



Missouri Master Naturalist



Aug 2014

Volume 4 Chapter 3

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

SUMMER SURVEYS AT HIDDEN CREEK SAVANNA



A Survey Team at Hidden Creek Savanna on July 12, 2014

From left, Jen Grable, Bill Hoss, Carolyn DeVaney, Glenn Frei (our guest Insect Keeper from the Zoo), Susan's friend Ann (a Master Gardener), Susan Orr and Barbra Stephenson

(Submitted by Sherri Schmidt)

Summary of Bird Survey at Hidden Creek Savanna on July 12, 2014.

Carolyn DeVaney, Jen Grable, Bill Hoss, Susan Orr, Barbra Stephenson, Sherri Schmidt, and Anne Horton participated.

Site 1: Wetland area - triangle shaped piece of ground near the intersection of Union & Theater streets.

Site 2: Bridge area by the stream in the middle of the prairie restoration area. Observations taken near the bridge.

Site 3: Edge of the site opposite the intersection of Summit & Union streets.

Weather conditions: mostly cloudy with temperatures in the high 70s/ low 80s, humid and breezy.

Birds observed within Site 1 - Wetlands (08:00 - 08:20 am)

Blue Jay 1; Finch 1; Heard Flicker 1; Grackle 1; House Finch 1; Male Red-Winged Blackbird 1; Robin 2; Starlings 3; Tree Swallows 7, fly over.

Birds observed within Site 2 -Sunny Prairie (08:22 - 08:54 am)

Carolina Wren 1; Heard Goldfinch 1; Heard Grackle 3; Red-Winged Blackbird 2, Both male & female, fly over; Robin 2, fly over; Tree Swallows 8, fly over.

Birds observed within Site 3 - Woodland (09:00 - 9:30 am):

Blue Jay 1, heard; Finches 2, fly over; Grackle 1; Mourning Dove 1, heard; 1 Red-Winged Blackbird, Robin 2, adult and juvenile; Starling 1.

More birds were heard and seen, but only those identified are included in the survey.

Summary of Plant Survey, Hidden Creek Savanna in Forest Park June 21, 2014.

Carolyn DeVaney, Jen Grable, Bill Hoss, Susan Orr, Barbra Stephenson, Sherri Schmidt, and Anne Horton participated.

Referenced categories

- Low: Less than 5 plants observed
- Medium: Between 5 and 20 plants observed
- High: More than 20 plants observed

****Note - When an entry is noted intentional, that plant was introduced over the last 4 years. For example, Lizard Tail plants were intentionally planted in the wetland area. Fog Fruit was not.***

Site 1: Wetland Area

Identified plants within the site:

Aster (Symphyotrichum) – low; Fog Fruit (Phyla lanceolata) – medium; Goldenrod (Solidago) – medium; Hedge Bindweed (Calystegia sepium) – medium, Rush (Juncus) – medium, *intentional*; Rush (Juncus) - high, or possibly Green Bulrush (Scripus atrovirens *intentional*).

Unidentified plants

Grass - low – (2 - 3 feet tall, hairy, thin leaves, rough on underside, Sedge - low (with bur seed head)

Plants observed outside the survey site, but in nearby wetland:

Hedge; Bindweed; Lizard Tail - *intentional*; Goldenrod; Sedges – many; Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnate) - *intentional*; Willow trees

Site 2: Prairie in full sun

Identified plants within the site:

Blazing Star (Liatris) – low, *intentional*; Creek Oats (aka Sea or River Oats); (Chasmanthium latifolium) – medium *intentional*; Goldenrod (Solidago) – high; Hedge ; Bindweed (Calystegia sepium), low; Wheat – medium, *intentional*; White Wild Indigo (Baptisia alba) – low, *intentional*; Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) – low, *intentional*.

Plants observed outside the survey site, elsewhere in the sunny prairie:

Blazing Star (Liatris) - *intentional*; Crownbeard (Verbensina helianthoides) – *intentional*; Day Flower (Commelina communis); Gray Headed Coneflower (Ratibida pinnata) – *intentional*; Queen Anne's Lace (Duacus carota); Rattlesnake Master (Eryngium yuccifolium) buds *intentional*; Red Maples; Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnate) – *intentional*; White Wild Indigo (Baptisia alba) – *intentional*; Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) – *intentional*.

Insects observed within and outside the sunny prairie site:

- Bumblebee; Honey Bees; Ladybug; Large, dark butterfly with yellow on its wings, possibly a Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Site 3: Prairie site in shade

Identified plants within the site:

Creek Oats (Chasmanthium latifolium) - low – *intentional*; Wheat – high, *intentional*

Plants observed elsewhere in the shady prairie site:

Identified plants

Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) – *intentional*; Crownbeard (Verbensina helianthoides) – *intentional*; Golden Alexander (Zizia aurea) - *intentional* – Goldenrod; Mulberry; Pokeweed; Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa)- *intentional*; Bush Honeysuckle

Insects observed within and outside the sunny prairie site survey area: Cricket, Bumble Bee.

Summary of Pollinator Survey, Hidden Creek Savanna on June 21, 2014, from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

Carolyn DeVaney, Jen Grable, Bill Hoss, Susan Orr, Barbra Stephenson, Sherri Schmidt, and Anne Horton participated in the survey. Glenn Frei, an Insect Keeper from the Zoo, joined. Glenn helped us identify the pollinators (and other insects) and taught us many things about the insects and their environments!

Weather conditions: partly sunny, and humid, with temperatures in the 80s.

Site 1: Wetland Area

Identified pollinators:

Bees: Bumble Bee (*Bombus*) on Lizard Tail; Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*); Sweat Bee (*Halictidae* Agapostemon)

Beetles: Wedge Shaped Beetle (*Mordallidae*)

Butterflies: Eastern-Tailed Blue Butterfly (*Everes comyntas*) on Lizard Tail leaf

Flies: Fly (*Tachinidae*) on Sweet Clover; Long Legged Dance Fly (*Dolichopodidae*); Hover/Syrphid Fly.

Other insects observed within the site:

Native Ladybug

Site 2: Prairie Area

Identified pollinators:

Bees: American Bumble Bee (*Bombus pennsylvanicus*); Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*); Two-spotted Bumble Bee (*Bombus bimaculatus*); Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera*); Solitary Bee (*Anthophora abrupta*) - look similar to Honey Bee; Sweat Bees - multiple, green.

Beetles: Soldier Beetle (*Rhipophoridae*) - look similar to Lightning Bug

Butterflies: Great Spangled Fritillary Butterfly (*Speyeria cybele*); Eastern-Tailed Blue (*Everes comyntas*); Hairstreak Butterfly - possibly Eastern-Tailed Blue (*Everes comyntas*); Orange Sulphur Butterfly (*Colias eurytheme*); Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly

(*Battus philenor*) - metallic dark blue; Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly (*Pterourus troilus*)

Flies: Hover Fly (*Syrphid*); Hover Fly (on *Monarda*); Sychinid (sp?) Fly (on Sweet Clover) – multiple; *Tachinidae* Fly

Unidentified pollinators:

Butterfly: Large, butterfly with dark wings flying over the Savanna - probably some type of Swallowtail

Other insects observed within the site:

Crab Spider; Dragonfly – multiple; Meadowhawk - male; Saddlebag; European Paperwasps; Grasshoppers; Milkweed Beetle; Native Lady Bugs; Parasitic Wasp (*Trogus pennator*) - reddish in color, parasite of swallowtail caterpillars; Shouldered Bug; Stink Bug

Site 3: Woodland Area

Identified pollinators:

Bees: Brown Belted Bumble Bee (*Bombus Griseocollis*); Two-spotted Bumble Bee (*Bombus Bimaculatus*); Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera*); Leaf Cutter Bees (*Mega Chilidae*)

Beetles: Soldier Beetle (*Rhipiphoridae*) - 2

Butterflies: Cabbage White (*Artogeia rapae*); Great Spangled Fritillary Butterfly (*Speyeria cybele*) – 2; Eastern-Tailed Blue (*Everes comyntas*)

Flies: Hover Fly (on Crown Beard) - multiple

Other insects observed within the site:

Ladybug larvae (on Common Milkweed)

In addition, the following observations were made:

Plants blooming:

Site 1: Chicory, Culver's Root, Illinois Bundleflower, Lizard Tail

Site 2: Black-eyed Susan, Blazing Star, Culver's Root, Dayflower, Gray Headed Coneflower, Iron Weed, Monarda (Wild Bergamot), Rattlesnake Master, Royal Catchfly, Sunflower, Wild Quinine

Site 3: Black-eyed Susan, Chicory, Crown Beard (almost finished blooming), Monarda (Wild Bergamot), Queen Ann's Lace, Smartweed

Pollinators and Insects:

Site 1: 2 green metallic Sweat Bees (on Chicory), Bumble Bees (on Bindweed and Plantain), Honey Bee (on Plantain)

Site 2: Multiple Bumble Bees (*Bombus bimaculatus*, *B. griseocollis*, *B. penslyvanicus*), 6 large Carpenter Bees (*Xylocopa viginica*), Honey Bees, Silver-spotted Skipper, Skipper, Swallowtail Butterfly with black wings, red spots, spots on body - possibly a Black or Spicebush Swallowtail, Sweat Bee (on Chicory).

Site 3: 4 Bumble Bees (*Bombus penslyvanicus*) (on Monarda), 1 very small Bumble Bee.

(Submitted by Sherri Schmidt)

WOW SURVEY TEAMS, What a lot of work you have done!

And, of course, all due gratitude and thanks to Sherri Schmidt for her leadership, reliability and hard work at organizing and documenting the work progress at the Hidden Creek Savanna

ARBORMEISTERS at FOREST RELEAF



ArborMeisters Homebrew Festival on April 26th, 2014, and several Great Rivers Chapter members worked the event. What is ArborMeisters, you ask?...A celebration for those who like trees and homebrew.

Some of you may know Ben Grossman, who is the forester for St. Charles County Parks. Forest ReLeaf of Missouri had their first ever What you may not have known about Ben is that he is also a home brewer. Ben belongs to the Garage Brewers Society, a homebrew club that participates in several events throughout the year for which members create special brews. Put Ben Grossman together with Mike Walsh, the forester from Forest ReLeaf, and voila! ArborMeisters Homebrew Festival at Forest ReLeaf. Each home brewer that participated created a brew using at least one tree-related ingredient. Attendees had the opportunity to taste and vote for the best creation. Some examples included Maple Brown Ale, “Pear”ly There IPA, Black Walnut Honey Wheat and the grand prize brew, Spruce Saison.

Nine of our Great Rivers MMN’s volunteered at the festival; registering guests, selling tickets for the silent auction, telling guests about Forest ReLeaf’s mission, setting up, helping with parking and generally supporting the fundraiser. As you can see from this photo, members Kathy O'Neill, Pat McCoy,

Peggy Morrison, Donna Scott, Carolyn DeVaney, Mike Meredith, Vaughn Meister, Kathleen Evans and Renee Benage had a great time auctioning off take-home bottles of several of the products tested.

Over \$3,000 WAS raised for the non-profit. Forest ReLeaf plans to make ArborMeisters an annual event.

Please join us next year volunteering or just enjoying the event out at Forest ReLeaf’s CommuniTree Gardens nursery on Creve Coeur Mill Road. Plans are in the works to set a date for fall 2015.

(Photo and article submitted by Vaughn Meister)

GLENSHAW PROWLING!

Mark Glenshaw has been busy all summer with Charles and Sarah, the amazing Great Horned Owls of Forest Park. He’s given 18 “Owl Prowls” and 13 talks on the owls and his work with them. Mark’s work with Charles and Sarah and their owlets were a feature story in "The Tableaux", the magazine of Fontbonne University. You can see the article here:

<http://www.fontbonne.edu/resourcesfor/alumni/friends/resources/tableaux/the-owl-man/>

He has additional owl talks scheduled for the remaining summer and fall and more prowls and talks are getting scheduled. If you are interested in joining an “Owl Prowl” or scheduling Mark for a talk for a group or a club, contact him directly :

Mark H.X. Glenshaw,
Forest Park Owls

<http://forestparkowls.blogspot.com/>
mglenshaw@gmail.com

(Info supplied by Mark Glenshaw)

Mark has sent in some splendid photos of his owls. Watch for one very special one of them on the final page of this Gazette.

I AM A MASTER GARDENER
WEED PULLER

Long term responsibility of garden maintenance

By Besa Schweitzer, Miramiguoa Chapter

Many of us are getting requests from the organizations we associate with to create a wildflower or butterfly garden or to fix a neglected one. It would be wonderful if every church, schoolyard, and corner park had a native plant garden. However, gardens take work, not only for the installation but even more so for upkeep. Who is going to maintain that garden for the rest of time? When I am asked to build someone a garden, my first question is, "who is going to take care of it?" I don't have time to commit to maintain every garden I put my hands on, and if I'm weeding, I won't have time left to build more gardens.

Many people have no idea how much care a wildflower garden needs. You can't install it and walk away. Weeds have to be managed, and managed intensively the first few years during establishment. There is no point in spending your time and their money on a garden that is going to look like a weed patch and be ripped out next year. We are not doing the native gardening community any favors by planting future weed patches in public spaces.

If an organization wants a garden it should be willing to commit a volunteer or staff to the garden's upkeep for the rest of the life of that garden. We should offer to train the person who will be managing the garden by having them assist in planting the garden and then work side by side with them until you are confident they clearly understand their maintenance duties. When designing a garden to be managed by native plant novices it is best to limit the number of species used in the garden and plant like species in groups. It is easier to weed when you can pull everything except for the one plant you know. Also avoid using native plants that look similar to the

local weeds. Mulch is another positive addition to the garden as it preserves soil moisture, which reduces watering, and smothers weed seeds, which reduces weeding. Creating a map of the garden with photos of the plants in it also makes a great tool for volunteers.

The volunteer you train will gain knowledge of native plants and can add more diversity every year as their confidence grows. They may even start designing their own native gardens to be carefully tended by other volunteers just beginning their own life long education in native plants. I dream of the day when every vacant space is filled with native flowers and hordes of butterflies, tended by loving and experienced gardeners.

NEW PROJECT FOR GREAT RIVERS AT MCDONNELL PARK

Shawn Thomason wants to announce a new project for The Great Rivers Chapter. We are embarking on an exciting new project helping St. Louis County Parks manage a newly installed prairie at McDonnell Park in St. Ann, Missouri. The prairie was installed on 11.5 acres in 2012 and has been mowed twice since then to help control invasives and pioneer weeds. Doreen Cyr the park supervisor, will be installing a lock box with tools and equipment that the chapter can access for work in the prairie. The main objectives at this point are to eradicate invasives such as Crown Vetch, Autumn Olive, Musk Thistle, Honeysuckle, Lespedeza, and to gradually push back the boundaries of the prairie to create a woodland edge. Because the chapter will have access to equipment on-site, this will be a great opportunity for chapter members to obtain service hours working in the prairie as their schedules allow. More information about how to participate will follow as the details come together.

(Submitted by Shawn Thomason)



John and Bonnie Lorenz honored by St Louis County Parks and Recreation.

Over the past nine years John and Bonnie Lorenz have donated more than 13,500 hours of service to St Louis County Parks equivalent to almost seven full time staff. Together they have had more than 100 different combinations of job titles and have been instrumental in assisting with events, trail projects, honeysuckle removal, park maintenance work, photography, signage and displays.

Saint Louis County Parks relies heavily on volunteers and estimates that volunteers donate more than 115,000 hours annually with a total value wage of more than \$2.5 million.

“Without volunteers we wouldn’t be able to have a lot of the amenities that our community enjoys,” said volunteer coordinator, Sue Bell. “They help maintain the parks and trails, help with landscaping projects and serve as attendants at some of

our museums that would otherwise have to close.”

Regretfully, John and Bonnie have contacted me (Cori) that they have to step away from the Missouri Master Naturalist program.

They simply have been extra, extra busy.

(Submitted by Cori Westcott)

CORI WESTCOTT FEATURED IN MISSOURI STREAM TEAMS’ JULY ‘CHANNELS’ EDITION

Cori is relatively new to Stream Team but has already participated in and even coordinated workshops and water monitoring efforts. Cori signed up for the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Introductory workshop in 2011. In 2012, Cori managed the Grand Glaize Creek Assessment Project (GGCAP), coordinating volunteers and tracking data. Since then, she has assisted in getting access to areas along Grand Glaize by informing landowners and community members of the importance of monitoring and thereby getting their approval. She has mentored new monitors, assisted in teaching monitoring workshops and organized volunteers. She is embarking on efforts to educate local businesses and contractors who apply salt on de-icing best management practices. Cori is also applying for a grant to hold a workshop to teach contractors proper de-icing practices.

As a Master Naturalist, Water Monitoring specialist or simple environmentalist, Cori’s energy and passion is limitless. As stated by Karen Westin, author of the *Channels* newsletter, “all of Cori’s work is done with devotion.”

You can read the entire article, with picture, at the Stream Teams website at:

http://www.mostreamteam.org/Documents/Channel/2014/Channels2014_JulyAug.pdf



Photo shows a Comma Butterfly on Common Milkweed at the Claire Gempp Davidson Memorial Conservation Area.

If you look closely, you can see the mark on the hind wing that gives the butterfly its name.

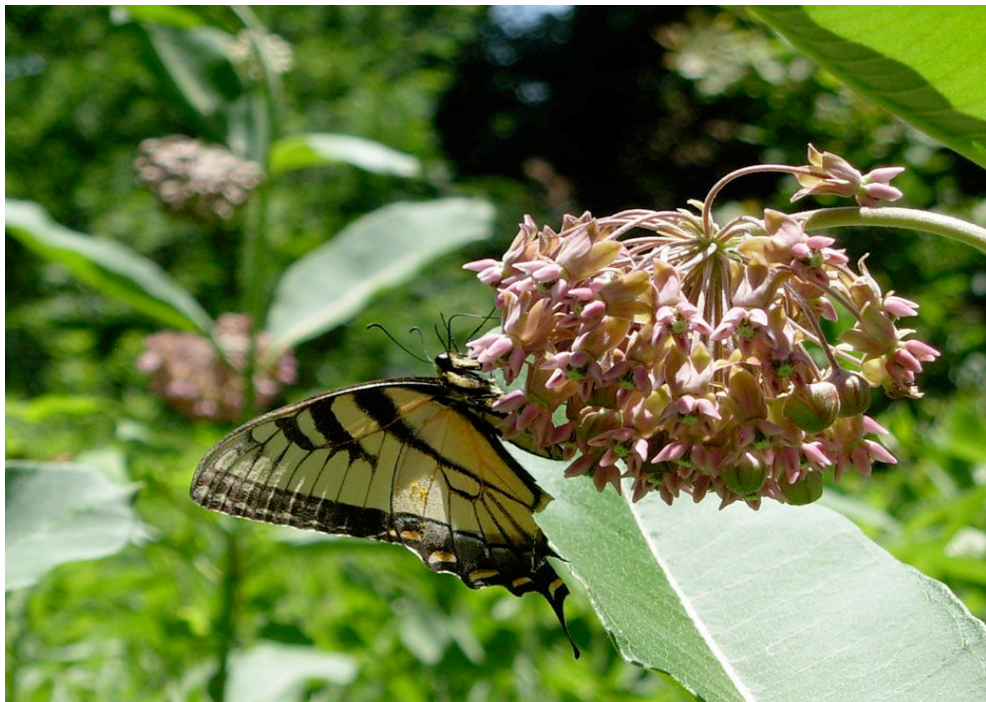


Photo showing a Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly on a Common Milkweed at the Claire Gempp Davidson Memorial Conservation Area.

It is not in the Monarch Waystation we recently installed, but hopefully as the Waystation becomes established we will see butterfly activity there.

(Photos by Sherri Schmidt)

CLEANING UP HIDDEN CREEK

These past two Fridays, June 13th and 20th, members of the chapter spent the mornings removing maple and other trees from Hidden Creek, On the 13th Marypat Ehlmann, Nancy Burgess and I were joined by Jimaniqua Baldwin, a student wishing to broaden her interests. On the 20th, we were joined by Michael Meredith and three members of Forest Park Forever- Josh Wibbenmeyer, Mark Bucher, and Theo Smith . There was a noticeable difference in the number of undesirable trees by the end of the second session.

I have attached a shot of the group from 6/13/2014 at Hidden Creek.
(Submitted By John Powers)



MARK'S OWLET, JAMES



