

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

*Missouri
Master Naturalist*



A partnership between University of Missouri Extension
and Missouri Department of Conservation



A summary of Program
impacts and achievements
during 2022



Introduction

The Missouri Master Naturalist Program results from a partnership created in 2004 between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Missouri University Extension (MUE). These two organizations are the sponsors of the Program at the state level. Within MUE, 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 MDC and MUE. The state Program coordinators provide leadership in conducting the overall Program. They also facilitate the coordination of training and Chapter development with Chapter Advisors representing both organizations.

Partnerships created at the community level are an integral part of the 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 municipal agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, schools, 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.

State Program Coordinators

Jenni Rabenau

Partner & Citizen Engagement Specialist
Missouri Department of Conservation

Robert A. Pierce II, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & State Wildlife and
Fisheries Specialist
University of Missouri Extension

**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.**

Snapshot of 2022 Program Impacts

Due to the ongoing challenges and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary guidelines were carried out during 2021 and at the beginning of 2022 that provided greater flexibility for volunteers to continue their involvement with the Master Naturalist Program.

During the year, activity got back to more normal circumstances as 10 Chapters were able to host the Master Naturalist Core Training, either through in-person or virtual formats. The annual 40-hour volunteer service requirement was implemented once again, and volunteer activity increased dramatically from the past year. The advanced training requirement of eight hours was maintained as volunteers were able to access in-person training and real-time virtual programming that allowed them to stay engaged. Here are a few highlights:

- During 2022, **204 volunteers** participated in the Core Training Course conducted by these Chapters: Miramiguo, Great Rivers, Confluence (St. Louis regional training), Osage Trails, Mississippi Hills, Loess Hills, Boone's Lick, Meramec Hills, Chert Glades and Springfield Plateau.
- Through December 2022, with combined efforts of 12 recognized Chapters, **2,938 volunteers** have been trained as Missouri Master Naturalists since the program was first organized in 2004.
- During 2022, volunteers provided **57,070 hours of volunteer service** to local communities.
- This volunteer activity is equivalent to over **32 FTEs of professional time** (as calculated by the IRS) and provides an important metric for measuring the impact of the Master Naturalist Program. <https://www.irs.gov/affordable-care-act/employers/identifying-full-time-employees>
- Since 2004 Master Naturalist volunteers have been provided over **822,500 hours of service** to local communities.
- Master Naturalist volunteers participated in **11,008 hours of advanced training** during 2022.
- Over **800 volunteers** became **Certified Missouri Master Naturalists**, maintained certification, or were active members during 2022.
- Approximately **135 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 2022 is valued at **\$1,965,633***.
- The cumulative economic impact of Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer service is valued at **\$23,811,861***.

*The value of volunteer service calculated using Independent Sector's \$29.95 per hour for 2022. 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 15.7 percent to estimate fringe benefits. <http://www.independentsector.org>

Statewide Program Highlights

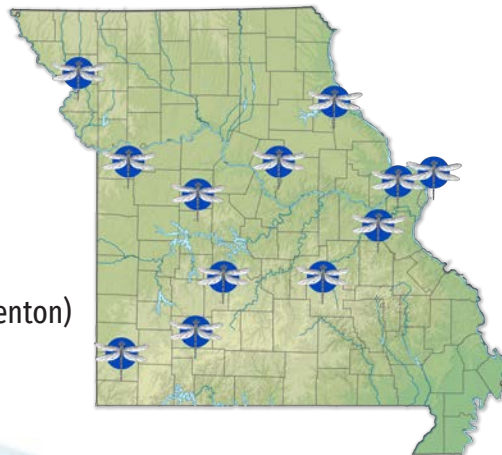
This was another challenging year for volunteer programs. Through nearly two years of operating during a pandemic with limited volunteer opportunities Master Naturalists continued to demonstrate their dedication to conservation by creatively adapting and continuing with volunteer service in their local communities. The state Program sponsors, MDC and MUE, along with partner organizations offered a variety of real-time virtual learning programs for advanced training which enabled volunteers to be engaged in ongoing learning. Members donned masks, practiced social distancing, and completed multiple volunteer service projects. There was a lot of invasive species removal, citizen science projects, and stewardship work. Chapters utilized social media to stay in contact with members. Monthly Chapter meetings were held outdoors, virtually, and through a combination of both. Members continued to engage the public through educational outreach on Chapter Facebook pages, blogs, news articles, radio spots, and exhibits.

Seven Chapters participated in MDC's Milkweeds for Monarchs initiative helping to expand pollinator habitat by installing 1,150 milkweed plants. Thirty-five members volunteered to assist with the MDC's chronic waste disease (CWD) mandatory sampling in November. Volunteers assisted with MDC's Resource Science Furbearers Survey by running routes in nine counties. This survey provides population trend information for Missouri's furbearer species. Data has been collected for over 40 years. Chapters are heavily involved in citizen science projects including MDC's Eagle Watch Program, Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, and the Great Backyard Bird Count. Several members completed training with the Missouri Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association. This training equips Master Naturalist volunteers to work with local community and business leaders to reduce the harmful effects of night light pollution.

Although the health concerns and restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly two years has impacted volunteer activity, as this report shows Missouri Master Naturalist volunteers continued to make significant contributions to conservation throughout 2022.

Missouri Master Naturalist Chapters

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 (Phelps & Dent Counties)
Miramiguoia (Franklin County)
Mississippi Hills (Hannibal)
Osage Trails (Kansas City)
Springfield Plateau Naturalists (Springfield)

Chapter Highlights

Boone's Lick Chapter (Columbia)

<https://booneslick.missourimasternaturalist.org/>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Completed first core training course since 2020. The sessions were held virtually, with in-person field trips. They had 23 graduate the course; with eleven of those reaching initial certification requirements.
- The Chapter held an outdoor evening picnic get-together in June with an advanced training session at Stephens Lake Park.
- Volunteers helped with butterfly counts, cave gating maintenance at Climax Springs, gray bat emergence monitoring, and native garden maintenance.
- Several members attended a field trip in September to the Prairie Garden Trust in New Bloomfield.
- With their membership spread over such a wide area the Chapter conducts hybrid meetings with members attending in-person or via Zoom.
- One Chapter member participated in the Great Sunflower Project, where participants plant Lemon Queen Sunflower to help identify impacts of pollinators and pesticides.
- Several members contributed their time in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February. Additionally, members conducted bluebird monitoring.
- Several members helped with native seed collection at MDC's Prairie Fork CA, led educational programs for the Missouri River Bird Observatory's Birds and Bees Festival, and assisted Missouri River Relief with clean-up projects.
- Invasive species control is a high priority for the Chapter with members logging 588 hours this year removing invasives at MDC's Prairie Fork Conservation Area, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Clark's Hill and Rock Bridge State Park (RBMS), and various other sites in the local area.



Chapter Highlights

Chert Glades Chapter (Joplin)

www.chertglades.org

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- The Chert Glades Chapter has continued efforts to expand support for monarchs and other pollinators through partnering efforts with the City of Joplin, Missouri Southern State University (MSSU), MDC, and the Joplin Public Library.
- Volunteers spent 172 hours on the ongoing Redings Mill Bridge and Shoal Creek Glade Restoration Project returning to its natural environment. These hours included time spent weeding, clearing, watering, planting, spraying/hand removing invasive plants, trash pick-up, gathering supplies, preparing and putting displays on kiosk boards, and administrative responsibilities.
- Continued Cardinal Valley Prairie/Wetlands Restoration Project efforts included removal and control of invasives, topsoil replacements, native plantings, and trail clearings across a diverse landscape from upland prairies, wooded plots, and wastewater treatment ponds feeding into Center Creek.
- Several Chapter Stream Team members continued collecting data on Center Creek with three sampling events in 2022, with chemical, biological, and physical data collected and submitted to MDC.
- Volunteers cooked food for the Cooking for a Cause fundraising event at the Webb City Farmers Market.
- Four members certified with Dark Sky International.
- Members educated the public on planting native during the annual Carver Days and importance of pollinators and how to increase their numbers through various methods including planting native plants and trees during 2022 Prairie Days.
- The Chapter hosted informational booths on Monarch butterflies, caterpillars, milkweed, along with a Monarch migration game, and a photo with a Monarch during MDC's Monarch Festival in September.
- "The Night Shift" was the Chapter's focus during the Prairie Jubilee, which focused on prairies at night.
- During Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations, volunteers lead hikes and educated attendees on how to be "Bear Aware".
- Volunteers support the Wildcat Glades Friend Group during the Ghostly Glades Nighttime Nature Walks.



Chapter Highlights

Confluence Chapter (St. Charles)

<http://mmnconfluence.org>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Chapter members provided observation of bird house activity as well as maintenance and care of the boxes, particularly during the breeding season at Spring Bend, Quail Ridge, Broemmelsiek Park, Towne Park. Information regarding these observations was provided to the Bluebird Society for database analysis.
- Several members directed second graders from a Wentzville School through the Chapter's Nature Explore Classroom at Towne Park.
- Several members participated in the Missouri Department of Conservation's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sampling weekend.
- One Chapter member presented an advanced training opportunity "Reptiles and Amphibians", during the annual tri-chapter field day (Confluence, Great Rivers, Miramiguo).
- Volunteers conducted amphibian/reptile monitoring at Matson Hill Park in St. Charles County to determine the health of frogs, salamanders, newts, as well as reptiles.
- Members provided and distributed native plants at various public events in the St. Louis and St. Charles County areas.
- Confluence Chapter has created and provided regular maintenance for several native gardens in the St. Charles County area (Quail Ridge Park, Frontier Middle School, Main Street Garden in Historic St. Charles, O'Fallon Public Works garden) and St. Louis County (Babler State Park Visitor Center garden, Rockwoods Reservation visitor center garden).
- The Main Street Garden in St. Charles (maintained by a partnership with Confluence Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists and St. Charles County Master Gardeners) was recently recognized by the Missouri Prairie Foundation's Native Gardens of Excellence Program.
- Land restoration (i.e. invasive honeysuckle removal, as well as native planting) at Bellevue Farms, a recent addition to Chapter projects located in St. Louis County.
- Members assisted with nursery management as well as the nursery's annual "potting days" in early spring with Forest ReLeaf.
- Winter in the Woods public event at Rockwoods Reservation was assisted by several members by showcasing tapping maple trees for maple syrup.



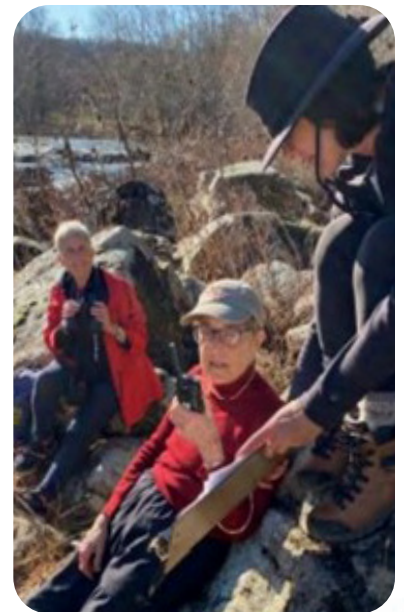
Chapter Highlights

Great Rivers (St. Louis)

<https://greatrivers.org>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Welcomed 26 Missouri Master Naturalist Interns to the Chapter.
- Covered 73 acres of Columbia Bottom took 150 samples for Monarchs for Missouri.
- Great Rivers Clean-up at Columbia Bottom was the first since 2018. A 10-mile stretch of the river was surveyed the night before the clean-up which netted almost 5 tons of trash including just under a ton of scrap metal, 45 tires, and about 200 bags of garbage.
- At Triangle Park in the Greater Ville Neighborhood of St. Louis City, Great Rivers volunteers planted 40 trees, 230+ native perennials, 200 bulbs, and over 400 trip hazards were removed.
- Water quality monitoring at many sites like the River des Peres tributary, McKenzie Creek, in South St. Louis County and South St. Louis City.
- The Chapter annually supports CWD sampling efforts where 80% of the harvest is tested.
- Assisted the Mississippi River Water Trail Association evaluate the suitability of short down-river educational paddling trips for upcoming events for the public.
- The Chapter supported the Audubon Center at Riverlands by volunteering to help lead weekend raptor and Sunday eagle events for the public.
- A few of the citizen science projects members were involved with in 2022 included Monarch tagging with Monarch Watch and the Great Rivers Trumpeter Swan Watch which is a partnership project with the Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis Audubon Society, and Audubon Center at Riverlands.
- The Chapter supported efforts with the Kirkwood Park biodiversity initiative and Southampton Naturescaping.
- Several members participated in Open Space Council's Community Stewardship Alliance and St. Louis County Parks willow stalking event by inserting willow stalks along the riverbank of the Meramec River to improve bank stabilization.
- Volunteers from the Chapter helped as gate judges during the 55th Missouri Whitewater Championships at the St. Francis River at Millstream Gardens Conservation Area.



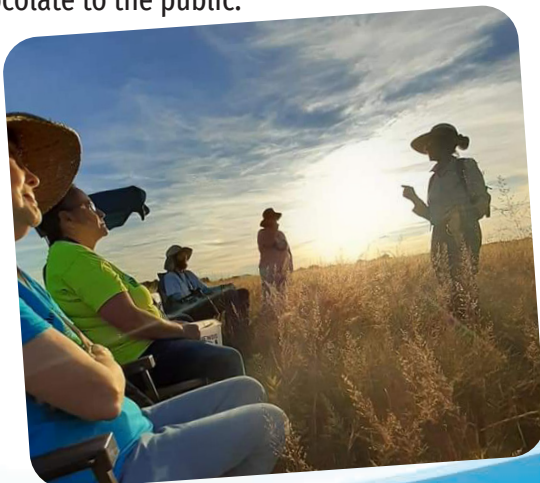
Chapter Highlights

Hi Lonesome Chapter (Cole Camp)

<https://hilonesome.missourimasternaturalist.org/>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Volunteers monitored 26 nests during the Missouri Eagle Watch Program in Benton, Henry, and Pettis Counties.
- The Chapter participated in numerous citizen science surveys including the Great Backyard Bird Count, Global Big Day Bird Count, Christmas Bird Count, Bird-A-Thon, barn owl nesting monitoring, Climate.
- Members picked up trash along our adopted section on Highway 65, just north of Cole Camp exit.
- Members conducted discharge and macrobyte surveys at Kahr-Boger Park in Bahner MO, Big Buffalo Conservation Area, and at a new stream near Smithton MO.
- One member provided wild edibles programs to home-school groups, wild walks with Missouri families, and programs for church groups.
- Three members participated in the Bird-A-thon and raised \$100.00.
- Members weeded native gardens at the Henry County MDC office, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, and Butterfield Park.
- Members have helped Knob Noster State Park staff conduct bird surveys, monitor deer check in stations, and conduct spotlight surveys. Several members participated in the Dark Sky training and are working with Knob Noster State Park to utilize what they have learned.
- Six members participated in the Birds and Bees Festival. They passed out information about Missouri's flora and fauna and gave away hiking sticks and blue bird houses the group had made.
- One member helped with Windsor's Kid Fishing day in Windsor MO.
- Six members aided Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site staff members at the night sky program in October. Members made planet necklaces for children to take home, served as greeters, and distributed hot chocolate to the public.



Chapter Highlights

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter

<http://lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Members logged over 311 hours of advanced training and 1,744 service hours.
- The Lake of the Ozarks Chapter is a major contributor to Eagle Day in both financial and volunteer effort. Several members stay toasty warm at the indoor venues supporting the live bird shows. But a few of the members brave the weather to give visitors a chance to see eagles perched below the dam. Eagle Day is a favorite winter activity for many members and the community.
- Trail maintenance and sign development – Chapter members visited Laurie Ballpark trail in the spring to evaluate the condition. During the fall members cleared some of the trees, or rerouted the trail, and added markers to keep hikers on track. On the School of the Osage Trail, plant identification QR codes are being added to the trail signs as the signs are replaced.
- Adopt a Hwy Clean-up: The Chapter maintains a one mile stretch of Highway 5 just west of Camdenton. In 2022, a small group worked on the westbound lanes and filled up over 20 bags of trash.
- Kayak Round-up: Lake of the Ozarks Chapter partnered again with LOWA, for the Kayak Round-up at Ha Ha Tonka Spring parking lot to offer educational opportunities for the community to try out different kinds of kayaks.
- Laurie Fairground Kiosk: The park office at the fairgrounds has a kiosk attached to the side of the building, where the Chapter displays information about Missouri's natural resources, local natural lore, events and natural resource management. Each month a new and different poster is displayed. Members sign up to cover a month.
- Scholarship Awards: The Chapter offered three scholarships to students within the service area. Three students each received \$1,000 to aid in continuing education in natural resource related fields.
- The Chapter hosted a Summer Social at the Post Office Shelter at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. Members were encouraged to invite guests and spouses to share in this relaxed early evening potluck.



Chapter Highlights

Loess Hills Chapter (St. Joseph)

<http://loesshills.wordpress.com>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Since 2018 the Loess Hills Chapter has worked with Friends of Loess Bluffs on the 10,000 Milkweed Plants in 10 years Project at Loess Bluffs National Waterfowl Refuge. To date the volunteers have participated in planting 4,908 milkweed plants, adding 1,290 in 2022.
- A new member core class was held in Fall of 2022 with 14 participants, of which 12 graduated.
- The Chapter hosted an education booth at Poosey Conservation Area for the annual fall driving tour on October 20, 2022.
- Chapter members continued stewardship of the John Rushin Prairie on the Missouri Western State University campus by working to control invasive plant species.
- Members participated in several ongoing citizen science/survey projects including the annual Christmas Bird Count, Bumble Bee Atlas, and MDC's Chronic Wasting Disease sampling.
- Several Loess Hills members volunteered at the 43rd annual Eagle Days at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge where almost 3,000 visited during the two-day event.
- Around 10 Loess Hills members helped in the capturing and processing of 61 snakes for the annual Massasauga Survey at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge in spring 2022.
- Nine members spent 51 hours in September and October collecting over 50 lbs of seed by hand from 4 desirable native forbes at Dunn Ranch Prairie for the Missouri Nature Conservancy to use in other plantings.



Snapshot of Chapter Program impacts

- Members collected 51 pounds of native plant seed valued at \$6,805 at Dunn Ranch.
- Members participated in planting 1,290 milkweed plants at Loess Bluffs Wildlife Refuge.
- Assisted with capture of 61 endangered prairie massasauga for population health survey.
- Members helped lead school bus tours at 43rd annual Eagle Days at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, a two-day event that reached at 575 students/teachers and 2,350 visitors.

Chapter Highlights

Meramec Hills Chapter (Dent/Phelps Counties)

<http://meramechills.org>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- The Chapter held a Core Training this year with 20 participants graduating in the fall.
- At Audubon Trails Nature Center, Chapter members met weekly with the Ozark Rivers Audubon Society chapter for phrenology walks.
- Volunteers continued many ongoing projects at Marguerite Bray Conservation Area including work on the Nature Adventure Area and the 2019 Core Class Monarch Meadow project. Volunteer service hours for the ten Bray workdays totaled 161. The Chapter hosted two Earth Day tables at local events at Missouri University of Science & Technology & the St. James Public House Brewery Earth Day Celebration.
- Several Chapter members were involved in guided nature hikes and nature talks with the Rolla Outdoor Collaborative School (ROCS) and the local home-school co-operatives including programs on owls and dissected owl pellets, animal track ID and a program on native plants for pollinators.
- Citizen science efforts continued with participation in Project Feeder Watch, Ebird.org, Missouri Spring Turtle Cruising survey, CoCoRaHS (or Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network), and the Great Backyard Bird Count.
- The 2022 core training class capstone project was planning, preparing and planting a large native plant bed at Meramec Springs Park.
- Maintenance of a native plant bed at the City of Rolla's Centre Health & Recreation Complex including a prescribed burn coordinated with the City of Rolla Fire & Parks Departments.
- Little Prairie Conservation Area Bluebird Nest Box Restoration project was completed in partnership with Rolla MDC Staff. Members repaired and replaced 22 nest boxes and surveyed the boxes at the end of the nesting season.
- Members assisted Camp Brim Shire, a camp serving disadvantaged youth and disabled individuals, with spring clean up and general maintenance of their grounds.



Chapter Highlights

Miramiguo Chapter (Franklin County)

<https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/franklin/master-naturalist>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- During 2022, Miramiguo members completed 3912 volunteer hours, an increase of 859.35 more volunteer hours than 2021. Miramiguo members participated in 714 hours of Advanced Training. There were 57 active members in 2022.
- Volunteers engaged in citizen science projects, such as the Great Backyard Bird Count, Christmas Bird Count, ebird, and the Global Big Day Bird Count. The Chapter is researching, creating, and preparing all the necessary documentation and supplies for a 2023-2026 herp survey project at Don Robinson State Park.
- Miramiguo Chapter gained 8 new interns from the 2022 core training class.
- Miramiguo Chapter continued to be involved in MDC Programs Winter in the Woods Mini-Festival, Phenology Surveys at Glassberg Family Conservation Area, and the CWD Mandatory Station Project. Seven members from the Chapter put in 171.25 hours at 4 different CWD stations in 2 days.
- Stewardship projects consisted of members assisting with controlled burns at Don Robinson State Park, Shaw Nature Reserve, Meramec State Park, Possum Hollow and private land, invasive species removal at Don Robinson State Park, including honeysuckle, cedar trees, garlic mustard, and winter creeper, willow harvesting and staking at Lower Meramec Park, and trail maintenance and cleanup at Meramec State Park.
- Volunteers hosted several mammal booths at Robertsville State Park and Rockwood Reservation and led a Karst hike at Meramec State Park.
- Members continued their work on garden maintenance at Jay Henges, Robertsville State Park, and Rockwood Reservations.
- The Chapter sponsored a retreat at Bunker Hill, inviting other local area chapters to participate in AT and volunteer activities. Trail maintenance was completed, 10 bluebird houses were built and placed throughout the area, and trash was collected from the Jack Forks River.



Chapter Highlights

Mississippi Hills Chapter (Hannibal)

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

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Chapter volunteers contributed 3920 hours of Volunteer Service and 855 hours of advanced training.
- In October the Chapter was awarded the Northeast Regional Partnership Award from the Missouri Department of Conservation for its service in 2021.
- Chapter naturalists assisted MDC in planting 3500 to 4000 tree seedlings at the Ranacker CA.
- The Chapter continues to meet its annual goal of establishing seven prairies per year for seven years that was established in 2020. During 2022 the Chapter was successful in establishing seven new prairies.
- Members built fish habitat structures to be used to improve fish habitat on Mark Twain Lake.
- Naturalists provided support to students from area schools at the 2022 Pike County Farm Safety days and lead a nature walk for grades 1 - 3 at Hannibal Veterans School.
- Volunteers supported the Hannibal Parks and Recreation Wild & Wacky Art adventure event held at the Central Park in Hannibal. Approximately 250 children attended.
- Chapter naturalists helped build bluebird houses at the Fall Pickers Market event in Bethel, MO.
- Naturalists supported the kid's fishing day held at Mark Twain Lake Frank Russell RA. The Chapter also assisted youth in assembling bluebird houses.
- Chapter naturalist Stream Team members conducted one sampling at Peno Creek at the Ranacker Conservation Area near Frankford, MO.
- Chapter members assisted biologists in capturing and banding wood ducks at the Ted Shanks CA.
- A forest management fall field day included chain saw safety, forest nature hike, beginning archery, Dutch oven cooking demonstration and invasive species removal activities.
- The Chapter participated in the 123rd Audubon Christmas Bird Count at Mark Twain Lake.



Chapter Highlights

Osage Trails Chapter (Kansas City)

<http://osagetrails.com>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- The Chapter made four trips to Dunn Ranch Prairie to support seed collecting efforts. Volunteers collected 93 lbs. 11 ounces of seeds valued at over \$17,000. This amounted to 11 different plant seeds types harvested. Other seed collecting was done at Jerry Smith Farm Park and with KC Wildlands.
- The Chapter supported many Bird related ecology activities including Bird Strike count with the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO), Great Backyard Bird Count at Trailside Center, and staffed booths at the Birds and Bees Festival.
- The 2022 core training class started with a group of 34 selected from 40+ applications and graduated 32 candidates.
- The Chapter Stream Team 4956, executed several stream surveys in the Kansas City area to help collect data.
- Chapter members provided much needed assistance and volunteer support at MDC's Discover Nature Field Days at the James A. Reed Wildlife Area and for the Kemper Outdoor Education Center.
- Additional projects and programs supported by the Chapter included local native plant sale, invasive species removal work: Sericea Spraying at Jerry Smith Farm Park, Honeysuckle removal at Lakeside Nature Center, Burr Oakwood work days; collected samples for Bumble Bee Atlas; and participated in the Homegrown National Parks effort.
- Chapter volunteers had a display at Festival of Butterflies (partner Powell Gardens) for attendees to discuss and receive information on pollinators, providing facts, answering questions and providing handouts.
- The Hiking Club Committee organized several successful hikes including hikes and camping to Watkins Mill State Park.



Chapter Highlights

Springfield Plateau Chapter (Springfield)

<https://www.springfieldmasternaturalist.com/>

Highlights of Selected Activities:

- Chapter volunteers contributed 7136 hours of volunteer service and 1023 hours of advanced training.
- The Chapter held a Core Training Course in the fall which added 27 trained citizens to the Chapter.
- In 2022, the Chapter resumed their Discover Nature Grant awards, with three grants being awarded to schools and teachers in the Southwest Missouri area.
- The Chapter Blog, posted by head blogger, Bob Kipfer, continues to inform and entertain loyal followers and attract new viewership.
- Members promoted the Chapter at the Ozark Society "Year of the Rivers" Conference, Friends of the Garden Butterfly Festival, Home-school Outdoor Fair sponsored by the Interpreters Coalition and others.
- The Chapter continued support of the WOLF School, with both in the classroom plus field trips. WOLF (Wonders of Outdoor Learning Facility) is a partnership between Bass Pro and Springfield Public Schools with approximately 50 students and two teachers presenting the full year of the standard 5th grade curriculum "taught through the lens of nature."
- Adventure Backpacks is a new in 2022 project for the Springfield Plateau Chapter. Funds donated by the Chapter allowed the Springfield Greene County Library to increase the number of Adventure Backpacks available to check out.
- Chapter members gave classroom presentations with the Bison Presentation as one of the most popular.
- Lake Springfield Park Boathouse Project - Chapter naturalists helped create the landscape design as well as purchased and planted many of the native perennials.
- The Chapter remains actively involved in the Missourians for Monarch initiative.
- Springfield Plateau Chapter continues to support Bonniebrook restoration efforts with volunteer service and funding for plants and supplies.



2022 Chapter Stats

Chapter & Year Established	Completed Core Training	Volunteer Service Hours	Advanced Training Hours	Active Members
Boone's Lick (2004)	23	7,099	1,644	87
Chert Glades (2005)	16	2,940	544	48
Confluence* (2005)	6	3,413	758	69
Great Rivers* (2007)	26	9,546	1,853	144
Hi Lonesome (2008)	N/A	1,075	119	13
Lake of the Ozarks (2009)	N/A	1,744	311	26
Loess Hills (2011)	37	3,205	478	56
Meramec Hills (2005)	20	4,914	997	78
Miramiguo* (2009)	8	3,912	714	57
Mississippi Hills (2018)	9	3,920	855	36
Osage Trails (2006)	32	8,166	1,712	121
Springfield Plateau (2006)	27	7,136	1,023	95
Total	204	57,070	11,008	830

Cumulative statewide volunteer service hours since 2004: 822,542

Cumulative statewide advanced training hours since 2004: 163,643

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

Chapter Advisors and Chapter leadership have the discretion to decide when the core training course is conducted. Chapters are not required to host a core training course on an annual basis.

Master Naturalist Partners

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 the volunteers conduct. Organizations 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 & Wildlife Refuge
- City of Columbia
- Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site
- Columbia Audubon Society
- Downtown Urban Butterfly Garden
- Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area
- Greenbelt Land Trust of Missouri
- Lick Creek Conservation Area
- Lincoln University Native Demonstration Garden
- Missouri Bumblebee Atlas
- Missouri Department of Conservation (statewide volunteer opportunities)
- Missouri Eagle Watch Program
- Missouri Native Plant Society
- Missouri Prairie Foundation
- Missouri River Bird Observatory
- Missouri River Relief
- Missouri Stream Team
- Missourians for Monarchs
- Ozark Trail Association
- Prairie Fork Conservation Area
- Prairie Garden Trust
- Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
- School Outdoor Classrooms
- Shepard to Rollins Trail Restoration
- University of Missouri Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network
- University of Missouri Extension (Columbia Office)
- University of Missouri Jefferson Farms & Gardens
- University of Missouri Lakes of Missouri
- University of Missouri Raptor Rehabilitation Project
- University of Missouri Sorenson Estate Natural Area
- Wild Ones

Chert Glades Chapter Partners

- Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center
- Wildcat Glades Friends Group
- George Washington Carver National Monument
- Neosho National Fish Hatchery
- Prairie State Park, Missouri Prairie Foundation
- Ozark Regional Land Trust (ORLT)
- Ozark Gateway Audubon Society (OGAS)
- MAKO Fly Fishers
- Association of Missouri Interpreters
- Missourians for Monarchs
- Grow Native Nursery
- Ozark Soul Native Plants
- Cities of Joplin, Neosho, Webb City, Carterville, Carl Junction, Carthage, Stella
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Joplin Parks and Recreation
- Joplin Recycle Center
- Joplin Schools - Franklin Technical Center

Confluence Chapter Partners

- Forest ReLeaf of Missouri - St. Louis section
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- St. Charles Parks and Recreation
- Missouri Extension
- Missouri State Parks (i.e. Don Robinson, Babler)
- Wentzville City Parks
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- Frontier Middle School
- Missouri BlueBird Society
- St. Louis Audubon Society
- Shaw Nature Reserve
- Stream Team
- Wildlife Surveying (Audubon Society, Cornell University, Eagle Nest Surveys)
- Weldon Spring Interpretive Center

Master Naturalist Partners

Great Rivers Chapter Partners

- Audubon Center at Riverlands
- Forest Park Forever
- Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
- Little Creek Nature Area
- Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Prairie Foundation
- River des Peres Watershed Coalition
- Shaw Nature Reserve
- St. Charles County Parks
- St. Louis Audubon Society
- St. Louis County Parks
- The Green Center
- World Bird Sanctuary

Hi Lonesome Chapter Partners

- Audubon Society of Missouri
- City of Cole Camp
- Missouri Prairie Foundation
- Missouri River Bird Observatory
- DNR/MDC Stream Team
- Harry S. Truman and Knob Noster State Parks

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter Partners

- Ameren Missouri
- Lake Ozark Watershed Alliance
- Camdenton R-III Schools
- MODOT Adopt-A-Highway
- 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
- School of the Osage
- Missouri Cave and Karst Society
- Ha Ha Tonka
- Bennett Springs
- Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Loess Hills Chapter Partners

- Burroughs, Midland and Grand River Audubon Society
- Clay and Platte County Parks
- Smithville Lake
- Platte Land Trust
- Missouri River Relief
- DNR/MDC Stream Team
- Missouri Western State University

Loess Hills Chapter Partners *continued*

- MWSU Student Chapter Wildlife Society
- Missouri Native Plant Society
- MODOT, NW region
- MO Dept of Waste Disposal
- Remington Nature Center
- The Nature Conservancy Grand River Grasslands and Dunn Ranch Prairie
- Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge
- Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Weston Bend State Park

Meramec Hills Chapter Partners

- Audubon Trails Nature Center
- Bray Conservation Area
- Camp Brim Shire
- Bonebrake Center for Nature & History
- Missouri Stream Team Program
- Paradoxa Chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society
- Newburg Children's Museum
- City of St. James
- City of Rolla
- City of Salem
- Meramec Spring Park
- Onondaga Cave State Park
- Little Prairie Conservation Area
- MODOT Adopt-A-Highway

Miramiguo Chapter Partners

- Shaw Nature Reserve
- Missourians for Monarchs
- Open Space Council
- World Bird Sanctuary
- Eastern Missouri Sierra Club
- Ozark Trail Association
- Meramec State Park
- Onondaga Cave State Park
- Don Robinson State Park
- Missouri Prairie Foundation
- Caldwell Memorial Wildlife Area
- Jay Henges Shooting Range
- The College School

Mississippi Hills Chapter Partners

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake
- Hannibal Parks & Recreation & Tree Board
- Missouri Bat Census
- MO State Parks
- MDC

Master Naturalist Partners

Mississippi Hills Chapter Partners continued

- University MO Extension
- Stream Team
- Audubon
- Wild Turkey Federation, Hannibal Chapter
- USA National Phenology Network
- Xerces Society – Bumble Bee Atlas
- Forest Council
- Clarksville Eagle Days
- Pike County Schools
- Shelby County Education
- University of Wisconsin-Madison

Osage Trails Chapter Partners

- Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center
- Blue River Watershed Association
- Bridging the Gap
- Burr Oak Woods
- Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City
- Deep Roots KC
- Dunn Ranch Prairie
- George Owens Nature Park
- Heartland Conservation Alliance
- Heartland Tree Alliance
- Jackson County Parks and Recreation/Kemper Outdoor Education Center (
- Kansas City Parks and Recreation/Lakeside Nature Center
- Kansas City WildLands
- Lincoln University Extension
- Loess Bluffs NWR
- Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Prairie Foundation/Snowball Hill Prairie
- Missouri River Bird Observatory
- Missouri River Relief
- Osage Trails Chapter Stream Team
- Platte County Land Trust
- Powell Gardens
- University of Missouri Extension

Springfield Plateau Chapter Partners

- Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World
- Bat Conservation International Organization
- Friends of the Garden
- Bennett Spring State Park
- Branson for Monarchs
- Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
- Interpreters Coalition of Springfield and SW Missouri
- James River Basin Partnership
- LAD Fair
- Leave No Trace National Organization
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Prairie Foundation
- National Speleological Society Organization
- Safe Kids Coalition Springfield and SW Missouri
- Springfield Plateau Grotto
- Springfield R-12 School District
- University of Missouri Extension Service/Greene County
- Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and Watershed Center
- White Nose Syndrome Working Group/Missouri
- City of Springfield
- Missouri State University
- Springfield-Greene County Park Board
- Biology Department: Bat Studies
- Department of Environmental Services
- Geology Department: Karst Studies
- Department of Public Works
- Bull Shoals Field Station

Missouri
Master Naturalist



2022 Chapter Advisors

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

Tish Johnson - MU Extension
Bob Pierce - MU Extension

Chert Glades Chapter

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

Confluence Chapter

Elihu Isele - MU Extension
Jenni Rabenau - Missouri Department of Conservation

Great Rivers Chapter

Elihu Isele - MU Extension
Jenni Rabenau - Missouri Department of Conservation

Hi Lonesome Chapter

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

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter

Joni Harper - MU Extension
Jenni Rabenau - Missouri Department of Conservation

Loess Hills Chapter

Jim Humphrey - MU Extension
TJ Peacher - Missouri Department of Conservation

Meramec Hills Chapter

Sarah Havens - MU Extension
Jenni Rabenau - Missouri Department of Conservation

Miramiguo Chapter

Matt Herring - MU Extension
Jenni Rabenau - Missouri Department of Conservation

Mississippi Hills Chapter

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

Osage Trails Chapter

Tamra Reall - MU Extension
Courtney Green - Missouri Department of Conservation

Springfield Plateau Chapter

Kelly McGowan - MU Extension
Lyle Whittaker - Missouri Department of Conservation

ANROSP

The Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP <https://anrosp.wildapricot.org/>) was formed in 2006 to facilitate networking and resource development for Master Naturalist and similar programs. The Missouri Master Naturalist Program was one of the founding members. Currently, about 25 states have adopted the Master Naturalist volunteer and education program model. The Missouri State Program Coordinators provide ongoing support to the Alliance through program membership.

Missouri Master Naturalist



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