



Missouri Master Naturalist



February 2014

Volume 4 Chapter 1

Our mission is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service.



Photo by Bill Hoss

Monarch on a New England Aster at Hidden Creek Savanna in October 2011.

See article below by Sherri Schmidt on the Monarch Waystation Project

MONARCH WAYSTATION PROJECT

Overall Project Description:

Monarch Butterfly populations have been declining in recent years.

One of the main causes is the loss of habitat, especially habitat with host plants for

Monarch Butterfly caterpillars.

To help provide habitat, this project proposes creating Monarch Waystations in local parks and conservation areas throughout the St. Louis region.

A Monarch Waystation is a specialized butterfly garden providing not only nectar plants, but also concentrations of host plants specifically for Monarchs.

For this project, Chapter members would:

- Identify possible locations for Monarch Waystations.
- If the location is a public area, obtain permission to create the garden.
- Determine the layout of the garden and plants to be planted
- Work to obtain the plants and do the actual planting.
- Maintain the Waystation.

Once created, members could monitor the Waystations for Monarch Butterflies and caterpillars.

Chapter members could raise and release Monarchs in the Waystations at some point in the future.

We could also involve children in nearby schools to raise Monarchs for release.

Members could also raise and provide plants for the Waystations.

Monarch Waystation Project for Claire Gempp Davidson Conservation Area (CA):

Since the Great Rivers Chapter is already partnering with the City of Sunset Hills and the Department of Conservation at the Claire Gempp Davidson Memorial Conservation Area, Sherri Schmidt suggested creating an initial Monarch Waystation at Gempp. This project would be considered a part of the overall Gempp project currently being led by Bill Hoss.

Sherri thought we could use the Gempp Monarch Waystation project as a model for future Monarch Waystation projects, and apply any lessons learned.

In November 2013, Sherri Schmidt and Bill Hoss submitted a proposal outlining the Monarch Waystation project to Gerald Brown, the Sunset Hills Director of Parks and Recreation, because Sunset Hills is

leasing and maintaining the property.

Gerald presented the proposal to the Commission providing oversight of the Gempp CA and the Commission indicated they would like us to move forward with the project.

After comparing sites we selected for Monarch Waystations with sites approved by the Commission, we settled on a southern corner of an existing butterfly garden for the first Waystation.

We identified the following native host and nectar plants to plant:

<u>Host Plants</u>	<u>Number</u>
Butterfly Weed	
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	9
Common Milkweed	
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	7
Purple Milkweed	
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	6
Swamp Milkweed	
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	2
<u>Nectar Plants</u>	<u>Number</u>
Bee Balm, Horsemint	
<i>Monarda bradburiana</i>	6
New England Aster	
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	2
Prairie Blazing Star	
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	3
Wild Bergamot	
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	6

We submitted the list and number of plants to Gerald January 21, 2014. Gerald will work to obtain the plants for the Waystation. However, obtaining the plants may be a challenging part of this project. If any members have seeds, or surplus plants of the ones in the list, we would like to have them.

Cori is planning to give us some Common Milkweed seeds. Vaugh Meister and Rene Benage may be able to offer some New England Aster plants.

Planting would begin in 2014.

Sherri and Bill will attend the next Commission meeting Feb 04, 2014 to discuss the project and answer any questions.

If you would like to know more about this project and/or would like to volunteer in the future, please let Sherri Schmidt know.

If you are interested in creating a Monarch Waystation in another location, Sherri would be happy to share any information from the Gempp project.

For more information about Monarch Waystations, www.MonarchWatch.org (by Sherri Schmidt)

BEE KEEPING WORKSHOP 2014

Saturday, February 8, is [314- 669-1828](tel:314-669-1828).the date of the 7th annual, professionally instructed, beekeeping workshop, for beginners and experienced beekeepers, sponsored by Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association (EMBA), at Maritz, in Fenton. There will be a Mardi Gras banquet the night before the workshop for beekeepers and beginners from throughout the St. Louis region, featuring door prizes, Cajun-themed menu and music, a cash bar, and an after-dinner speaker.

Two teams of nationally prominent instructors will teach the courses in Maritz' state-of-the-art instructional facility. Dr. David Taryp, entomologist and beekeeper at NCSU, Jennifer Berry, research and lab manager at the Univ. of Ga. honey bee program, Katie Lee, Tech-Transfer Team leader at the Bee-Informed Partnership and the University of Minnesota Bee Lab, and Phillip Craft, past president of the Apiary Inspectors of America, Kentucky State Apiarist, and columnist for *Bee Culture* magazine will teach the classes. Vendors include national and local suppliers of beekeeping equipment. Beekeepers will have the opportunity to make coop purchases of the best quality, most (cont.) suitable, equipment and bees.

Lunch and refreshments are included in the cost. Registration packets include course

materials, an authoritative reference book, beekeeping periodicals, and equipment catalogs.

Tuition is \$90 per person. Registration closes February 2nd, unless filled sooner.

REGISTRATION FOR THE WORKSHOP/ BANQUET INFO@EASTERNMOBEEKEEPERS.COM OR CALLING [314-669-1828](tel:314-669-1828) (Submitted by Yvonne Von Der Ahe)

BOYS HOPE GIRLS HOPE PROJECT

We had a productive workday this fall with lots of weeding, mulching and planting of a new bed of beauty berry bushes under pines. Rachel is hard at work compiling information on the new natives for a plant guide of the site. Approximately 30 plant markers are currently being priced and designed for the site. Also, some larger signs are in the works for this native garden in a commercial setting. Other projects for this winter are to trim the numerous palm sedges that are somehow managing to grow in this weather. Anyone with interest in helping can contact Mary Mierkowski. The next workday will be April 12 where supervisors will be needed to guide some volunteers from a church group. Hope to see you there.



Kathleen Evans, Cindy Lueder, Pam Wilcox and Mary Mierkowski (Article and photo submitted by Mary Mierkowski)

A NOTE FROM JAMILA

Eagle Days 2014 was a huge success thanks to your support! Thousands of visitors observed eagles, learned about nature, and came to appreciate the rich heritage and history of the Mississippi River.

Eagle Days Highlights:

- Weekend attendance topped 9,100 visitors! Eagle Days hosted 8,492 visitors at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge and 662 visitors at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
- More than 1,200 students from 22 Missouri and 13 Illinois elementary schools participated in the Eagle Days educational program.
- Eagle Days garnered heavy media interest including a few features of our volunteers on the schools days.
- Visitors enjoyed educational programming from Danny Brown, World Bird Sanctuary, St. Louis Audubon, The Green Center, Lewis & Clark State Historic Site and Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO
- More than 110 trained individuals provided hundreds of volunteer hours to the program helping with interpretation and visitor services

Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge is the largest conservation education program of its kind in the St. Louis area and is co-hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Your continued support is what makes Eagle Days a success year after year! Thank you for supporting this unique, worthwhile program.

Sincerely,

The Eagle Days Team

Jamila Reid
Conservation Education Consultant

WINTER SOWING

Winter sowing is an easy way to start seedlings, without an expensive greenhouse. Some people start a variety of flowers, herbs and vegetables this way. Some seeds work better than others...but if you have a surplus or free seeds, why not give it a try? It is a good way to attempt to start native seeds, as many of them require stratification from the thaw/freeze cycles to germinate. Some seeds and species work better than others – you have to be willing to experiment. Basically, you need:

Container (can be plastic milk jug, etc.)
fresh potting soil and **seeds**.

Poke a few holes in the bottom of your container. If the top is enclosed, poke a few holes in that too. Gallon milk jugs can be cut horizontally so you can get dirt in – just don't cut completely off (see website for photo).

Use a permanent marker and mark the container with the type of seed.

Dampen your soil – you don't want it dripping, but it should be thoroughly damp.

Put soil in container. Put seeds on top of soil. Close it up. Set it outside. Yes, now – in the cold and snow. The seeds will come up when they are good and ready...When they are big enough you can transplant to their final spot.

Check these websites for details. Check the FAQ's within each for a wealth of information.

<http://www.agardenforthehouse.com/2012/11/winter-sowing-101-6/>, <http://www.wintersown.org/>
<http://forums2.gardenweb.com/forums/wtrsow>



(Article and photo by Renee Benage)

CERTIFIED INTERPRETER WORKSHOP

In December 2013, a Certified Interpretive Guide workshop was held at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. The 32-hour course was taught by MDC employees and certified interpreters Colleen Scott and Kevin McCarthy, and sponsored by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The purpose of the workshop is to introduce basic principles of interpretation to individuals that work or volunteer in settings such as nature center, gardens, zoos, and historical sites.

What is interpretation?

"Interpretation is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource." (NAI, 2007)

Anyone that works in an interpretive site and comes in contact with the public can be considered an interpreter. This person may be a docent, a guide, or may be the person at the information desk. Any time a representative of a state park, museum, or exhibit is asked a history, meaning, or mission-related question about that site, they put on their interpreter hat.

The Interpretive Guide course provides an opportunity to receive training in interpretive techniques and also to receive an internationally recognized certification. In order to receive certification, students must fully participate in the entire 32 hours of class, prepare a presentation outline, make a 10-minute presentation to the class, and pass a literature review exam. The literature is provided by the instructors and includes such books as *Interpreting Our Heritage* by Freeman Tilden.

Of the fifteen December participants seven were Missouri Master Naturalists, five from the Confluence Chapter and two were from

Great Rivers (including myself). For those attending this particular class, this was a great opportunity. First, while certification workshops are offered regularly throughout the US, another may not be offered again near the St. Louis area for quite some time. Second, because this class was taught by MDC employees who were being paid for their time, the class was significantly lower in cost than if private instructors were teaching it.

Overall the class was wonderfully informative and challenging. We all learned a lot from the instructors as well as from each other. For more information about the National Association of Interpreters, the process of becoming a certified interpreter or future workshops, their web address is: www.interpnet.com

(Submitted by Marcia Wilderman)

BECKEMEIER CONSERVATION AREA

On December 16th, Great Rivers met with Erin Shank (MDC Urban Wildlife Biologist for St. Louis) to begin the planning process for habitat restoration at Beckemeier Conservation Area in Chesterfield. The CA is 54 acres and contains woodland and bottomland forest along with a 9-acre field. Preliminary plans for 2014 will involve the beginning of a prairie restoration for the field along with re-routing of the existing trail in the woodland to stop the current state of erosion.

This will be an on-going restoration and management project that could lead to others within the St. Louis Urban Wild Acre Conservation Areas as part of the St. Louis Urban Wild Acres 10 year management plan.

(Submitted by Shawn Thomason)

AND WHAT DID YOU DO AT EAGLE DAYS?

Kari Pratt

Sat., Jan. 11, 2014 was my first time to participate in Eagle Days at the Chain of Rocks Bridge. The air temperature was 26 degrees when I pulled into the lot at 8:15am, but warm coffee was waiting and the early visitors were excited to see eagles. As if on cue, an eagle perched itself in a tree just across the parking lot for about an hour at the start of the day. Though I had trained the week before to work with visitors on the bridge, this Sunday I worked at the information booth, welcoming groups, answering questions and pointing people in different directions. It was a wonderful way to spend my Sunday morning. I will certainly volunteer in the Eagle Days event next year.

Toni Vafi

I worked on the parking lot both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Saturday was very COLD and Sunday was very BUSY, but Jamila was there with her truckloads of food and a gazillion smiles for all her volunteers. A worthwhile volunteer op.

Every Year the Gazette staff encourages new and recent MMN grads to share with fellow Great Rivers members, their experiences in discovering, joining and finally graduating from the MMN Program.

This year we are happy to present an accounting, replete with photos (of course) of Professional Photographer and MMN Newbie, Lori Purk.

Because of the comprehensiveness of Lori's review, as well as the many beautiful accompanying photos, we are presenting her entry in an installment form. So relax and

prepare to be entertained by the first installment of Lori's MMN experience.

A MISSOURI MASTER NATURALIST INTERNSHIP IN REVIEW.

I have wanted to be a Missouri Master Naturalist for a long time even though I didn't really understand what all was involved. I just thought that it would be something that would be the right fit for me. The training sessions used to be held during the day while I was working and many years went by where I didn't see a way to fit it in to my busy life. Then by chance, I ran into Colleen Scott at Powder Valley and she advised me that the 2012 program would be held later in the day on an evening I was free. We talked about a few obstacles that were still preventing me from participating and she suggested that I ask my boss if they would let me leave work a little early. Luckily, after I explained the program, my boss agreed to let me sign up.

I enjoyed the 15-week program immensely and before I knew it, I was done. Some weeks it was tough, going to class straight from work. I still had lots of homework and reading to do, but I did as much as I could before each class. After graduating in October 2012, I was a little confused about what was expected of me next. It took me a bit of time to figure out what chapter to join and to find volunteer activities that fit in between my two jobs. I wasn't even really sure what being a Missouri Master Naturalist meant to me and I am still thinking that through. I do know for certain that this has been a wonderful and enriching life experience. It is really fun to be with a bunch of other "nature nerds" who understand what I am talking about. I have had so many amazing experiences and opportunities to learn from some extremely smart people that I would not have had otherwise. I recently heard the term "citizen scientist" for the first

time and I now think of myself in those terms. Being a scientist was a childhood dream that I never thought I could achieve.



My fellow “citizen scientists” at Hidden Creek Savana

Many people in the organization have inspired and helped me along my way to becoming certified last August. I am positive that I will continue to receive any help I may need. Thank you to everyone involved with this organization for your dedication and giving so freely of your time. Meeting so many different types of people, all with interesting stories that lead them to this organization has been wonderful too. Here is my Missouri Master Naturalist internship in review:

Bird Survey at Hidden Creek Savanna – we saw and heard a few birds but it was a little early in the season on this cold February day. I enjoyed getting out, meeting Sherri Schmidt and exploring the savanna at Forest Park for the first time. Hidden Creek is now one of my favorite places.

Butterfly walk and count at August A. Busch Memorial CA – this turned out to be a cancelled event and no one else but the leader and I showed up. I should have known better - it was way too cold of a day in March for butterflies. Always call first when attending another chapter’s volunteer event or advanced training.

Bottom Land Forest Bird Survey I enjoyed learning how to conduct the surveys and using the recordings to call birds in.. I never got to

put it in practice though because the bottomland at Columbia Bottom was flooded all spring and summer.

Pollinator Survey at Hidden Creek Savanna - the savanna was abuzz with life and we enjoyed learning from our guest Glenn who joined us from the St. Louis Zoo.



(Photos and Article by Lori Purk)

The second installment of Lori’s review will appear in the May 1 issue of the Great Rivers Gazette. Tune in!

THE GREEN CENTER SPEAKER SERIES WITH DOUG LADD

Topic: The Nurturing of My Passion for the Natural World

Several members of the Great Rivers chapter attended the talk given by Doug Ladd on Jan. 14, 2014. If you ever get a chance to hear Doug speak, take advantage of it. Doug Ladd is the Director of Conservation Science for the Nature Conservancy in Missouri. He has held this post for the past 13 years. He is also the author of "Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers". He has provided excellent lectures, seminars, etc. throughout the country and this was a special event to have him speak so close to home.

Doug discussed how his early interest in insects, plants and nature in general led him to an education in botany and a career in conservation. He emphasized how allowing children to explore nature freely can instill in them an appreciation for the environment and possibly a lifetime of experiences and opportunities.

He also mentioned the work being done by the Nature Conservancy in Missouri. The Nature Conservancy recently purchased a number of acres along the Current River. He says the Current River is the most biologically significant river in the Midwest and provides habitat for animals found nowhere else on earth. It is also the largest stretch of private frontage remaining in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

The priority of the Nature Conservancy is sustaining the river system and its associated watersheds, protecting critical habitats and species as well as the vibrant economic resources they provide. He mentioned, near Hillsboro, Mo. is Victoria Glades. He called it a "window to Missouri's Natural Heritage". Apparently Missouri has more glades than any other state.

Doug stressed the need to recognize the interdependence of nature and just how irreplaceable and fragile it is.

GR MMN's in attendance: Kath Evans, Pam Wilcox and Marypat Ehlmann

(Submitted by Pam Wilcox)

GR MMN CHRISTMAS PARTY 2013

On a cold and snowy night 36 Great Rivers Missouri Master Naturalists and friends set forth to party. In long coats, hoods, scarves, and gloves, where were they headed? Was it seeking owls, or comets? No! Although these brave souls have been known to trudge out early and late, in heat or freezing cold, this time they were seeking good food, fun and friends.

Our Great Rivers MMN Christmas party was held again this year at Houlihan's at Olive and Mason, on Thursday Dec 5. We visited old and new friends and spouses and Pam Wilcox regularly checked on the snow. This year we had a U shaped table that enabled us to talk with more of our fellow members. In addition to multiple entrees to choose from, we also enjoyed a choice of desserts.

A special treat this year was that 5 of our new members from the Fall MMN training were able to attend, so we got to welcome them to the chapter, visit with them and entice them to join us in some of our early winter efforts; Eagle Days at Chain of Rocks Bridge, the Confluence and Riverlands, Swan Watches and the Maple Festival at Rockwoods Reservation.

Our thanks go to the team that coordinated the party, Kathleen Evans, Cindy Lueder and Vaughn Meister. Please let any of these know what you would like to do next year.

(Submitted by Vaughn Meister)

The remainder of the Gazette is devoted to A MESSAGE FROM GREAT RIVERS CHAPTER PRESIDENT, CORI WESTCOTT, and selected reports on various MMN projects

Greetings all Great Riverians

We all recognize the health of a community that has biodiversity. I realize that within our organization our members' interests reflect a rich diversity of its own. As I report on the 2013 projects, I hope to represent the scope of that diversified interest and give newcomers a sense of what our chapter does.

Education/Outreach

Columbia Bottom, Forest Park, The Green Center, Eagle Days, The Audubon Center at The Riverlands, Rockwood Reservation are just a few of the places we have helped children learn throughout the year. Many of us enjoy the awe we see in a child's face when they see an eagle for the first time or, a caterpillar and learn of its metamorphosis. In several settings, we find ourselves introducing nature to children who experience very little of it. The newness of their experience makes our work very rewarding.

I'd like to especially mention Great Rivers partnership with St. Louis Audubon Society's "Bring Conservation Home" program. Trained Great Rivers volunteers visit participating homeowners to discuss methods that will sustain local fauna and conserve water runoff on their property. The visit is followed by a habitat report based upon their land's sun aspects and soil types. Events are individually scheduled through St. Louis Audubon Society. Great Rivers member Mitch Leachman conducts a March workshop each year called Bringing Conservation Home. Incidentally, we've awarded Mitch an honorary membership in our chapter. Bringing Conservation Home program does a great deal for the St. Louis area in the cause of conservation and habitat building. For additional information about the program, contact Mitch at mitch@stlouisaudubon.org.

Ecological Restoration and Conservation

At Manchester's Seibert Park, we've cleared out the honeysuckle and we fight the poison hemlock, garlic mustard, Johnson grass, yellow and white clover and more. The native woodland plants have sprung up on their own having been dormant under the dark shade of honeysuckle for years! We've also planted 250+ trees and shrubs from Forest ReLeaf and George O. White nurseries. We've sown seeds of New England Aster, River Oats, and Common Milkweed. Currently at our house we are stratifying seed that we will plant in the spring for a Monarch Waystation's sunny hilltop entrance.

We've put some remarkable effort in Castlewood State Park this last year, removing honeysuckle that was threatening the collapse of their brilliant display of natives and we've also participated in tree plantings.

Some of the other locations at which Great Rivers volunteers worked include Little Creek Nature Area, University City's Firehouse, Webster Groves' YMCA, The Green Center, Southampton Neighborhood, Forest Park, Boys Hope Girls Hope, Queeny Park and Parkway Southwest Middle School.

I would be remiss if I didn't include the dedicated efforts our members put in regularly at Shaw Nature Reserve where they collect, process and sow native plant seeds, participate in invasive control measures, and conduct educational programs.

Organizational Accomplishments

Michael Wohlstadter has migrated our website to a platform that allows more than one individual to edit its contents. While we have made a contribution to Ozark Trails Association in his honor, please thank him yourself next time you see him. It was a huge chunk of time and effort that he devoted to the project.

Photography

We're grateful to Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers who donated cash for our own brush cutter. Our member Lori Purk, also a member of MoNEP, was instrumental in making that happen.

Committees

We've made great strides in revisiting and improving committee tasks and procedures. We have even more to do. Join a committee and help our chapter's engine rev to its fullest potential! Review our committees on our website and contact a chairman of the committee you want to join.

Looking to the future, we would like to incorporate more biological-related service. This year, we will participate in the second of a two-year study on the box turtle. We hope to make a significant showing on this season's monitoring in Forest Park and Tyson Research Center. It might be a "foot-in-the-door" to other biological research projects conducted by Washington University. We're also looking into Washington University research being conducted on a 60-acre plot of oak and hickory in Eureka. The research is intended to determine what will happen to the sequestration of CO₂ if there's significant tree loss due to drought.

More coming soon

I'm also working on two other endeavors for the future:

One is an outreach program directed at private contractors that apply rock salt to parking lots and sidewalk. The program will encourage the use of proven Best Management Practices to conserve the use of rock salt. The conservation of rock salt could potentially save a few thousand dollars every year and put less chloride in our urban streams. I'm working with DNR, MDC and MSD on this effort. The other project entails growing our own supply of Missouri native plants for Monarch Waystations in non-profit garden sites that we serve.

I probably have left out a number of projects that are near and dear to your hearts. If so, please forgive me. When I look at the calendar, I like to think of it as a smorgasbord of adventure. And by that standard we feasted well this year. It's a thrill to see so many new faces at our meetings. Welcome, each and every one. My heartfelt thanks to each member for making our chapter a benefit to the region and to Missouri's natural world!

Cori Westcott, President

HIDDEN CREEK SAVANNA SURVEYS OF 2013

Surveys Performed in 2013

Every year since our Chapter first partnered with Forest Park Forever (FPF), surveys are performed by Rivers Chapter members at Hidden Creek Savanna. This information is made available to the Great Rivers Chapter on the website, and to Forest Park Forever.

The goal is to develop as complete a record as possible of the various plants, birds, mammals and insects observed at the project site. The initial surveys provided a baseline. As the natural environment is restored, the vegetation surveys help identify what plants have survived and thrived. The wildlife surveys indicate what birds, mammals and insects are attracted to both visit and inhabit the site.

The following is a summary of the Survey Report documenting the wildlife and vegetation observed in 2013.

Prairie Plants & Wetland Plants are surveyed three times per year: spring, summer, and fall. The 2013 spring vegetation survey was skipped due to a controlled burn at the site in March. However, Bluebells were seen were blooming in the woodland area near the creek in April.

Plants observed during the summer survey included Big Bluestem, Crownbeard, Gray Headed Coneflower, Illinois Bundleflower, Iron Weed, Lizard Tail, Rattlesnake Master, Rose Mallow, Rush, Swamp Milkweed, Wild Bergamot and Wild Indigo. It was also noted that the Royal Catchfly has spread to more locations in the sunny prairie area. The Blazing Stars were now blooming on the woodland side of the prairie, in addition to the sunny area.

The fall plant survey included Black-eyed Susan, Goldenrod, and New England Asters.

Bird surveys are completed at least one time each season and the winter survey is held in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count. Numerous birds were observed this year. Among the more unusual were a male and female Mallard duck seen during the spring survey, as well as Thrashers, which were also seen constructing a nest in the wetland area. During the summer plant survey, a hummingbird was spotted at a Royal Catchfly in the sunny prairie area. And during the fall surveys, a flock of American Pelicans flying above. A Red-shouldered Hawk and two Common Yellowthroats were also noted.

Pollinator Surveys are completed twice a year, summer and fall. In 2013, an insect expert from the St. Louis Zoo attended each survey as a guest to help identify pollinators and educate participants on insect identification.

In 2013, Hidden Creek Savanna hosted a variety of **bees**: Aster Long-horned Bees, Eastern Bumble Bees, Carpenter Bees, Honey Bees, Leaf Cutter Bees, Sweat Bees and Digger Bees.

In addition to the bees a variety of **butterflies** were also spotted: Buckeyes, a Cabbage White, an Eastern Tailed Blue, a Painted Lady, a Pipevine Swallowtail, Skippers, Sulphurs and Monarchs.

Rather than schedule Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibian surveys, members note any mammals, reptiles or amphibians observed when performing other surveys. This year we observed two rabbits and two squirrels during the summer bird survey (*Submitted by Sherri Schmidt*)

SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

The Southwest Middle School project ran from November 2010 to May of 2013. Work was scheduled from March to May in years 2011 thru 2013 and from September to November in years 2011 thru 2012. Some work scheduled on Fridays in years 2011 and 2012. Meetings and planning with the School was conducted in Nov. and Dec. of 2010.

The original goal for the project was centered on protecting the demonstration prairie that the School had. By the end of 2012 all invasive species had been removed from the Prairie. Removal of invasive species (read honeysuckle) near the Prairie had begun and was pushed back about 50 yards.

The School planted native bushes and trees obtained from the State Nursery in years 2012 and 2013. In total I would estimate that approximately one-third to one-half acre was cleared during the project's life. So I suppose that the project met its original goal and then some.

(Submitted by Glen Horton)

FOREST PARK'S CHILD vs WILD PROGRAM

On the week of July 9-12, Great Rivers MMN members assisted MDC staff and other volunteers during Child vs. Wild, an outdoor day camp for young explorers. During the camp, volunteers assisted with hikes, fishing, paddle boating and survival skills to help young outdoor adventurers become more acquainted with the resources and ecosystems in their natural environment. The camp, which was held at Forest Park also included many other activities designed to cultivate the next generation of nature lovers including, fire building, helpful and harmful plant identification, knot tying and more. Students at the camp also got to experience several different habitats at Forest Park. **Gina Staehle** and **Brandy Ray** were the two Great Rivers Missouri Master Naturalists who volunteered with the camp.

(Submitted by Brandy Ray)

This completes the first issue of the new year of the Great Rivers Gazette. It is the first issue with new editor, Marcia Wilderman. Congratulations Marcia, you survived! The next issue of the Gazette will be the May 1, 2014 edition. Entries are due no later than April 29. Hope to see you then.