established native plant demonstration garden, conducted invasive species removal, and helped with trail upkeep at the refuge.
- In partnership with MDC, and The Nature Conservancy, the Chapter hosted Prairie Days at Dunn Ranch. Members conducted bird identification hikes, interpretive prairie walks, astronomy sessions, and helped with wagon rides to view bison. They also hosted an information table promoting the Master Naturalist program and chapter activities and answered questions from the 195 visitors attending the event.



*Chapter members helped students spot eagles, planted trees, and welcomed a new training class.*



## Meramec Hills Chapter, Rolla

<http://meramechills.org>

### *Highlights of selected activities:*



*Volunteers conducted a variety of public events and stewardship projects at Bray CA, and learned about shortleaf pine management in the Ozarks.*

- In partnership with the Paradoxa Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society, the Chapter hosted their 4th annual spring native plant sale in Rolla and sold over 600 native plants to the public.
- The Chapter hosted a Fall Native Plant Sale, Birding and Pollinator Festival at Audubon Trails Nature Center where they were joined by 35 partner organizations. Activities included birding, wildflower identification, medicinal plants, nature photography, and hummingbird banding. An estimated 600 visitors enjoyed the festival.
- Chapter members conducted weekly workdays focused on natural resource stewardship projects at Bray CA. Projects include invasive species eradication, trail maintenance, and work in the children's natural play area.
- The Chapter continues the Bray Botanical Collection and Herbarium Project with twice-monthly workdays. They developed an informational brochure on seasonal plants along the hiking trails, and continued work on native plant gardens.
- In recognition of 20 years of nature education at Bray CA, the Chapter organized a Bray Day Celebration in April with educational activities, displays, and a native plant gardening workshop. The celebration was enjoyed by over 80 participants.
- Members assisted MDC with a fish survey at Little Prairie CA. The survey provided managers with data on population dynamics.
- The 2019 training class undertook a Monarch and pollinator project at Bray CA. They've cleared a large area next to the parking lot and have prepared it for spring planting.
- The Chapter hosted a Family Fun Day in September at Round Spring in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Members and guests learned about pine-oak managed forests, toured a virgin pine stand, assisted with a seed collection, and enjoyed a potluck fish fry.
- In cooperation with the Pulaski County Library, Chapter members conducted a nature-inspired quilting series that included presentations on a nature topics followed by crafting nature-themed quilt blocks.



**Highlights of selected activities:**

*Celebrating the Chapter's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

- The Chapter is actively involved in milkweed propagation and Monarch conservation activities with members raising hundreds of Monarch butterflies and providing milkweed seeds and plants for pollinator projects.
- As part of the Miramiguoa Stream Team 40165, members conducted water quality monitoring in St. Louis City, and Franklin and St Louis Counties, removed trash from the Meramec River, and assisted with Clean Stream activities on the Bourbeuse River and the River des Peres.
- Several members worked on trail construction and maintenance at Don Robinson, Current River, Echo Bluff, and Meramec State Parks, the Ozark Trail, and the College School Labarque Creek Campus.
- The Chapter organized and conducted ecological restoration and maintenance at Jay Henges Range, Caldwell WA, Don Robinson State Park, the College School Campus at Labarque Creek, and for the City of Manchester.
- Chapter members recorded over 1,280 hours of education related service including involvement with MDC's Eagle Days at Chain of Rocks Bridge, the Missouri River Festival, and the Green Schools Quest at Truman Elementary.
- Members led hikes for Young Sierrans at several state parks, taught classes about nature and conservation at Forest Park, Shaw Nature Reserve, and local schools. They also led hikes for Shaw Nature Reserve's Signs of Spring program.
- As part of the Master Naturalist Tri-Chapter Field Day at Shaw Nature Reserve, chapter members taught advance training sessions on bumblebees, green mosquito control, snakes, soil surveys, and iNaturalist.
- Chapter members contributed close to 1,000 volunteer service hours for citizen science projects including repairing mist nets used for bird surveys, measuring chloride levels at several locations for a St Louis University research project comparing winter street treatments, conducting Phenology surveys at Myron and Sonya Glassberg Family CA, assisting with mast surveys at Shaw Nature Reserve and Onondaga Cave State Park and, participating in the Missouri Botanical Garden Seed Bank project studying the conservation of native seeds.



*Chapter members were actively involved in several water quality, ecological restoration, and education projects.*



## Mississippi River Hills Chapter, Hannibal

<https://mississippihills.missourimasternaturalists.org/>

### *Highlights of selected activities:*

- Several ambitious Chapter members undertook invasive species removal at the Cardiff Hill Overlook and Lighthouse, and installed native plant habitat at Becky's Garden, and Broadway Mini Park in Hannibal.
- Members were involved in tree planting, invasive species removal, trail work, and planting food plots at Mark Twain Lake.
- In addition to assisting MDC with the school portion of Eagle Day's in Clarksville, the Chapter took the lead on the public portion of the event.
- Chapter members helped MDC with DNS pond life programs, Envirothon, and DNS trunk inventories.
- Several members were involved with instructing 4-H canoe classes, YMCA kayak classes, plant safety programs, prairie hikes for a Brownie troop, outdoor safety programs, and activities at the Hannibal Arts Council Wild and Wacky children's event.
- In partnership with Hannibal Parks and Recreation, members offer nature themed seasonal programs for families at city parks. Examples include Nature in Winter, Sights of Spring, and Fall Foliage.
- The Chapter assisted with the annual Veteran's, youth, and handicapped deer and turkey hunts, and the children's shed hunt at Mark Twain Lake.
- Members assisted with MDC's Indiana Bat survey, and bat surveys at Sodalis Nature Preserve.
- Chapter members were involved with Bear Creek clean-ups, memorial biodiversity tree planting, and water quality monitoring.

*Chapter members conducted several educational activities including Eagle Days, DNS pond studies, and safety programs. They were also actively involved in habitat restoration projects.*



## Osage Trails Chapter, Kansas City

<http://osagetrails.com>

### **Highlights of selected activities:**

*Chapter members conducted a variety of youth education programs including building bird boxes, Discover Nature Field Days, and the Youth Birders Club. Dunn Ranch benefited from the Chapter's work on establishing a native plant garden.*



- Chapter members started a local Missouri Youth Birders Club. There are currently 20 members who participated in monthly meetings that included bird banding demonstrations and birding hikes. All hike sightings were recorded in eBird, which contributed to citizen scientist efforts.
- Over 100 volunteer hours went to citizen science projects that included taking Bird Census', the Christmas Bird Count, and Project FeederWatch.
- Chapter members recorded 173 hours assisting MDC's Discovery Center staff with educational events including the HOWLoween Event, print making workshops, Xplorers Camp, Insect-o-rama, Go Native workshop, and Urban Woodsman.
- Members led prairie chicken viewing experiences at Dunn Ranch, assisted with the Prairie Day event, helped establish a native plant garden, and collected 200 lbs. of seed for redistribution onsite.
- In partnership with the Heartland Tree Alliance, members planted approximately 3,200 trees in the Kansas City metro area.
- Working with Kansas City Wildlands, members helped harvest 138 pounds of native seed and helped remove 200 cedar trees in habitat restoration areas.
- Chapter members were involved in a variety of public educational events with local conservation partners including Eagle Days, Earth Day, Celebrating Urban Birds, Bug Extravaganza, Eco-Fest Watershed Festival, Dragonfly Days, Winter Solstice Hike, Hummingbird Festival, Wings over Weston, and the Birds and Bees Festival.
- The Chapter supported MDC by helping with Goose Roundups, Discover Nature Field Day, Envirothon, Bald Eagle nest monitoring, breeding bird surveys, and NABA butterfly counts.
- Chapter members participated in the BirdSafeKC and BirdStrikeKC Citizen Science program by identifying buildings in the Metro area that have the highest impact of avian mortality due to building strikes.
- Several members, known as the Girlie Birders, raised \$150 in a bird-a-thon that directly benefits youth birding education with Burroughs Audubon.
- Chapter members volunteered 397 hours preparing and presenting programs to over 2,700 youth at the Kemper Outdoor Education Center.

## Springfield Plateau Chapter, Springfield

<http://osagetrails.com>

### *Highlights of selected activities:*

- In partnership with City Utilities of Springfield chapter members provided consultation and planning for a demonstration planting of pollinator friendly native plants at the CU Solar Farm. Members have conducted a prescribed burn and mulched the site in preparation for spring planting. The site is frequented by groups of school students who will benefit from the educational aspects.
- The Chapter maintained and expanded the native plantings located around the Lake Springfield Park Boathouse. The diversity of plantings supports a variety of pollinators, help control erosion, and provide a welcome addition to a busy public use area.
- The Chapter continues to support MDC's Southwest Regions Teen Junior Leader Program. This group of young volunteers conducts numerous public and school educational activities throughout the community. In addition to numerous in-school presentations, the volunteers also presented educational programs at such major events as the Bass Pro Outdoor Days combined with the MoNASP State Tournament, along with Garden Club and Master Naturalist training opportunities.
- Chapter members continued to support of the WOLF School by conducting classroom sessions and leading field trips.
- Members assisted with the Home School Fair, the State MoNASP tournament, and the Christmas Bird Count.
- The Chapter has been active with invasive species removal and developing numerous pollinator habitat projects.
- Members recorded over 3,800 hours of volunteer service dedicated to education programs for area schools, youth groups, families, and the public.



*The Chapter supports Teen Junior Leader's whose volunteers conducts numerous educational programs. They promote the use of native plants to partners including Lake Springfield Park and City Utilities of Springfield.*



## Chapter Training, Volunteer Service, Advanced Training, and Active Member Status for 2019

Chapter and Year Established	Volunteers Completing Initial Training*	Volunteer Service Hours	Advanced Training Hours	Active Members
Boone's Lick 2004	22	7,222	1,163	87
Chert Glades* 2005	N/A	3,551	899	53
Meramec Hills 2005	24	7,838	2,425	86
Confluence ** 2005	13	7,092	983	81
Springfield Plateau 2006	21	9,255	1,139	81
Osage Trails 2006	28	11,644	1,621	107
Great Rivers ** 2007	10	10,698	1,589	108
Hi Lonesome * 2008	N/A	2,465	319	18
Miramigoua ** 2009	5	5,020	561	43
Lake of the Ozarks 2009	14	4,129	1,654	60
Loess Hills 2011	23	3,219	634	49
Mississippi Hills 2018	27	2,405	392	38
Total	187	74,538	13,379	811

Cumulative statewide volunteer service hours since 2004: 665,119

Cumulative statewide advanced training hours since 2004: 129,932

\*Based on needs and opportunities Chapter Advisors and Chapter leadership have the discretion to decide when they want to conduct an initial training course. Chapters are not required to host an initial training program on an annual basis.

\*\* Chapters within the St. Louis region conduct a joint regional initial training. Participants in the course affiliate with one of the three Chapters: Confluence, Great Rivers, or Miramigoua.

## Additional Program Highlights and Accomplishments

The Missouri Master Naturalist program consists of twelve chapters, each with a cadre of dedicated volunteers, supportive Chapter Advisors, and local conservation partners. Volunteers conduct numerous land stewardship, citizen science, and educational projects in their local communities. They continually engage in advance training to increase their knowledge of natural resources and resource management. Statewide they provide a network of citizens actively engaged in conservation.

Members from every Chapter stepped-up to MDC's request for volunteers to assist with Chronic Waste Disease mandatory sampling in November. This was the first year Department volunteers were formally asked to be involved. Of the 68 volunteers that signed up to assist, 43 were Master Naturalists. All of them attended training prior to sampling weekend and they worked in the positions of greeter, recorder, and cutter.

In addition to a variety of community and statewide events, Master Naturalist volunteers participated in the Department of Conservation Partners meeting in Columbia and the Conservation Federation of Missouri's affiliate meeting in Jefferson City.

The St. Louis regional chapters organized a Tri-Chapter Mississippi River kayak field trip. Thirty-one members braved the river to learn about mussels, endangered lake sturgeon, and migrating waterfowl from MDC's Fisheries Biologist Travis Moore, and Education Consultant Kathi Moore.



A few of the noteworthy awards received by Master Naturalist volunteers include:

- Randal Switzer, Chert Glades, received the Missouri Prairie Foundation's 2019 Prairie Volunteer of the Year award.
- Bob Siemer and Ann Earley, Great Rivers, received the Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 True Blue Award for their outstanding service.
- Caroline Toole, Lake of the Ozarks, was named the 2019 Stream Team Ambassador by the Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance.
- Jan Alderson, Osage Trails, received the Outstanding Educator award from Burroughs Audubon.



*Master Naturalist volunteers continually educate and inspire young, future naturalists in their local communities.*



## Master Naturalist Chapter Partnerships

Developing partnerships with local organizations in the community is key to a successful Master Naturalist program and Chapter. Local partner organizations provide the Chapter volunteers with training and service opportunities, and resources to support the program. In turn they benefit from association with the Master Naturalist program and from local service projects that the volunteers perform. Organizations that are recognized as Master Naturalist Chapter Partners also share a mission for natural resource-related outcomes in the community.

### **Boone's Lick Chapter Partners**

Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, City of Columbia, Elm Street Nature Area Project, Columbia Audubon Society, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, Walnut Grove Cemetery, Greenbelt Land Trust of Missouri, Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program, Native Plant Society, Wild Ones, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Missouri River Bird Observatory, Missouri River Relief, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Missourians for Monarchs, Prairie Garden Trust, Youth Monarch Conservation Program, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, MU Bradford Research Center and Jefferson Farm, MU Raptor Rehabilitation project, Lincoln University Native Demonstration Garden

### **Chert Glades Chapter Partners**

Friends of Wildcat Glades, Prairie State Park, Neosho National Fish Hatchery, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Ozark Regional Land Trust, Ozark Gateway Audubon Chapter, Joplin Recycle Center, Missourians for Monarchs, MAKO Fly Fishers, Grow Native Nursery, Joplin Parks and Recreation, Franklin Technical Center, Association of Missouri Interpreters, George Washington Carver National Monument, Cities of Joplin, Neosho, Webb City, Centerville, Carthage, Carl Junction and, Stella

### **Confluence Chapter Partners**

Forest ReLeaf, Lewis and Clark Boathouse, Litzinger Road Ecology Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, Missouri Bluebird Society, Missouri Forestkeepers, Missouri River Relief, Native Plant Society, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Friends of LaBarque Creek, Greenway Network, St. Charles and St. Louis County Parks, St. Louis Audubon Society, Shaw Nature Reserve, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, Wentzville Parks and Recreation, World Bird Sanctuary, Don Danforth Plant Science Center, Wildlife Rescue Center, Missourians for Monarchs, Frontier Middle School

### **Great Rivers Chapter Partners**

Audubon Center at Riverlands, BiodiverseCITY St. Louis, Brightside St. Louis, Ellisville Parks and Recreation, Chesterfield Parks and Restoration, Webster Groves Parks and Recreation, Deer Creek Watershed Alliance, Forest Park Forever, Forest ReLeaf, Litzinger Road Ecology Center, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Ozark Regional Land Trust, River des Peres Watershed Coalition, Shaw Nature Reserve, Stewards of Grand Glaize, St. Louis Audubon Society, St. Louis County Parks, The Green Center, The Open Space Council -St. Louis Region, World Bird Sanctuary, Webster Groves Parks and Recreation, Kirkwood Parks and Recreation, Ferguson-Florissant School District, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House

### **Hi Lonesome Chapter Partners**

Audubon Society of Missouri, City of Warsaw, Cole Camp Chamber of Commerce, Missouri, Prairie Foundation, Missouri River Bird Observatory, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Harry S. Truman State Park

### **Lake of the Ozarks Chapter Partners**

Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Ameren UE, Lake Ozark Watershed Alliance, Camdenton R-III Schools Missouri Department of Transportation Central District, Bennett Springs State Park, Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau, West Side Chamber of Commerce, Camden County Farmers Market, City of Laurie, Osage Beach City Park, Wonderland Camp, School of the Osage, Missouri Cave and Karst Society, Lake of the Ozarks State Parks

### **Loess Hills Chapter Partners**

Clay and Platte County Parks, MWSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Missouri Native Plant Society, Platte Land Trust, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Missouri Department of Transportation NW Region, Missouri Department of Waste Disposal NW Region, St. Joseph Parks and Recreation, Remington Nature Center, Grand River Grasslands and Dunn Ranch, Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Weston Bend State Park, Burroughs, Midland, and Grand River Audubon Societies

### **Meramec Hills Chapter Partners**

Audubon Trails Nature Reserve, Camp Brimshire, Bonebrake Center of Nature and History, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Newburgh Children's Museum, City of St. James, Truman Elementary School, Prairie Star Restoration Farm, City of Rolla, MODOT Adopt-A-Highway,

### **Miramiguo Chapter Partners**

Shaw Nature Reserve, Missourians for Monarchs, Open Space Council, Wild Bird Sanctuary, Eastern Missouri Sierra Club, Ozark Trail Association, Meramec, Onondaga Cave and Robertsville State Parks, The College School

### **Mississippi Hills Chapter**

Hannibal Parks and Recreation, Hannibal LaGrange University, FORREST Council, Hannibal Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation, Monroe City Chapter of the Whitetails Unlimited, Mark Twain State Park

### **Osage Trails Chapter Partners**

Blue River Watershed Association, Burroughs Audubon Society of Kansas City, George Owens Nature Park, Heartland Tree Alliance, Blue Springs Parks and Recreation, Cave Springs, Jackson County Parks and Recreation, Kansas City Parks and Recreation, Kansas City WildLands, Kemper Outdoor Nature Center, Lakeside Nature Center, Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Missouri River Relief, Platte County Land Trust, Platte County Parks and Recreation, Powell Gardens, The Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch, Loess Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Missouri River Bird Observatory, Kansas City Seed Savers, Kansas City Deep Roots, Bridging the Gap

## Springfield Plateau Chapter Partners

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Bennet Springs State Park, Boy Scouts of America - Teen Conservation Crew, Branson for Monarchs, Friends of the Garden, Greater Ozarks Audubon Society, James River Basin Partnership, City of Springfield, LAD Fair, Springfield-Greene County Park Board Department of Environmental Services, Interpreters Coalition of Springfield and SW Missouri, Springfield R-12 School District, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Safe Kids Coalition, Springfield and SW Missouri Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods, Springfield Plateau Grotto, Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program, White Nose Syndrome Working Group/Missouri, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Missouri State University

*Master Naturalist volunteers support conservation in their local communities.*



## Missouri Master Naturalist Chapter Advisors/Contacts

Missouri Master Naturalist Chapter Advisors and contacts, representing MU Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation, provide leadership and facilitate educational programs and activities to ensure the success of the Missouri Master Naturalist program and Chapters.

### *Boone's Lick Chapter:*

Kent Shannon – MU Extension  
Bob Pierce - MU Extension

### *Chert Glades Chapter:*

Robert Balek – MU Extension  
Jeff Cantrell – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Confluence Chapter:*

Justin Key – MU Extension  
Colleen Scott – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Great Rivers Chapter:*

Justin Key – MU Extension  
Colleen Scott – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Hi Lonesome Chapter:*

Gene Schmitz – MU Extension  
Ginger Miller – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Lake of the Ozarks Chapter:*

Patricia Barrett – MU Extension  
Jodi Moulder – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Loess Hills Chapter:*

Tom Fowler and Jim Humphrey – MU Extension  
TJ Peacher – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Meramec Hills Chapter:*

Sarah Havens - MU Extension  
Syd Hime – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Miramiguoa Chapter:*

Matt Herring – MU Extension  
Colleen Scott – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Mississippi Hills Chapter:*

Daniel Mallory – MU Extension  
Kathi Moore – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Osage Trails Chapter:*

Tamra Real – MU Extension  
Wendy Parrett – Missouri Department of Conservation

### *Springfield Plateau Chapter:*

Kelly McGowan – MU Extension  
Jay Barber – Missouri Department of Conservation

## Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs

A national network has been established for Master Naturalists and similar programs. The *Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs* was formed in 2006 to facilitate networking and resource development for member programs with a goal to establish educational programs in all 50 states. The Missouri Master Naturalist program was one of the founding members. Currently, about 28 states have adopted the Master Naturalist model. The Missouri State Program Coordinators provide ongoing support to the Alliance through program membership.

