



Missouri Master Naturalist

Summer-Fall Issue 2018 Volume 8 Number 3



*We delight in the beauty
of the butterfly,
but rarely admit the changes
it has gone through
to achieve that beauty
~ Maya Angelou*

Black Swallowtail Caterpillar (*Papilio polyxenes*)
Eating Dill at the Missouri Botanical Garden
Photo by ©Barb Cerutti ©2018

Great Rivers Gazette

Summer-Fall 2018

Volume.8 Number 3

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Co-Editor: Pam Wilcox

Co-Editor: Bob Virag

Reviewer: Lori Purk

Contents	Page
The Presidents Corner <i>Rachel Becknell</i>	2
Under New Management	3
Citizen Science	4
Stewardship	5
Outreach & Education	14
Advanced Training	24
Member Milestones	29
Naturalist's Journal	33
Great Rivers LOGO WEAR ORDER	38

Front Cover

Black Swallowtail Caterpillar – Photo by Barb Cerutti

Back Cover

Newborn Fawn– Photo by Evelyn Tullos

Great Rivers Chapter Officers

President -----	Rachel Becknell
Vice President-----	Bob Virag
Secretary -----	Diana Miller
Treasurer -----	Vaughn Meister
Board Member-at-Large -----	Michael Meredith
Board Member-at-Large -----	Sherri Schmidt
Board Member-at-Large -----	Pam Wilcox

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(vacant) University of Missouri Extension St. Louis

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Advanced Training-----	Michael Meredith
Tri-Chapter Coordination-----	Michael Meredith
Partners and Projects-----	Pam Wilcox
Communication-----	Pam Wilcox
Membership-----	Rita Buckley
Historian and Social Networking-----	Rachel Bourneuf
Hospitality-----	Tessa Wasserman
Master Naturalist Logo Apparel-----	Kari Pratt

The President's Corner

Dear Chapter Members,

When I became president of our chapter back in late 2016 it came as a completely unexpected position. Two years later and I can truly say

that I am glad that I

did it. Not only did I learn a great deal about leadership and diplomacy, but I also got to know so many more of our beloved members. The president helps to keep things organized, but the members are the ones who are out in the community every single day.

If there is one thing that I could hope for regarding the future direction of our chapter, it would be to see more involvement by our membership in Saint Louis City. We can help to bring more native plants to the residents' everyday spaces and can help to educate our community on the importance of safeguarding and restoring our shared environment. Our city has a sad history of those with the most means leaving the city behind for the county, resulting in a city and community with few resources. I urge you all to do what you can to invest in these communities. Give them your time, love, and knowledge. Projects like the restoration of O'Fallon Park are an excellent start. Now, let's get out there and make a difference. I promise that I'll see you there.

Rachel Becknell

President,

Great Rivers Chapter



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View us on the web at www.greatrivers.org

View us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MMNGreatRiversChapter
and www.facebook.com/groups/15075118803379



Great Rivers Chapter UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

OFFICERS WITH EXPIRING TERMS

Rachel Becknell, Chapter President, 2017-2018, announced in October that she would complete her two-year term at the end of this year and welcome a new president for the 2019-2020 term. After a short period of mourning, the chapter congratulated Rachel on her outstanding leadership, her stellar ability at inspiring all of us to be better Missouri Master Naturalists, and for her amazing skill at making our monthly meetings fun and educational again! Thank you, Rachel for all that you have done for us and the program!

Vaughn Meister, Chapter Treasurer, 2017-2018, also announced that her term was expiring the end of this year. We will miss Vaughn’s infectious smile and vibrant enthusiasm. Thank you, Vaughn, for helping to keep us on a fiscal course and end the year with a greater balance than ever in chapter history, and putting a big smile on our face in the process!

2018 ELECTION RESULTS

The nomination process to fill the positions for a new president and treasurer was a real nail biter, but as one of the winning nominees said, “when the call went out it was more like 100 members stepped back faster than I did.” The wild cheer that followed the unanimous votes for the candidates was so loud it shook the rafters!

Congratulations to our newly elected **2019-2020 Great Rivers Chapter President, Bob Ochs** – Class of 2017 and our newly elected **Great Rivers Treasurer, Evelyn Tullos** – Class of 2015. We are looking forward to another fun and exciting two-years at Great Rivers under your leadership!



Rachel Becknell passing the presidential gavel to Bob Ochs



Newly minted Treasurer, Evelyn Tullos

NEW University of Missouri Extension Advisor, **Justin Keay**



St. Louis UME just announced the hiring of a new advisor for both Great Rivers and Confluence Chapters. Please give a warm welcome to Justin Keay as he joins our flock!

Justin Keay is the new Horticulture Specialist for MU Extension. Justin brings a passion for protecting Missouri’s environment and natural resources to his new position. His responsibilities include serving St. Charles and St. Louis Counties.

He has worked as an agricultural research associate with Lincoln University, an organic farm inspector, owner/operator of North County Produce Farm, a manager for Hummert Horticultural Supply and a buyer for Whole Foods Market helping local producers comply with insurance, food safety and animal welfare standards. Justin has a M.S. in Integrated Agricultural Systems from Lincoln University and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Washington University, as well as additional classes from St. Louis Community College.



Great Rivers Citizen Science – Summer-Fall 2018

Claire Gempp Davidson Bird Surveys

by Sean Tracy

The bird surveys have continued at Claire Gempp Davidson Conservation Area throughout the summer and are scheduled until the end of November.

Mary Dueren, Sue Gustafson, Karen Meyer, and Mike Thelen, expert birders from the St. Louis chapter of the Audubon Society, have led these walks once a month since December 2017. In that time, 60 plus species have been identified in this small fifteen acre tract of land. The survey's goals are to acquire a bird baseline of species that frequent this tract.

Since the beginning of summer, 44 bird species have either been seen or heard at Claire Gempp Davidson. Already, migrants are passing through on their way to their winter homes.

The surveys are normally held during weekdays and are open to all.

Please contact **Sherri Schmidt** if interested in attending any or all.



Brown Thrasher



Red Bellied Woodpecker



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Red-shouldered Hawk



Great Rivers Stewardship Projects – Summer-Fall 2018

Flora Conservancy Update

by Pam Fournier

What is a fountain with no water?

Broken!

The fountain on the Jewel Box grounds was in disrepair for over two years. The Flora Conservancy of Forest Park made it possible to be fixed. Flora sought craftsmen who might be able to make the repair but found that few in St. Louis were willing or able to do such work. With the help of Joe Summers, owner of Chalily Pond Store and member of partner St. Louis Water Garden Society, Flora was able to hire Precision Fountain of St. Louis to do the repair.

Flora paid approximately \$9,200 to get the structure in sound, water tight repair. The city of St. Louis purchased a new water pump to replace the prior burned out pump for about \$800. Currently, the fountain is functioning as it should and enhancing the experience for those visiting Forest Park.

The Flora Conservancy raises funds through an annual plant sale. The sale is held on the Saturday before Mother's Day each year. The Flora Conservancy sale is held in the Forest Park greenhouses which adds to the experience for shoppers. At the start of the sale, the line of those waiting to get in stretches for hundreds of shoppers. Long time plant shoppers know that the Flora sale will offer beautiful plants at a reasonable price. Buyers also know that their purchase will enable Forest Park enhancement such as the restoration of the Jewel Box fountain.



JB Fountain Before



Restored Fountain



Restoration and Native Plant Garden at World Bird Sanctuary

July 27, 2018



Tess Wasserman invited Great Rivers members to assist with a new project at WBS. The area is near the wooden bridge. **Carl Davis** and **Pam Wilcox** helped Tess clear weeds and unwanted rocks and timber from the area so new native plants could be added. Carl took before and after pictures in the area he worked in. The volunteers were caught in a heavy rainstorm, but luckily their work was complete for the day.





Stewardship (continued)



St. Louis Audubon Society and St. Louis County Parks HONEYSUCKLE HACK



St. Vincent Community Center, Normandy, Missouri

September 28, 2018

The tenacity of invasive bush honeysuckle is no match against the awesome power of focused teamwork! Great Rivers Missouri Master Naturalists **Chris Garhart, Michael Meredith, Tara Morton, Bob Virag, and Pam Wilcox** helped to remove a 500-foot long, half-acre area of the nasty invaders in the St. Vincent Community Center September 28, 2018. The event was organized by St. Louis Audubon and St. Louis County Parks and attended by over 40 volunteers from Missouri American Water, Mallinckrodt, Hewlett Packard, local residents, and our crack team from the Missouri Master Naturalist-Great Rivers Chapter. -- *Photos by Bob Virag*



Led by St. Louis Audubon and St. Louis County Parks, over 40 volunteers assembled to discuss battle-plans.



A 500-foot long , half-acre area of invasive bush honeysuckle was cut, moved, and stacked for disposal on the lawn across the road in a few short hours.



Missouri Master Naturalist **Michael Meredith** - Honeysuckle Slayer. The honeysuckle didn't know what hit them



Michael Meredith and Pam Wilcox team up to prove that the tenacity of invasive bush honeysuckle is no match against the awesome power of nonpartisan collaboration!



MDC thanks Missouri Master Naturalists for their help with the City of St. Louis O'Fallon Community Outreach Event



September 22, 2018

On behalf of the Back to Nature project partners, I would like to thank the Master Naturalists for their hard work at the O'Fallon community outreach event. I was very impressed with the turnout, and you all did an amazing job with the planting. The Missouri Department of Conservation is very lucky to have such a dedicated group of volunteers. We are happy to have the Master Naturalists as partners, and we hope that you will continue to be engaged in this important project.

Again, thanks so much for your help!

Josh Ward

Community Conservation Planner

Missouri Department of Conservation



Great turnout GR members! Pictured are:

***Jack Hambene, Brenda Switzer, Carl Davis, Diana Miller,
Bob Ochs, Rachel Becknell, Tess Wassermann, Tara Morton***



Stewardship (continued)

O'Fallon Community Outreach Event (continued)





Stewardship (continued)

Volunteer Spotlight from Forest Releaf



by Renee' Benage



Renee Benage working in the Forest Releaf greenhouse

My first introduction to Forest Releaf was early spring tree potting some time after 2008 when I finished my Missouri Master Naturalist certification. After retiring in 2014, it was an opportunity to join the regular volunteers on Wednesday mornings to help fulfill the mission of Forest ReLeaf.

As a life-long gardener, helping grow and lovingly maintain the trees at Forest ReLeaf is a wonderful way to give back to our community. I look forward to time with my tribe of dedicated volunteers (and staff). We enjoy each other and have interesting and wide-ranging conversations while we are tending trees

The staff at Forest ReLeaf make it easy to volunteer - they keep us informed, attendance is flexible, they keep us busy, they educate us - and we have snacks. What more can you ask?

Some days when it is very hot (or very cold), I ask myself if I would be working in my own yard if I were home...and the usual answer to myself is no. There's just something about Forest ReLeaf that keeps us regular volunteers coming back.



Tess Wasserman at Tree Camp

Information from Forest Releaf's 2017 Annual Report provided some very impressive volunteer statistics for Great Rivers members who volunteer at Forest Releaf's CommuniTree Nursery.

- **Vaughn Meister** and **Tess Wassermann** - 200 plus hours
- **Renee Benage** and **Evelyn Tullos** – 100 plus hours

As Forest Releaf says

“Thank You to our TREMENDOUS Volunteers.”



Vaughn Meister and friends potting trees at Forest Releaf



Evelyn Tullos - Watering trees at Forest Releaf



Stewardship (continued)

A hidden treasure in St Louis County – the Wildlife Rescue Center



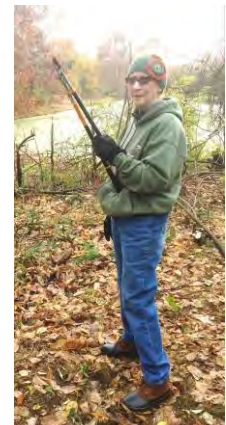
November 3, 2018

Hidden in plain sight is an amazing Missouri wildlife sanctuary that works to rehabilitate injured animals and release them back in to the wild. [Click here](#) to learn how the Wildlife Rescue Center treats over 2,000 wildlife patients every year. Sadly, the Center is ailing. It's being overtaken by a deadly invader....the dreaded Bush Honeysuckle!

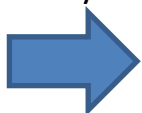


Missouri Master Naturalist Honeysuckle Hackers to the Rescue!

On November 3, 2018, nine members of Great Rivers Chapter participated in joint project to clear bush honeysuckle from the hiking trail adjacent to the Wildlife Rescue Center pond. **Barbara Brain, Tom Fasl, Eileen Hall, Bill Hoss, Michael Meredith, Diana Miller, Peggy Parr, Bob Virag, and Pam Wilcox** from Great Rivers Chapter helped eleven members from Confluence Chapter clear three truckloads of the wily invader from the west shoreline of the 2.5 acre pond. The hope is that all the newly cleared habitat will attract native plants and new spring ephemerals new year for the enjoyment of the many middle school and Boy Scout nature walks around the pond. *Thank you, team, for all your hard work and job-well-done.*



Click here to learn more about Bush Honeysuckle



JUST SAY **NO!** TO BUSH HONEYSUCKLE



St. Louis County - Spanish Lake County Park - Honeysuckle Hack



by *Larry Conant*
November 17, 2018

Did we mention that volunteers in our chapter enthusiastically hack honeysuckle? They don't let a little fall snow get in the way. Saturday, November 17, 2018, four Great Rivers Missouri Master Naturalists - **Diane Goulis, Donna Scott, Sean Tracy, and Larry Conant**, and Sean's son, Kyle -- hacked honeysuckle (a lot of honeysuckle) at Spanish Lake County Park. It was a beautiful late Autumn day and a good time was had by everyone there.



Diane Goulis, Donna Scott, Sean Tracy, and Larry Conant



Message to Honeysuckle: Resistance is Futile!



Donna Scott vs. the invasive bush honeysuckle



Let the sun shine in!



Stewardship (continued)

Nature in the City



Missouri Master Naturalists help make St. Louis City South Grand Community Improvement District *Clean and Green* Again

October 5 and December 1, 2018

The St. Louis City South Grand Community Improvement District turned to energetic and dedicated Great Rivers volunteers to steward the landscape areas located along South Grand from Arsenal to Utah. There the Missouri Master Naturalists helped with native planting, weeding, mulching and trash pickup along this busy urban corridor. The newly formed “EcoCrew” returned again in early December to prepare the native landscape for winter.

Many thanks to Great Rivers volunteers **Debra Mauer, Bob Ochs, and Brenda Switzer** for your leadership in guiding the district’s volunteers.





Great Rivers Outreach and Education – Summer-Fall 2018



Missouri Prairie Foundation Volunteers of the Year Award

Great Rivers Member **Ann Earley** and Confluence Member **Bob Siemer**

The 52-year-old prairie conservation organization and land trust honored champions of prairie conservation on August 4, 2018 at its Annual Dinner in Columbia, MO

-- by Renee Benage

Missouri Prairie Foundation 2018 Donald M. Christisen Prairie Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Missouri Master Naturalists **Ann Earley** and **Bob Siemer**, of Chesterfield, MO. This dynamic couple was recognized for outstanding volunteer outreach efforts to educate citizens about the importance of prairie conservation and use of native plants, at festivals, conferences, and other venues around the state, as well as to develop and present programs on monarch butterfly conservation to various groups. Ann is a member of Great Rivers and Bob is a member of the Confluence chapter.

Congratulations to this dynamic duo!





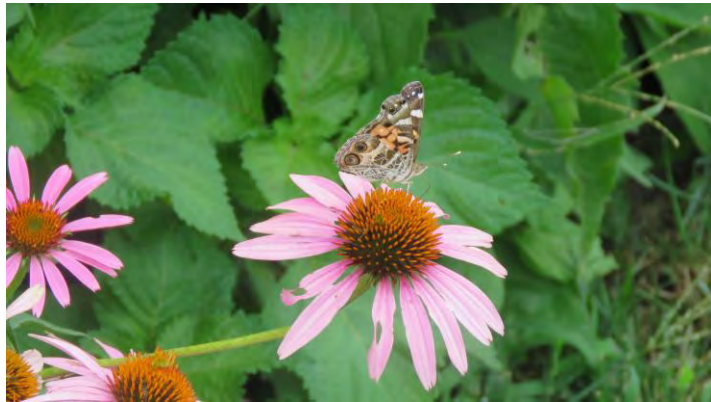
Outreach and Education (continued)



Missouri Bluebird Society Goes “Wild for Monarchs”

by Ann Earley

On July 14 at their annual conference in Jefferson City, more than 100 members of the Missouri Bluebird Society heard the “Wild for Monarchs” presentation by Bob Siemer and me. This presentation is given on behalf of several organizations, including the Wild Ones St. Louis Chapter, Missouri Master Naturalists (Great Rivers and Confluence Chapters), Missourians for Monarchs, and the Grow Native program (part of the Missouri Prairie Foundation).



A Painted Lady butterfly nectars on a Purple Coneflower during the conference field trip

Conference attendees represented five states and were very interested in learning more about the current population status of monarchs and what we can all do to help these special butterflies. Society members were eager to pick up the informational handout materials we provided, along with native nectar plant seed packets which were furnished by Grow Native. After our program, several Society members from around the state inquired about having us give the presentation to organizations in their communities.

Established in 2006, the Missouri Bluebird Society’s main goal is to encourage the development, maintenance, and monitoring of bluebird trails in Missouri and to encourage the use of safe and appropriate nesting boxes for bluebirds to use. This is especially important to us Missourians, as the bluebird is our state bird.

Locally, Missouri Master Naturalist chapter members monitor bluebird boxes at various locations, including Forest Park, Creve Coeur Park, several St. Charles County Parks, and Shaw Nature Reserve.

Missouri Bluebird Society’s annual conference is held each summer; in even-numbered years it is held in Jefferson City, and in other years it rotates around the state to different venues. This year’s conference speakers included: Matt Miles sharing nature photos from his book *Missouri Wild and Wonderful*; Mike Doyen discussing The Great Missouri Birding Trail; and Steve Smith with a Q and A session about Basics of Bluebirding. The conference also included a nest box and baffle building workshop coordinated by society members. A conference highlight was a field trip to the property of Society members just outside of Jefferson City, where members identified 19 different bird species and enjoyed watching licensed hummingbird bander Veronica Mecko band and record data for several Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds.

We enjoyed being part of this year’s conference and meeting several Missouri Master Naturalists from around the state who are members of the Missouri Bluebird Society. Planning is underway for the 2019 annual conference, which will be held July 12-14 in the St. Louis area. You are invited to attend and we will share more information as it becomes available.



A female Monarch butterfly nectars on Butterfly Milkweed during the conference field trip



On September 15, 2018 the Great Rivers Chapter participated in the yearly Monarch Madness event at the Weldon Spring Interpretive Center.

The weather was a bit on the “hot” side but fortunately for the volunteers, we had relief from the glaring sun thanks to the purchase of the chapter’s new canopy



The event featured monarch capture and tagging, games and creative art for kids, plus around 30 booths for vendors and local nature organizations. It was a fun and well attended despite the heat.

Here’s a link to [MONARCH INFORMATION](#) graciously provided by the Confluence Chapter.



*Pictured above at our awesome booth are Diane Goulis, Larry Conant and Tom Fasl.
Not pictured, Pam Wilcox and Bob Virag*



Outreach and Education (continued)



Bring Conservation Home 2018 Native Garden Tour

by Mitch Leachman
September 16, 2018



On June 16th, over 200 people participated in our 4th annual St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour. MANY thanks to our 10 hosts in Richmond Heights and STL City, our dozens of volunteers including the Tour Committee, our Tour Friends for helping spread the word, our four amazing retailers and all our SPONSORS! Hope to see YOU on the tour next year!



Evelyn Tullos shares her knowledge with visitors



GR member Ann Earley answering visitors questions



Jan and Cliff Aerie Landscape



Purple Poppy Mallow – Ed Schmidt yard





Brenda Hente's Presentation

ENGINEERING MARVELS: THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE OWL

Review by Bob Virag

August 2, 2018

Once again, the "Owl Lady of St. Louis", Missouri Master Naturalist Brenda Hente, delivered another riveting presentation, entitled "Engineering Marvels: The Science Behind the Owl". Her audience on August 2, 2018 included members of Forest Park Forever's "Bird Basics" group at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park. All were awed by Brenda's depth of knowledge on the owls survival adaptations that guarantee its position as the Alpha Predator.

Brenda hooked me with term "engineering marvels". With beautiful photos and illustrations and the skill of one of my old premed biology professors teaching Comparative Anatomy, Brenda described the physical attributes that distinguish the superior abilities of the owl to its (mostly) mammal prey.

Who knew that the eyes of owls are not 'eyeballs', but shaped more like cylindrical 'eye-tubes' to hold them immobile and steady their gaze? Or had eyes that benefit from independent voluntary pupil control for better acuity in the dark? Or have energy efficient spring-loaded and ratcheting talon tendons to automatically clamp their prey on contact? The list goes on and on

Brenda capped off her presentation by expertly displaying two live owls, both of which were up to the task of showing off their evolutionary superiority.

Thank you, Brenda, for an informative and truly amazing evening. This was a lecture not to miss.



Brenda Hente presenting "Engineering Marvels: The Science Behind the Owl" to the Forest Park Forever Bird Basics Group on August 2, 2018.



Brenda Hente displaying Pearl, a British Barn Owl



Brenda Hente displaying Jersey, a Barred Owl



Outreach and Education (continued)

Greenway Network's Race for the Rivers Festival

by Bob Virag August 25, 2018



To our hard-working Missouri Master Naturalists, A BIG Thank You for all your wonderful outreach and nature education at the Greenway Network "Race for the Rivers" event in St. Charles, August 25, 2018. There are now fewer "nature deprived" children in the world thanks to your enthusiastic participation!

The variety and effectiveness of all the exhibits displayed was amazing. The children's reading corners, the macroinvertebrate twister game, the monarch butterfly display, the stages of development puzzle, the bug boxes, the mesmerizing mussel display, the live critters and stream table were all a big hit! I think we even got a few parents interested enough to sign up for Missouri Master Naturalist training.

The shared chapter booths were also very effective. Five volunteers from Great Rivers chapter -- **Carl Davis, Mary Mierkowski, Evelyn Tullos, Bob Virag, and Tessa Wasserman** -- and ten volunteers from Confluence chapter --led by Missouri Master Naturalist Extraordinaire, **Leslie Limberg** - graciously contributed their expert efforts. And many thanks to Charlene Waggoner, President, Greenway Network, for hosting the event and graciously providing our sites under that gigantic shady sycamore tree again this year. Thank you to all who participated that day.

This event was a great success for Greenway Network, our Missouri Master Naturalist program, and for the environment.

As a result of your efforts, I am confident a good number of the festival attendees who stopped by our tables now have a better understanding of their role in protecting our environment.

Here are several photos of the event. 'Lots of Big Smiles! See even more photos on the [Great Rivers Facebook page!](#)

Again, a heartfelt THANK YOU to all!



Great Rivers and Confluence Chapters displayed a river ecosystems educational exhibit and children's nature experience and library under the shady Sycamore.



The live macroinvertebrates and mini-stream table were popular once again



Confluence volunteer **Sue Stevens** and Great Rivers volunteers **Evelyn Tullos** and **Mary Mierkowski**.



First encounter with a Hellgramite larvae.



A budding Limnologist learning the power of water and our changing rivers



Learning how to catch his first crawfish is always exciting!



A young Entomologist learning about Monarchs and the stages of metamorphosis



Outreach and Education (continued)

Messy Play Day

Endangered Wolf Center

by Karen Zelle

July 29, 2018

Many of my volunteer hours are spent at the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka. A project that is dear to my heart is the organization of our yearly Messy Play Day. This is an event for our youngest guests who have just started walking to age 5 and their families. They can enjoy dirt, mud, sand and water, bubbles and crafts. They can visit our wolves and other animals, make music and visit the gift shop. It is a super fun day!

During my Missouri Master Naturalist training in 2017 I was introduced to many important conservation organizations and volunteers. When it was time to plan Messy Play Day 2018, I saw an opportunity to connect our guests with some of these organizations. Our own Great Rivers Missouri Master Naturalists, Audubon at Riverlands and the Missouri Department of Conservation-Powder Valley Nature Center volunteers were happy to be a part of the event and our families enjoyed the additional activities.

We all agree that education is central to conservation and I believe that reaching young children and their families and sharing conservation messages is critical. My hope is to grow Messy Play Day by including additional organizations next year.

Endangered Wolf Center



Volunteer Donna Phillips of MDC Powder Valley makes turtles.



*Great Rivers Master Naturalists **Sandy Brooks** and **Tara Morton** talk with guests.*



Messy Play Day at Endangered Wolf Center (continued)



*Audubon at Riverlands volunteers
Jan Ruckman and Dwight Curry.*



*Staff member Erin Harms and Daisy,
Fennec Fox Ambassador paid a visit!*



Nest building with Audubon Center at Riverlands volunteers.



Getting messy at Messy Play Day!



Audubon

Volunteer Thank You

Audubon Center
at Riverlands

The Audubon Center at Riverlands extends a sincere thank you to the volunteers as the fiscal year 2018 comes to an end. Check out the list below and you will see some familiar names (highlighted). Congratulations to all the Great Rivers members who volunteered their time at Riverlands this year.

Providing Energy, Expertise, Kindness and Leadership

Native Plant Garden Volunteers: Jean Carmean, **Eileen Hall**, Sharon Lu, Karen Meyer, and Anne Rankin Horton

Prairie Restoration Volunteers: **Rachel Becknell**, Jean Carmean, **Eileen Hall**, Gail Gagon, **Jack Hambene**, **Peggy Parr**, **Annie Russell**, **Cindy Steinbruegge**, and **Nancy Willis**

Programs, Events and Center Volunteers: Christy Beckmann, Steve Coyle, Dwight Curry, **Carl Davis**, **Mary Dueren**, Tom Feiner, Cynthia Gilbert, Gaileen and John Hoenig, Irma Holmes, **Dennis Honkomp**, Emily Keener, Jack Lockwood, Maggie Martin, Karen Meyer, Paul Moffett, Beth Noonan, Ann Rankin Horton, Lauren Pattan, Melissa Sauter, Ed Schmidt, Penny Schmidt, Gloria Shidler, and **Karen Zelle**

Trumpeter Swan Count Leader Pat Lueders and our dedicated volunteer community scientists: Donna Bruner, **Mary Dueren**, Jeanne Gearin, **Jack Hambene**, Kathleen Hudson, Herb Huebner, Anne Kirkpatrick, Ed Leutwiler, Sharon Lu, **Michael Meredith**, Paul Moffett, Leon Moore, Peggy Oates, Anne Rankin Horton, Natalie Rekittke, Mick Richardson, Jan Ruckman, Joel Rurik, Marv Staloch, Janet Hoyne, **Bob Virag**, Barb Wanless, and Bob Wanless

Giving Thanks!

We accomplished all of this and more thanks to the support of our donors, volunteers and partners.

Through a unique collaboration with the Rivers Project Office of the US Army Corps of Engineers, we further leveraged your resources to conserve critical bird habitat and connect thousands of visitors to the beauty and magnificence of the Mississippi River.

You have my promise for more outcomes and our unending gratitude in the new year ahead.

Please visit soon and often to see how your support is making a difference for birds, rivers and people. Each season brings new opportunities to experience and enjoy nature at Riverlands.

Gratefully,

Ken Buchholz

Director

Audubon Center at Riverlands





Outreach and Education (continued)

Great Rivers Photo Contest

Once again, with the change of every season, Great Rivers chapter members have the opportunity to present their prized photos for display on the home page of the chapter website. The event is curated by a panel of esteemed judges.

- Two photos were selected for the front and back cover pages of this issue of the Gazette.
- Six additional photographs were selected for the website Home Page Slideshow. These can be viewed at www.greatrivers.org and are also shown below.

Please congratulate our Great Rivers photographers. Their outstanding work helps to further the Missouri Master Naturalist mission to improve public understanding of natural resource ecology and management by enhancing natural resource **Outreach and Education** activities.

Website Photographs



Monarch Butterfly
on a Mexican Sunflower
Tessa Wasserman ©2018

Monarch Butterfly on a Mexican Sunflower
--- photo by Tessa Wasserman ©2018



Commas and Hackberry Butterfly on a Hackberry Root
Sean Tracy ©2018

Commas and Hackberry Butterflies on Hackberry Root -
-- photo by Sean Tracy ©2018



Hackberry Butterflies on a Hackberry Root
Sean Tracy ©2018

Hackberry Butterflies on a Hackberry Root
--- photo by Sean Tracy ©2018



Tiger Swallowtail on Cup Plant
Tessa Wasserman ©2018

Tiger Swallowtail on Cup Plant
--- photo by Tessa Wasserman ©2018



Monarch Butterfly
and Buckeye Butterfly
on False Dragonhead
Sean Tracy ©2018

Monarch and Buckeye Butterflies on False Dragonhead
--- photo by Sean Tracy ©2018



Zebra Swallowtail
resting on Blackhaw Viburnum
Tessa Wasserman ©2018

Zebra Swallowtail resting on a Blackhaw Viburnum
--- photo by Tessa Wasserman ©2018



Great Rivers Advanced Training

Advanced Training Speaker Series – Summer - Fall 2018

July 17, 2018 **Spiders of Missouri by David Bruns, MDC**

-David Bruns taught us that all spiders are arachnids, but not all arachnids are spiders. Did you know a daddy-long-leg is not a spider? I mention this because it's such a common "spider", I mean arachnid! It only has 2 eyes, spiders have 8. There are 47,000+ species of spiders in the world; 3400 in North America; and only 448 in Missouri. David is sure there are more but not that many people study spiders. Why you ask? Because they are harmless to humans, don't cause crop damage, don't carry diseases. And from there it was 45 minutes of fascinating information and power-point pictures of spiders.

---- Review by Diana Miller

August 21, 2018 **Rain Gardens by Ned Siegel, Missouri Botanical Gardens**

Ned Siegel presented a fascinating lecture on rainscaping. He began by sharing information on MDC's Project Clear initiative to alleviate as much runoff water as possible from entering the sewer system at new commercial construction areas by incorporating plans for rain gardens adjacent to the expansive impervious areas, such as parking surface. MDC is also working with residential areas to encourage homeowners to incorporate rain gardens on their properties and in public areas to capture runoff water from roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces. Keeping as much runoff water out of the streams is of paramount importance to maintain the health of aquatic life and to help minimize erosion.

----- Review by Evelyn Tullos

September 19, 2018 **Fish of Missouri by Kevin Meneau, MDC**

Kevin Meneau explained how MDC in conjunction with 8 other agencies helped rid (mostly) Creve Coeur Lake of carp. With the help of Federal, State, USGS, USFWS, etc. and it took ALL these combined forces (labor and brains) to come up with a solution to round up the carp and pull them from the lake. We found out that carp are quite smart! Approximately 2009 they started showing up and eating all the crappie. Fishermen noticed. It was estimated there were 50,000 carp in the lake.

He also spoke about the St. Louis Urban Fishing Program. 17 lakes in the St. Louis area are part of this program—stocked by MDC. It was a pilot program that started in 1969 creating "close to home" places for families to fish. In 2019, the St. Louis Urban Fishing Program will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Be on the lookout for special events, stockings, and information throughout 2019.----- Review by Diana Miller



Advanced Training Speaker Series Completed 2018 Calendar

1/16/2018	Brenda Hente	Owls of Missouri
2/20/2018	Jean Ponzi	Home Recycling
3/20/2018	J. Richard Abbott, PhD:	An Introduction to Modern Botany.
4/17/2018	Malinda Walter Slagle	Pollinators
5/15/2018	Simon Warren	Bokashi Method of Recycling
6/19/2018	no speaker	Picnic
7/17/2018	David Bruns	Spiders of Missouri
8/21/2018	Ned Siegel	Rain Gardens
9/18/2018	Kevin Meneau, MDC	Fish of Missouri
10/16/2018	Steve McMurray	Introduction to Mussels
11/20/2018	no speaker	Intern Orientation
12/18/2018	no speaker	Holiday Party

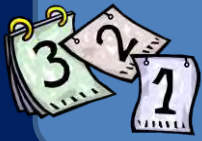


Great Rivers Advanced Training

Advanced Training Speaker Series – 2019

The Advanced Training Committee has been super-busy this fall and now has the entire speaker line-up for all 2019 in the can!

Check out the interesting speakers and topics they've arranged for us below.



Advanced Training Speaker Series 2019 Calendar

1/15/2019	Scott Francis	Tree Identification
2/19/2019	Sandy Brooks	Nature Photography
3/19/2019	Kevin Diestch	Weather Spotter
4/16/2019	Chris Hartley	Native Bees, Bumble Bees
5/21/2019	Yvonne Hohmeyer	Dragonflies & Damselflies
6/18/2019		PICNIC
7/16/2019	Lanny Chambers	Hummingbirds
8/1/2019	Vona Kuczynska	MO Bats
9/17/2019	Sandra Arango-Caro and Terry Woodford-Thomas	Soils
10/15/2019	Elizabeth Hasenmueller PhD SLU (tentative)	The Effects of Ground Water in Urban Creeks
11/19/2019		ORIENTATION
12/17/2019		HOLIDAY PARTY



Overcoming Fear of Spiders by David Bruns, MDC

At the July 17, 2018 Advanced Training session, our speaker, MDC Conservation Education Consultant David Bruns, shares with us his answer on how to introduce spiders to children



You ask how to best introduce middle schoolers to the marvels of spiders without freaking them out.

To start, I would express my opinion that fear of spiders is primarily learned. As such, it can be unlearned.

Fear of spiders seems to be more prevalent in older kids, and adults, than in younger kids. It seems to be more prevalent in people who spend less time in the outdoors, including people who live in more urban environments.

Kids learn to fear spiders every Halloween, also horror stories and movies, and also from observing adults around them react ("freak out") when spiders are encountered. Research that indicates that arachnophobic response and brain processes can be essentially changed/cured in as little as two hours through "exposure therapy". This therapy may include a progressive series of steps from viewing pictures of spiders, being in a room with a captive/pet spider (i.e. friendly tarantula), approaching a spider in container, and finally handling the spider. Consider that exposure therapy could and should include exposing students to adults and peers who are not afraid of spiders and even who actually like spiders and think that they are cool.

Naturalist-leaders should not be critical of people/students who have an unreasoned fear of spiders (it is not their fault that they are afraid). The fear should be heard and acknowledged even while facing the reasoning of it. Spiders *are* freaky looking and with creepy and jerky movements that can be disconcerting and startling to most everybody. The key message/theme is: that spiders are essentially harmless. Well, except for Brown Recluse, but we do not find these outdoors, and so all of the outdoor spiders can be considered harmless. Well, ok, so Black Widows, but really we encounter these so very rarely that they really are not a concern. (I integrate the word "harmless", frequently, when sharing spider experiences with students.) Remember that spiders do not have stingers, they do not carry diseases, and they would rather scurry off, if they can, than bite.



I think the best tool to share with students is clear plastic "snap cap" Vials. These can be handed out so that small wildlife can be gently and respectfully captured and observed.

All students are ready to use sweep nets. Demonstrate the technique, and then let them do it. (Watch out for ticks!)

Students of all ages quickly make the shift from being nervous about spiders to actively seeking them out, when given these simple tools, opportunity, and the reassurance from a trusted leader that it is OK.

White plastic bowls and/or dish tubs work great for containing many spiders, and other invertebrates, thus allowing direct, unobstructed, observation experience and even *gentle* physical contact such as letting one crawl on your hand (Spiders are very fragile and easily hurt by our clumsy human fingers and tools.) In general, spiders that use webs (orb, cobweb, funnel, sheet) and wolf spiders will stay in a bowl. Jumping spiders, Crab spiders, Ground Spiders, Lynx and Ghost Spiders that hunt on foliage, not so much. These latter are all harmless though, anyway; just harder to keep inside a container without a lid. Exercise and promote catch, observe, and release.

Grabbing big wolf spiders to flip them over is an advanced move for experienced spider enthusiasts. Putting these, temporarily, into a clear vial, or even in a small zip lock bag, to observe the undersides is an easier method.

I hope this helps answer your question. Feel free to include this information in the next edition of your quarterly Gazette

Good Luck!

~David B

David J. Bruns
Conservation Education Consultant
Missouri Department of Conservation
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO, 63122
(314) 301-1506 ext. 4212
david.bruns@mdc.mo.gov

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Annual Great Rivers Picnic at Don Robinson State Park

by Tessa Wasserman

June 19, 2018

On June 19, 2018, many Great Rivers Missouri Master Naturalists met at DRSP to enjoy beautiful views and camaraderie at the annual picnic. Despite imminent threats of thunderstorms, two short hikes were led by **Rick Schweitzer** of the Miramiguoa chapter focusing on restorative work to the trails. Advanced Training credit was given for this tour.

Sub sandwiches were provided by the chapter and delicious sides were shared by members. **Peggy Morrison** also brought native plants as table decorations to give away that were generously provided by the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center. Handmade coasters from slices of honeysuckle trunks engraved by **Bill Hoss** with the Great Rivers logo were an attendance prize won by **Mike Smith**.

The picnic pavilion overlook was a beautiful setting with native plants in full bloom. They were the results of the hard work from members of all three chapters that planted them. Those that stayed for the second hike were treated to gentle rain sounds in the canopy without getting wet and choruses of frogs and toads celebrating the long overdue moisture.

Thanks to the Hospitality Committee and chapter members that were able to come and make this a great night!



Great Rivers Missouri Master Naturalists at Don Robinson State Park admiring the recently installed native plants.



Rick Schweitzer of the Miramiguoa chapter described the restorative work to the trails.



The long-awaited end to the drought brought cooling breezes and a chorus of tree frogs.



Rick's tour of the restored trails counted as training credit.



Advanced Training (continued)

2018 Tri-Chapter Field Day at Shaw Nature Reserve



On October 27, 2018, twenty-five Great Rivers members participated in a day of advanced training and volunteer service with local members of the Confluence and Miramiguoa Chapters out at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Great Rivers members included **Sandy Brooks** (who stands behind the camera snapping the wonderful group photo above), **Barbara Cerutti**, **Brenda Christ**, **James Christ**, **Larry Conant**, **Carl Davis**, **Marypat Ehlmann**, **Tom Fasl**, **Diane Goulis**, **Jack Hambene**, **Brenda Hente**, **Glen Horton**, **Michael Meredith**, **Sherri Turner**, **Bob Virag**, **Nancy Willis**, **Michael Wohlstadter**, **Karen Zelle**, our chapter advisor **Amy Wilkinson**, and Class of 2018 Interns **Barb Davidson**, **Sue Forquer**, **Chris Garhart**, **Chris Hull**, **Lisa Picker**, **Don Knobbe**.

Several of these members also volunteered their time to either teach advanced training classes (**Sandy Brooks**, **Barb Cerrutti** and **Brenda Hente**), or represent some of our partners during the well-attended Volunteer Fair (**Marypat Ehlmann**, **Brenda Hente**, **Glen Horton**, **Bob Virag**, **Amy Wilkinson**, and **Karen Zelle**).

And a very special thank you goes to the hard-working Great Rivers Chapter members of the Tri-Chapter Planning Committee, **Barb Cerutti**, **Sherri Turner**, and **Michael Meredith**, for their role in making this highly informative and productive day happen!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome the 2018 Missouri Master Naturalist Graduating Class for the St. Louis Region Chapters



On October 11, 2018, thirty new intern Missouri Master Naturalists graduated from their intensive initial training courses. The 16 courses, listed below were designed to expose volunteers to a wide variety of natural resource disciplines and to teach trainees about their local natural resources and techniques for their successful management. Most importantly, the 53 hours of courses provided volunteers access to resources needed to teach this information to others in the community.

INITIAL TRAINING CURRICULUM

- Introduction and Orientation
- Fundamental Ecology
- Native Bees and Pollinators
- Introduction to Herpetology Identification
- Soils and Geology of Missouri
- Naturescaping Beyond Beauty
- Prairie and Glade Ecosystems
- Forest Ecosystems
- Forest Management
- Aquatic Ecosystems
- Nature Nuisances
- Invasive Plants
- Cave Ecology, Karsts, Bats
- Naturalist Pursuits
- Ancient Flyway, Habitat Management
- Wrap up, Review, Graduation

Class of 2018 Interns who chose to join Great Rivers Chapter (12)

- Sue Forquer
- Bev Kriesky
- Barb Davidson
- Kevin Barry
- Chris Hull
- Lisa Picker
- Don Knobbe
- Patty Clarke
- Mary Risberg
- Melissa Leech
- Jan Castanis
- Chris Garhart

WELCOME ABOARD, CLASS OF 2018!



Great Rivers Member Milestones

The Great Rivers chapter appreciates the hard work and consistent dedication to our mission of the following Members.

Awards and Recognition

2018 to-date is turning out to be another banner year for the chapter!

- 17 major milestone pins earned in 2018
- 11 Initial Certification pins earned in 2018
- 65 Great Rivers Chapter members recertified in 2018

Congratulations to all!



**Gold Dragonfly
1,000 Hour Milestone Pin**

- Kathleen Evans-Kapayou
- Mark Glenshaw
- Rich Lesage
- Tessa Wasserman



**Pewter Dragonfly
500 Hour Milestone Pin**

- Al Koebbe
- Donna Scott
- Evelyn Tullos
- Pam Fournier
- Peggy Morrison
- Rita Buckley
- Yvonne Von Der Ahe



**Bronze Dragonfly
250 Hour Milestone Pin**

- Barbara Cerutti
- Eileen Hall
- Jack Hambene
- Karen Zelle
- Linda Lesh
- Sean Tracy



**Initial Dragonfly
Certification Pin**
Earned in 2018

- Abby Wilde
- Barbara Brain
- Bob Ochs
- Carl Davis
- Deborah Frank
- Diane Goulis
- Larry Conant
- Mary Kreppel
- Mike Nations
- Sue Forquer
- Tara Morton



Great Rivers Member Milestones

The Great Rivers chapter appreciates the hard work and consistent dedication to our mission of the following Members.

Awards and Recognition



ANNUAL RE-CERTIFICATION AWARDS for 2018

Congratulations to 65 Great Rivers Chapter members on earning their recertification as Missouri Master Naturalists again so far this year, as of December 1, 2018

This year's award pin is the Mead's Milkweed.

Sharon Baldassare
 Rachel Becknell
 Renee Benage
 Barbara Brain
 Rita Buckley
 Barbara Cerutti
 Tina Cheung
 Brenda Christ
 James Christ
 Larry Conant
 Linda Cook
 Carl Davis
 Carolyn DeVaney
 Mary Dueren
 Ann Earley
 Ann Eggebrecht
 Don Evans
 Kathleen Evans
 Kapayou
 Tom Fasl
 Pamela Fournier
 Don Frank

Diane Goulis
 Eileen Hall
 Jack Hambene
 Brenda Hente
 Dennis Honkomp
 Glen Horton
 Emily Horton
 William Hoss
 Amy Kilpatric
 Al Koebbe
 Jeanne Koebbe
 Mary Kreppel
 Richard Lesage
 Cynthia Lueder
 Debra Maurer
 Vaughn Meister
 Michael Meredith
 Claire Meyners
 Mary Mierkowski
 Diana Miller
 Peggy Morrison
 Kathy ONeill

Susan Orr
 Joan Park
 Peggy Parr
 Kari Pratt
 Ann Russell
 Sherri Schmidt
 Donna Scott
 Michael Smith
 Cindy Steinbruegge
 Barbra Stephenson
 Geoff Stillwell
 Brenda Switzer
 Christopher "Sean" Tracy
 Anene Tressler-Hauschultz
 Evelyn Tullos
 Sherri Turner
 Bob Virag
 Yvonne Von Der Ahe
 Tessa Wasserman
 Cori Westcott*
 Pam Wilcox
 Karen Zelle

** transferred*



Member Spotlight *Sharing members accomplishments*



Emily and Glen Horton, Class of 2008 - Founding Members

In an enduring partnership with the environment and an inspiration in our Chapter...in their words

We joined the MDC Missouri Master Naturalist program in 2008. We chose the newly-formed Great Rivers chapter because Confluence was too far away.

Finding a volunteer niche was an adventure. We wanted two things: 1) real work, 2) to learn things we didn't know. Rachel Becknell, for example, has been a godsend to GR in that respect, as have Maxine Stone, Mark Glenshaw, Brenda Hente and so many others.

After awhile, we stopped going out to generalized calls for volunteers. Instead, we heard about Forest Park Forever. FPF has a killer volunteer program. Work is carefully scheduled; crews have specific tasks in specific areas of the park. Work is never called off except on extreme weather days.

So we signed up. FPF is selective, you can't just "show up". Volunteers train, there's a tough exam at the end. True!

Glen still works for FPF, assigned to the natural areas crew. They do everything from plant removal, to re-planting, to seed gathering, to seed saving. [A fun tour would be a chapter walk through some of the FPF natural area restorations]

Glen initiated two work projects for GR; one with Bill Mulford in Rockwood School District. They helped a 4th grade teacher plan and build a wild flower garden with her students. It flourished until the teacher moved to another school.

Glen developed a second project with Barb Cerutti, now a GR member. Then, she was 6th grade science teacher at South Elementary in Parkway school district. Barb got funding to rescue a natural area



The Horton's at Wyoming Native Plant Society conference next to the Wind River

behind her school. She came to MMN for volunteers. Glen organized Saturday work crews. They turned a honeysuckle jungle in to a spectacular outdoor teaching space. But alas, Barb retired. The honeysuckle didn't. So Glen doesn't do school projects anymore. Forest Park Forever is a more stable volunteer spot.

Emily found the herbarium at the Garden from working at a BioBlitz event in Forest Park staffed by FPF volunteers. Two workshop instructors from the Garden's herbarium conducted a tree identification program that was incredible. Emily

was spellbound, asked if they needed volunteers at the herbarium, and the rest is history.

Emily began at MBG working for George Yatskievych who was then editing the third and last volume of the Flora of Missouri. She now works at data retrieval/data entry for a climate change project [among other tasks]. The project includes information from Native American groups who are sharing their historic [and pre-historic] plant knowledge with an ethnobotanist from the Missouri Botanical Garden.

The wonderful thing about the MMN program has been meeting with people who share our interests in so many aspects of the natural world. The range of interests is very energizing for all of us. One of the best things that happened was Rachel Becknell. We're hoping there will be other enterprising graduate students in our future. MMN program offers them an opportunity to get their professional lives jump-started. And we [personally and the chapter] reap the benefit of their specialized knowledge of the natural world. That's what we came for.



Naturalist's Journal

Barred Owl Chased by a Gray Squirrel

[Video](#) by Sean Tracy

Check out this [video](#), shared by Missouri Master Naturalist **Sean Tracy**, of a Barred Owl chased off its perch by a very bold Gray Squirrel. The squirrel probably realized that it had an advantage (at least for the moment) due to its superior agility among the thicket of small branches.

And the squirrel probably learned earlier that resting owls are slow to leave their perch. This is most likely due to the owl's self-locking talons, with its novel "raptorial digital tendon locking mechanism" that automatically ratchets closed around prey or a tree branch for a safe perch. The extra effort needed to unlock the talons gave the squirrel just enough of a delay to disappear safely behind the next branch. But one must wonder if the squirrel ever made it through the night!

Thank you, Sean, for capturing this magical moment!





Naturalist's Journal

Bald Eagle Release at Audubon Center at Riverlands by Treehouse Wildlife Center

September 3, 2018

If you missed the Bald Eagle release by Treehouse Wildlife Center at the Audubon Center at Riverlands [you can see it yourself here](#). It was truly an amazing thing to witness and be a part of. As usual, great work by our partners at Treehouse!

[This video](#) was captured by our wonderful new AmeriCorps VISTA member, Emily Pavlovic. Make sure to say hi to her the next time you're in the Center.



Bald Eagle release at the Audubon Center at Riverlands.



Naturalist's Journal

6 Traits of a Great Nature Photographer

By Grant Collier, Visual Wilderness



There are countless articles and videos that teach the technical and creative aspects of nature photography. However, I believe that all the instruction in the world cannot make you a great nature

photographer. You also need to possess certain personality traits. In hopes of improving my own photography, I have carefully observed great nature photographers and have documented the traits you need to become great.

Overwhelming Insecurity

The first trait that is evident in most great nature photographers is an overwhelming level of insecurity. If someone posts a negative comment about one of their images online, they will either lash out at that person or pretend to be above the criticism, when it is actually eating them up inside. Their anger and frustration will slowly turn to acceptance. They will realize that, in spite of the fact that there was only one negative comment and 1,000 positive comments, they are terrible at photography. They will then do everything they possibly can to improve the next time they are out shooting in order to prove that one person wrong..... [\[read more\]](#)

Love of Nothing Else

If you're unlucky enough to be the spouse or partner of a great nature photographer, he/she will undoubtedly say they love you above all else. This is a blatant lie. Their true love is nature photography and you are a distant second. If you are extremely devoted and caring, they may, over many years, come to love you half as much as photography. But you have no hope of ever catching up entirely. [\[read more\]](#)

Hates Good Weather

If a great nature photographer has a trip planned and the forecast calls for it to be beautiful and sunny every day, he/she will begin to despair. Nothing is worse than good weather. The

great nature photographer will begin desperately searching for a different location, and ultimately find one where it is -40 degrees, with 70 mph winds, and 10 feet of snow. Great nature photographs can often only be achieved in the most miserable conditions. But misery is something that a great nature photographer has learned to love. In fact, misery is the only thing that truly makes him / her happy.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

If you're a normal, well-adjusted human being, you will get your camera out around sunrise or sunset, take a handful of images, and then leave. You have better things to do than sit around for hours or days just to capture a photo. This is not the case with great nature photographers. They will endlessly walk around an area looking for the perfect composition. Nothing will quite satisfy them. They will frequently adjust the camera position 1 centimeter to the left or right, because that one centimeter is going to make all the difference in the photograph.

Patience of a Lizard

After a great nature photographer finally finds the ideal composition, they will then have to begin The Long Wait. If you've ever watched a lizard trying to catch prey, you will know that they usually sit around for hours on end, perfectly motionless, waiting for the prey to come to them. Great nature photographers are basically large lizards. [\[read more\]](#)

Extreme Anti-Sociality

If, while watching from a safe distance, you notice that a photographer has most of the above-listed traits, you can be fairly certain that he/she will also suffer from extreme anti-sociality. You should never approach such a photographer in the wild while they are taking photographs. They can be extremely unpredictable and very dangerous. If you accidentally disturb a great nature photographer while they are taking photographs, stay perfectly still and do not make eye contact. You should raise your arms high in the air to make yourself appear large and powerful. When the photographer turns his/her attention back to taking photos, you should very slowly back away, making sure he/she remains focused on photography. [\[read more\]](#)



Naturalist's Journal

Things I will do to make a difference for wildlife



**National Wildlife Federation's
BLOG**

- ☞ Take a friend or family member with me when I go outside to connect with wildlife —and share the enjoyment of appreciating birds, reptiles, mammals and even insects.
- ☞ Drive attentively so I can look out for and brake to avoid animals in the road.
- ☞ Recycle, especially cellphones and electronics. Reduce the need for mining metals, producing plastics and logging old growth forests that lead to the destruction of habitat.
- ☞ Be mindful about trash and litter. Plastic bags, plastic rings, fishing nets and lines are just a few items that can be mistaken for food, ingested, or trap and suffocate wildlife.
- ☞ Reduce my carbon footprint by being conscientious about energy use: limit driving when I can and heat and cool my home with conservation in mind. Reducing carbon pollution helps combat climate change that impacts vulnerable species.
- ☞ Skip the plastic straws! Plastic straws harm marine wildlife. I'll opt for a reusable straw or none at all.
- ☞ Choose “reef-safe” sunscreen. Studies have found that chemicals in traditional sunscreens can harm wildlife in the ocean when washed off.
- ☞ Consume responsibly – avoid products made from illegally-sourced wildlife and try to buy sustainably sourced products that protect wildlife habitat.
- ☞ Avoid using pesticides or any chemicals on my property – and encourage my neighbors to do the same.
- ☞ Turn my yard and garden into a wildlife haven by providing food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise young while using sustainable practices.
- ☞ Remove invasive plants – and plant native plants, shrubs and trees in their place to welcome local birds, butterflies and bees.
- ☞ Mow less. Or better yet, replace part of my grass lawn with native grasses or plants.
- ☞ Leave some leaves on the ground in fall. Many wildlife species live in or rely on the leaf layer to find food and other habitat, including butterflies and moths.
- ☞ Volunteer for a local project to benefit wildlife – help with an ocean beach cleanup, tree planting, park or stream cleanup, restoration or creation of habitat.
- ☞ Become a citizen scientist or naturalist! Support professional researchers, do wildlife monitoring, bird counts or collect needed habitat and wildlife data.



Logo Wear Order Form 2018



50/50 fleece
(kelly green)
men or women
\$33



microfleece no hood
(aqua green)
women
\$35



bright green tee
women
\$15



khaki/hunter ball cap
\$17



kiwi short sleeve tee
\$14.00



military green hoodie
\$23.00



tan long sleeve tee
\$16.00



expandable drawstring
(blue/red/or black)
\$25



We can also bring in our own items to be embroidered for \$8.50 each item.

Member's Name:

Phone Number:

Name of item	size (s/m/l/xl)	quantity	total

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Kari S. Pratt

kpratt@lindberghschools.ws

636-391-2901



*Each animal is
an end in itself
— Goethe*

Newborn Fawn
Photo by Evelyn Tullos
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