



Missouri Master Naturalist

October-November-December 2019, Volume 9 Number 3



*A wise old owl
sat on an oak.
The more he saw
the less he spoke.
The less he spoke,
the more he heard.
Why aren't we like
that wise old bird?
- Edward H. Richards*



*Barred Owl,
Strix varia
©2019 Sean Tracy*



Great Rivers Gazette

October-November-December 2019, Volume 9 Number 3

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Co-Editor: Bob Virag
Co-Editor: Lori Purk

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Front Cover

Barred Owl – Photo by Sean Tracy

Back Cover

Shaw Nature Reserve Tri-Chapter Field Day –by Carl Davis

Great Rivers Chapter Officers

President -----	Bob Ochs
Vice President-----	Bob Virag
Secretary -----	Tom Fasl NEW!
Treasurer -----	Brenda Switzer NEW!
Board Member-at-Large -----	Michael Meredith
Board Member-at-Large -----	Carl Davis NEW!
Board Member-at-Large -----	Pam Wilcox

Chapter Advisors

Colleen Elliott, Missouri Department of Conservation
Justin Keay, University of Missouri Extension St. Louis

Committee Chairs

Advanced Training-----	Michael Meredith
Tri-Chapter Coordination-----	Michael Meredith
Partners and Projects-----	Pam Wilcox
Communication-----	Bob Virag
Membership-----	Sherri Schmidt
Hospitality-----	Tessa Wasserman
Master Naturalist Logo Apparel-----	Kari Pratt

The President's Corner

Dear Chapter Members,

I like recalling my life lessons and sharing them with, well everyone.

I have been a pilot for over 20 years and aviation has some great sayings that can be applied to other areas of life. Like *"there is nothing more useless than a runway behind you or altitude above you"* or *"there are old pilots and there are bold pilots, but there are no old bold pilots."*



My favorite pilot adage is one I try to abide by everyday and instill in others is *"a good pilot is always learning."* This works for all areas of life.

Half of our Missouri Master Naturalist requirement is on-going advanced training. Just like flying where most of a pilot's effort is put into the actual practice of flying, as Master Naturalists we focus most of our time on making the world a better place through our many projects involving Stewardship like the removal of invasive species and planting natives, Outreach and Education efforts like the photo contest and the Swan Festival, and Citizen Science by counting swans and testing streams, and much more. A key part of staying sharp in all these efforts is honing our skills through the on-going process of reading and listening.

Our Advanced Training Committee does an excellent job of finding the best speakers available in a variety of subjects. This Gazette and website provide us with timely updates to events on our Great Rivers calendar, details on the efforts of our members, and training opportunities. The Missouri Conservationist gives us a view of what is happening in the 24th state in the Union.

My favorite method to learn has always been to listen to those more experienced than me. It doesn't matter your age, you can learn something from anyone. We are very fortunate that our Great Rivers Chapter has so very many accomplished teachers. I think some may not even know that they are teaching when they are talking.

Keep communicating. Keep reading. Keep listening. There is so much to learn.

To paraphrase the pilot's credo, a Missouri Master Naturalist is always learning.

Bob Ochs
President, Great Rivers Chapter



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View us on the web at www.greatrivers.org
www.facebook.com/MMNGreatRiversChapter
and www.facebook.com/groups/150751118803379



CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome the 2019 Missouri Master Naturalist Graduating Class for the St. Louis Region Chapters



On October 3, 2019, twenty eight 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 environmental disciplines and to teach trainees about their local natural resources and techniques for their successful management. Most importantly, the 50 hours of coursework provided volunteers access to resources needed to teach this information to others in the community.

INITIAL TRAINING CURRICULUM

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

We welcome these 14 new Interns who chose to join Great Rivers Chapter

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Jeanne Bauer | Anna Hancock |
| Connie Break | Lesley Herrell |
| Deborah Coleman | Mary Miller |
| Greg Falk | Kenneth (Tony) Pryse |
| Lee Falk | Karyn Ries |
| Diana Finlay | Craig Speidel |
| Grace Goddard | John Willmann |

WELCOME ABOARD, CLASS OF 2019!

GREAT RIVERS HOLIDAY PARTY

December 17, 2019

Once again, our chapter enjoyed our annual Holiday Party at the beautiful Boathouse Annex room in Forest Park. Thank you, Hospitality Committee for your outstanding festive preparations. Seventy chapter members and guests had a wonderful time with great friends and great food! A well-deserved year-end celebration was had by all!



Tessa Wasserman (left), Hospitality Committee Chair, welcomed the naturalists, and described the wonderful pastries and decorations made by the committee members, including the beautiful centerpieces that she cut and carved out of a deceased Birch tree.

Many thanks, also, to Bill Hoss on for his generous nature book gifts to the chapter members.

GREAT RIVERS HOLIDAY PARTY

(CONTINUED)



(Left photos)
Intern Anna Hannock
(Class of 2019) and
founding member
Glenn Horton
(Class of 2008)
studying the clever
"Twig-ID" game.



Citizen Science – Fall 2019



Great Rivers Trumpeter Swan Monitoring Audubon Center at Riverlands



This year, six Missouri Master Naturalists participated in the bi-weekly Trumpeter Swan Monitoring Project at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Chapter members included: **Mary Dueren, Larry Conant, Diane Goulis, Jack Hambene, Michael Meredith, and Bob Virag.**

The Monitors of Riverlands - Photo by Bob Virag

Starting in November 2011, [The Trumpeter Swan Society](#) partnered with The Audubon Center at Riverlands, [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office](#), [St. Louis Audubon Society](#), and the [Audubon Society of Missouri](#) to begin a citizen science monitoring program for trumpeter swans in the Great Rivers region. Monitoring is essential to the recovery of the largest waterfowl species in North America because it provides crucial data on how many trumpeter swans use our area in the winter, the age composition of flocks, and where some of these individuals travel each year. Over a number of years this data will also be valuable to land managers, because it can help them better understand the habitat conditions that are important to the trumpeter swans overwintering here.



Trumpeter Swans in Heron Pond, Riverlands Photo by Bob Virag

Project leader Patricia Lueders posted the following tabulated results after each of the bi-weekly events so far:

November 5, 2019 Trumpeter Swans: 45. Adults: 41, Cygnets: 4

We were treated to a beautiful morning for our first watch, only 41 degrees and no wind. As the previous morning, all of the 45 swans were roosting in Heron Pond. The results are listed below. In addition to the swans, there was a large number of Canada and Greater White-fronted Geese, and 14 duck species. American White Pelicans continue in large numbers, and our group marveled at the truly impressive murmurations of thousands of blackbirds, mostly Red-winged.

On our birding trip after the watch, we added sightings of many Bonaparte’s Gulls and a surprise group of 38 Franklin’s Gulls, as well as Hooded Mergansers, Horned Grebes, many Lesser Scaup, and Buffleheads.



Blackbird murmuration, Riverlands - Photo by Bob Virag

November 19, 2019 Trumpeter Swans: 122. Adults: 100. Cygnets: 22. Tracking Collars recorded: 12Y

We were treated to a very nice morning for the watch with no wind and comfortable temperatures. About 20 participants attending the Trumpeter Swan Conference joined the group at Heron Pond, and they witnessed the scenic departures of many of the swans around 7:15. The swans were scattered throughout the Heron Pond area and a few were in Ellis Bay. A nice variety of waterfowl and Greater White-fronted Geese were also spotted.

(continued next page)



Trumpeter Swans over Heron Pond, Riverlands Photo by Bob Virag

December 3, 2019 Trumpeter Swans: 66. Adults: 47, Cygnets: 19 Tracking Collars recorded: 21U (New!)

We were treated to a cold but beautiful morning for our 3rd swan watch this season. Swans were roosting in two areas, Heron Pond and Ellis Bay. The official totals are below. We were pleased to register that 40% of the swans were cygnets, a higher percentage than usual. We were also excited to have a new collar, 21U, which has been submitted to the US Banding Lab to receive further information.

In addition to the swans, there was a nice variety of waterfowl in Heron Pond, American White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants in Ellis Bay, and Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers in Teal Pond, and many Greater White-fronted Geese.



American white pelicans, Riverlands -- Photo by Bob Virag

December 18, 2019 --Trumpeter Swans: 361, Adults: 290 , Cygnets: 71 Tracking Collars recorded: 24F (New!)

We had a cold, 19 degree, but clear morning with little wind (thank goodness) for our fourth swan watch. The swans were in 3 locations; Heron Pond, lower Heron Pond, and off Ellis Island. The totals are listed below. Much of the shallow areas are frozen. We had one collar, 24F, new for this year, not having been seen on our watch since 12/20/2016. This swan is fairly young, having been collared on 8/23/2010 in Wood County, Wisconsin. It was reported to us by the Trumpeter Swan Society that 3 of our regular swans were recorded on 12/13/2019 near Carbondale, IL. One had been seen early this season, 11U, on 11/7/2019 at Riverlands, so it must have kept going south.

Last year the total swans counted on 12/11/2018 were 427, and on 12/26/2018, there were 521, so the totals this year are close to 2018. We discussed the behavior of the swans, and I shared that there is an interesting paper on this topic written by [Harry G. Lumsden, "Some behavior patterns of Trumpeter Swans"](#), which had been published in Ontario Birds, December 2018.



Stewardship Projects – Fall 2019



Tri-Chapter Honeysuckle Hack August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

By Leslie Limberg, MMN Confluence Chapter

Thank you!

Thank you for your work. This one was tough...the Honeysuckle was old, thick & tall. Most of us really struggled, leaning over with long-handled chain saws, while wrapped up in vines. Others were cold and wet. We really worked hard.

Here's the story: 18 master naturalists and about 10 others used approx. 30 loppers, 12 handsaws, 20 spray bottles, and 2.5 gallons of glyphosate for 4

hours and killed a football field and a half of old honeysuckle.

We also removed honeysuckle from the

bird viewing area and cleared honeysuckle from the bend before the Fallen Oak Trail. We will keep after the Fallen Oak Trail as the years progress.



Tri-Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist "Honeysuckle Slayer Team"

--- Photo by Mary Culler, Executive Director, Stream Teams United

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

The Missouri Department of Conservation thanks us and the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition also appreciates our work. Awesome community service!

--- Leslie Limberg



Our Confluence Chapter honeysuckle pipers



Cheri Charleville kept us moving



Tara Morton kept thinking there must be a way to make an edible out of this plant



Tom Fasl kept our spirits high



Bob Lee (right) showed us the way



The bush honeysuckle was thick and stubborn, but we prevailed



2019 Capstone Project National Museum of Transportation

By Tessa Wasserman

The 2019 new intern Capstone Project was held at *The National Museum of Transportation* on Sunday, November 17th.

Though the Great Rivers Chapter planned and organized this event, invitations to the new interns from the Miramigoua and Confluence chapters were extended for a united work day. Over 15 new and seasoned members from all chapters showed up ready to plant spring bulbs or remove bush honeysuckle. Over 400 mixed variety daffodil bulbs were donated to the museum by the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society of which our Great Riverian, Vaughn Meister, is a member. With her vast knowledge, she helped instruct the planting crew on proper depth and spacing requirements with her vast knowledge. The honeysuckle crew tackled the much-needed hillside clearing of a small wooded area that obstructed the view of one mini train crossing gate. The engineers were thrilled to have this safety need met and ebulliently let us know when they treated workers to a train ride after! A tour of "Pollinator Junction", the large native garden, was also given after the work hours. Many thanks to everyone that helped make this day fun and productive! *The National Museum of Transportation* will look amazing this spring.



New interns and other members of the tri-chapters



Master Naturalists railroading



Connie Break removes plant debris prepping for planting bulbs



Jeanne Bauer and Bob Ochs help the honeysuckle while Craig Spindel cuts away!



Engineer Vaughn



Before



After



Forest Releaf of Missouri

In 2019, volunteers committed over 20,000 hours to Forest ReLeaf! That's about 55 hours every day. Volunteers from Missouri Master Naturalist-Great Rivers Chapter volunteers contributed over 1,025 hours to this total in 2019.



Gravois Park tree planting crew supervised local residents.

In October, volunteers successfully planted trees in Gravois Park to replace tree canopy lost by recently removed oaks.

Also in October, an army of volunteers helped load 800 trees into a semi-trailer headed for Kansas City! These trees were destined to be planted in the city and in surrounding communities to beautify parks, replace dead ash trees, and stabilize stream banks.



Loading a semi with 800 trees bound for Kansas City



Planting the pollinator garden at Forest Releaf Nursery

In November, volunteers helped to build a pollinator garden. The first planting was a small section of the garden between the paths. They started with little bluestem, rattlesnake master, prairie dropseed, plains oval sedge, and royal catchfly. They then added foxglove, beardtongue, slender mountain mint, blue lobelia, brown eyed susan, and golden alexander when the weather warmed. The great weather was also perfect for cleaning out the nursery's demonstration rain garden AND inspiring the new Forest ReLeaf Flag Squad!



The new Forest ReLeaf Flag Squad!



Later in November and December, neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet kept the brave volunteers from taking care of thousands of trees!



St. Louis Audubon Society

Eureka Students and Missouri American Water

Make a Difference

By Mitch Leachman

October 11, 2019

From SLAS Newsletter *Tale Feathers*

Picture 260 high school environmental science students. Add to that a collection of pruning loppers and hand saws and a handful of seasoned Audubon volunteers for guidance. The bush honeysuckle on the Eureka High campus didn't stand a chance!

By 3 pm on Friday, October 11th the students had cleared about 1.5 acres of the non-native invasive plant.



Environmental science instructors Mary Kay Sandhu and Mandy Kotraba led the project for Eureka High which fit neatly into their recent course modules on birds and trees. The students reviewed the problem of

invasive species, in general, and bush honeysuckle, in particular, in class the week before. They were primed to get their hands dirty and do their part to help restore the woodland on their campus. There's more of the honeysuckle that remains, and we intend to work with the school as long as it takes to clear it. As important, we also look forward to assisting them with restoration plantings of native trees and shrubs in future years.

In the morning, the students were joined by 20 employees from *Missouri American Water*. This is the second year we've worked with Brian Russell and his co-workers as they give back to the community with a day of service through their AmeriCANS in Action program. Last year, they assisted with

a honeysuckle removal we held at St. Vincent Park in Normandy. We dare say they are getting quite good at identifying and attacking this plant!

Missouri American Water also supports the St. Louis community with financial contributions to causes and organizations, most especially those that directly connect with their mission of delivering drinking water. Many St. Louis Audubon programs, including our conservation stewardship efforts and the Bring Conservation Home program, promote healthy watersheds which have a positive impact on the water input to their treatment system. In recognition of and support to our work, *Missouri American Water* President Debbie Dewey presented St. Louis Audubon with a \$7,500 check the same day. In total, we have received \$30,000 from American Water since we began working together in 2012!

Many thanks to Debbie, Brian and the *Missouri American Water* crew for their assistance and financial support! Thanks to Mary Kay, Mandy and all the environmental science staff for leading their students on this important work, and of course kudos to every one of the students for digging in and making a difference! Finally, special thanks to our volunteer leaders for the project, including Herb Huebner, Karen and Glenn Meyer, Alfred Strout and Bob Virag!

As a teacher, I loved watching how the students move from not really caring or knowing about the bush honeysuckle in our forests to almost becoming addicted to pulling it out of our woods. So many of our students seemed to realize that they were making a difference that day.





Stewardship (continued)

Spanish Lake Park Restoration Day

By Larry Conant

On Saturday, December 28, 2019, five Great Rivers Master Naturalists and two guests found their way through dense fog to Spanish Lake County Park for our monthly **Spanish Lake Restoration Day**. These seven brave souls (Pat Behle, Ike Jacobs, Bob Ochs, Tom Fasl, Donna Scott, Diane Goulis, and Larry Conant) worked tirelessly to clear honeysuckle, forbs, vines, and grasses from under a number of large trees, thus enabling Park staff to mow under the trees and effectively keep out those errant weeds (and the litter they trap).

As always, a good time was had by all in attendance: It was difficult to get them to stop at the end of the morning.

We hope you can join us for our next **Spanish Lake Restoration Day** day at the end of January!





Outreach and Education – Fall 2019



Swans of Riverlands Festival Audubon Center at Riverlands

by Carl Davis

December 14, 2019

Larry Conant, Diane Goulis, Dennis Honkomp, and Carl Davis participated in the Swans of Riverlands Festival today. Larry was the most masterful master naturalist spending the entire time outside in rain, snow and cold wind greeting groups by a fire pit. I, Carl, spend my time huddled by a nice warm front desk as a greeter and Diane worked with the youth groups on projects.

Outreach and Education (continued)



Dennis Honkomp, a.k.a. Trumpeter Swan decoy



Swans of Riverlands

DECEMBER 14TH 2019
8:00AM-12:00PM

8:00-10:00
 SWAN VIEWING AT HERON POND

9:00-10:00
 SWANS OF RIVERLANDS W/ PAT LUEDERS

10:00-11:00
 THE FUTURE OF TRUMPETER SWANS W/ TARA HOHMAN

10:00-11:00
 GUIDED BIRD HIKE

11:00-12:00
 SWAN REHAB PRESENTATION W/ RACHAEL HEATON





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 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



Coopers Hawk, eyeing the backyard birdfeeder ©2019 Barb Cerutti



Copperhead at Powder Valley Nature Center, ©2019 Barb Cerutti



Autumn Sunset Over Columbia Bottom Conservation Area ©2019 Diane Goulis



Understory at Taum Sauk Mountain, Iron County ©2019 Reneé Benage



Battle Worn White-Tailed Deer ©2019 Chris Hull



Dogwood, *Cornus florida* ©2019 Reneé Benage



Advanced Training

Advanced Training Speaker Series – Fall 2019

October 15, 2019 James Faupel Litzsinger and the MSD Deer Creek Storm Water Project



The Litzsinger Road Ecology Center is privately owned and managed by Missouri Botanical Garden. It is not open to the general public and you must have an appointment to visit the site. It is an outdoor laboratory for ecological education, research, and restoration. James showed a power point of its location, entrance road, where Deer Creek flows along the northeastern side, and its watershed.

It consists of 39 acres made up of restored prairie, bottomland forest and of course, the creek! MSD’s Project Clear Stormwater “Big Dig” is currently on-going, replacing 2 ft pipe with 6 ft pipe using the easements along the creek. The pipe contains combined sewer and water runoff, which eventually drains into River Des Peres.

James wanted us to realize and understand the “damage” that is being done to the area—loss of trees equals loss of habitat, the insects themselves, lepidoptera, food (acorns), etc. When MSD finishes the project, we will be asked to help with the restoration of this area.

MSD Project Clear focuses on 3 categories of work: get the rain out; repair and maintain, and build system improvements with the ultimate goal of improving water quality. You can benefit from this program by applying for a [Rainscaping Small Grant](#). See if you qualify!

Read more about James Faupel’s log of the MSD Project Clear in the *Naturalist Journal* featured article entitled “A Community of Partnerships” in this edition of the Gazette.

--- Review by Diana Miller



The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District began September 2019 to build a 3.2-mile sewer line in Ladue. ---CREDIT METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT



Advanced Training (continued)

2019 Annual Tri-Chapter Field Day

Leader: Besa Schweitzer

October 26, 2019

The 2019 Annual Tri-Chapter Field day had a record attendance of 80 Missouri Master Naturalists show up for a very wet field day. While it rained most of the day, the naturalists weathered the storm well and actually enjoyed events. Thank you all for making the day a success.

For the first time, participants were requested to upload their Bio-blitz observations to the iNaturalist app.

You can view the results here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/missouri-master-naturalist-tri-chapter-field-day>

A few of the notable photos follow here:



The intrepid and weather-proof Missouri Master Naturalists who attended the event



Jean Ponzi and Dale Dufur spoke about mosquitoes and their relationship with bush honeysuckle



Nicolle Miller Struttmann spoke about Missouri Bees and taught us how to identify them.



We mentioned it was a very wet day, right?





Advanced Training Speaker Series – 2020



Advanced Training Speaker Series 2020 Calendar

1/21/2020	Dark Skies	Don Ficken
2/18/2020	Purple Martins in Forest Park	John Miller
3/17/2020	Missouri Mosses	Adam Rembert, Litzsinger
4/21/2020	Falconry	Paige Davis
5/19/2020	Caterpillars of Missouri	Chris Hartley
6/16/2020		PICNIC
7/21/2020	Bats	Shelly Colatskie, MDC
8/18/2020	Endangered Plants of the Midwest	Matthew Albrecht, Ph.D, Conservation Scientist
9/15/2020	How Road Salt Affects The St. Louis Environment	Danelle Haake, Ph.D. Candidate, St. Louis University
10/20/2020	*** OPEN ***	Know of someone? Contact the Advanced Training Committee
11/17/2020		ORIENTATION AND ELECTIONS
12/15/2020		HOLIDAY PARTY

ELECTION DAY! Congratulations to the New Chapter Officers

General election of officers is a key event at the November chapter meetings.

With a unanimous vote of confidence, the following candidates were installed:

Bob Virag -Class of 2015, as **Vice President**, continuing a second two-year term ending November 2022.

Tom Fasl-Class of 2017, as **Secretary**, for a two-year term ending November 2022

Brenda Switzer-Class of 2017, as **Treasurer**, for a two-year term ending November 2022

Carl Davis-Class of 2017, as **Board Member-at-Large**, for a two-year term ending November 2022

The chapter is eternally thankful for the diligent service of the outgoing officers, Diana Miller, Evelyn Tullos, and Sherri Schmidt, for their untiring efforts to make the Great River Chapter a more effective organization.



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

2019 4th-Quarter Results

As of December 12, 2019

- 13 major milestone pins earned in 2019
- 10 Initial Certification pins earned in 2019
- 65 Great Rivers Chapter members recertified in 2019

NOTE*: 3 ambitious interns who earned their Initial Certification Awards in 2019 also "re-certified" in 2019! Way to go!

CHAPTER FACTOID:

TOTAL 4th Quarter
YTD HOURS
as of December 12, 2019
Volunteer Service:
6,033 Hours
Advanced Training:
1,428 Hours



Pam Wilcox
Brenda Hente



Silver Dragonfly
2,500 Hour
Milestone Pin



Sherri Schmidt
Geoff Stillwell

Gold Dragonfly
1,000 Hour Milestone Pin



Initial Dragonfly
Certification Pin
Earned in 2019

- Jan Castanis*
- Bev Kriesky
- Patty Clarke
- Melissa Leech*
- Barb Davidson*
- Lisa Picker
- Chris Hull
- Mary Risberg
- Don Knobbe
- John Willmann

** Also earned 2019 Recertification Award in the same year as Initial Certification*



Jack Hambene,
Karen Zelle

Sean Tracy



Pewter Dragonfly
500 Hour Milestone Pin



Sue Forquer
Ann Eggebrecht
Brenda Switzer
Peggy Parr

Tom Fasl



Cindy Steinbruegge



Bronze Dragonfly
250 Hour Milestone Pin



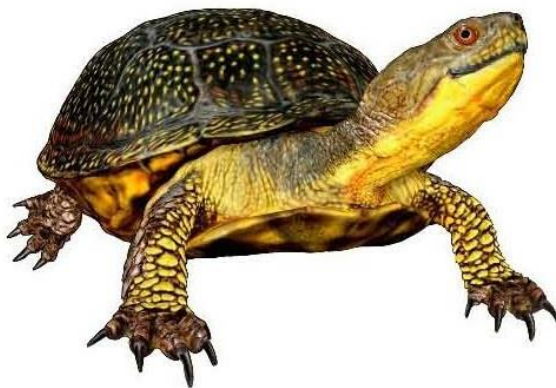
ANNUAL RE-CERTIFICATION AWARDS for 2019

Congratulations to the 65 Great Rivers Chapter members that earned their annual recertification as Missouri Master Naturalists by December 12, 2019 this year.

The 2019 annual award pin is the Blanding's Turtle.



2019 4th Quarter RESULTS!



Missouri Master Naturalist
2019 Certification Pin
Blanding's Turtle
Emydoidea blandingii

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Sharon Baldassare | Linda Lesh |
| Renee Benage | Cynthia Lueder |
| Barbara Brain | Debra Maurer |
| Rita Buckley | Vaughn Meister |
| Jan Castanis* | Michael Meredith |
| Barbara Cerutti | Claire Meyners |
| Brenda Christ | Mary Mierkowski |
| James Christ | Diana Miller |
| Larry Conant | Peggy Morrison |
| Linda Cook | Tara Morton |
| Barb Davidson* | Bob Ochs |
| Carl Davis | Kathy O'Neill |
| Denise Davis | Susan Orr |
| Carolyn DeVaney | Joan Park |
| Mary Dueren | Peggy Parr |
| Ann Eggebrecht | Kari Pratt |
| Kathleen Kapayou | Ann Russell |
| Tom Fasl | Sherri Schmidt |
| Sue Forquer | Donna Scott |
| Pamela Fournier | Michael Smith |
| Chris Garhart | Cindy Steinbruegge |
| Diane Goulis | Barbra Stephenson |
| Eileen Hall | Geoff Stillwell |
| Jack Hambene | Brenda Switzer |
| Brenda Hente | Sean Tracy |
| Dennis Honkomp | Evelyn Tullos |
| Glen Horton | Sherri Turner |
| William Hoss | Bob Virag |
| Al Koebbe | Yvonne Von Der Ahe |
| Jeanne Koebbe | Tessa Wasserman |
| Mary Kreppel | Pam Wilcox |
| Melissa Leech* | Michael Wohlstadter |
| | Karen Zelle |

* Also earned 2019 Initial Certification in the same year as 2019 Re-Certification!





Member Spotlight *Sharing members accomplishments*

Michael Meredith, Founding Member, Class of 2007, appointed to the St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Congratulations, Michael, on your appointment as advisor to STL Parks and Recreation!



JOURNAL OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI



Tuesday

December 3, 2019

The County Council of St. Louis County, Missouri, met on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 6:30 P.M., in the St. Louis County Council Chamber, pursuant to adjournment with Presiding Officer Trakas presiding.

Item No. 3

Communication from The Honorable Sam Page, County Executive, stating pursuant to Section 4.230 of the St. Louis County Charter, as of **October 18, 2019**, the following individuals are appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: **Dennis DeJong, Erica Hoffman, and Michael Meredith**, for a term of **three (3) years**, and pursuant to Section 201.200 SLCRO, members of this Board are compensated \$600 per year for their service, and referring these appointments to the St. Louis County Council for its information and approval.

Action: Moved by Councilman Trakas, seconded by Councilman Fitch and carried that the Appointment of Michael Meredith to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board be approved as recommended.



Featured Article

Naturalist's Journal

Litzsinger Road Ecology Center (LREC) A Community of Partnerships

by James Faupel, LREC Restoration Ecology Coordinator

December 2, 2019 Reprinted from [James Faupel, LREC Restoration Ecology Coordinator, Ecology Blog,](#)

Since starting in my position at LREC in September of 2018, so much has happened. This first year flew past me at what seems like an unprecedented rate. From getting to know all the wonderful volunteers, staff, and property, to seeing the MSD Project Clear begin on site, it's been an emotionally taxing year.

I knew about the Project Clear work that would be happening at LREC when I took the position, so I was aware of the challenges that lay ahead. Project Clear is ultimately an important project for the community in St. Louis. The removal of our waste products from urban streams is vital for both human health and the health of the environment. It is, however, incredibly unfortunate that so much established wildlife habitat in the region will be lost and



Volunteers measuring trees for entry into the US Forest Service's iTree database.

have to be restarted from scratch. Without follow up management, disturbed urban sites get quickly overrun with invasive species.



Rachel Becknell from Washington University taking soil samples from the prairies to study microorganisms before they are lost to soil disruption from Project Clear.

teaching tool to better educate the St. Louis community about our environment, I wanted to make sure we could get the best data possible.

Over the thirty years of ecological restoration and management at LREC, so much data has been recorded. LREC is an outdoor educational site for pre-K children all the way to adults, so having that kind of scientific evidence as a teaching tool is important. When thinking about how the data from the Project Clear restoration could be used in the future as a

Of course, this would have to be gathered in a very short period of time, considering I thought we only had around a year to do so. I would have neither the time nor the experience needed to gather such a wide scope of data. For this kind of help, I looked no farther than our community.

At first, help came from volunteers and staff already familiar and experienced with the site. Later, as the project went on, I was able to meet with more and more local specialists who

realize what an important place LREC is for data collection. Researchers and volunteers from many different local entities aided us this past year in data collection, including

- Webster University,
- World Bird Sanctuary,
- Saint Louis University,
- Webster Groves Nature Study Society,
- Maryville University,
- Missouri Master Naturalists,
- Washington University,
- Missouri Botanical Garden,
- Missouri University Soil Lab,
- Institute of Botanical Training, and the
- Missouri Native Plant Society.

Even more partner groups have expressed interest in the future of the site.

With this kind of community assistance, we were able to collect and record so much important data in such a small time frame. From the water quality of Deer Creek, to the plants and their pollinators that once resided within the pipeline's path, I feel pretty comfortable in the information gathered within the year. I am incredibly grateful of all the community support for this project so far, and incredibly humbled by the passion shown thus far.



Volunteers, interns, and staff monitoring Deer Creek for Stream Team.



Maryville University students looking at native pollinators at work on prairie wildflowers.



Naturalist's Journal

Make Your Own Suet

With this easy vegetarian recipe, you can attract insect lovers like woodpeckers and nuthatches.

From: [Audubon.org/News](https://www.audubon.org/news)

With this vegetarian version of suet (traditionally it's made from rendered animal fat) you can provide the perfect winter substitute for birds that normally feast on insects. This lipid-rich treat can help prepare year-round residents for the long winter and is quite the draw for birds such as woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice. Check out this recipe, inspired by "The Misfit Baker" blog.

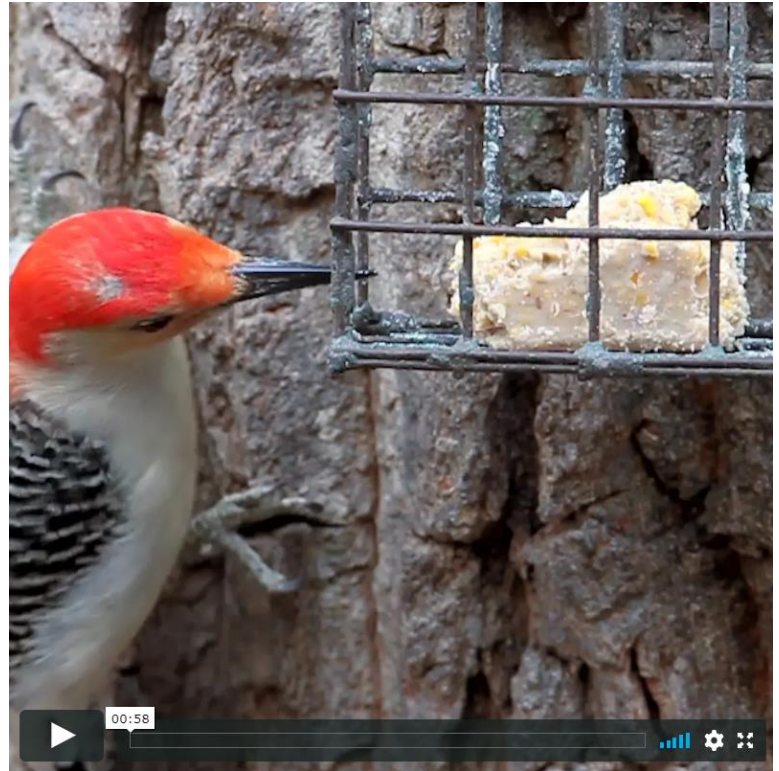
Materials:

- 1 1/2 cups shortening (look for palm oil free options)
- 3/4 cups nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- Ice cube tray

Steps:

1. Mix the dry ingredients of bird seed, oats, and corn meal together and set aside.
2. Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt. Stir until completely combined.
3. Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
4. Spoon mixture into the ice cube tray.
5. Freeze for one to two hours and place in your suet feeder!

Note: Not recommended for outdoor temperatures above 50 degrees .



Red-bellied Woodpecker.

[Video: Steve Byland/Shutterstock; Mike Fernandez/Audubon](#)



Logo Wear Order Form Fall 2019



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



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

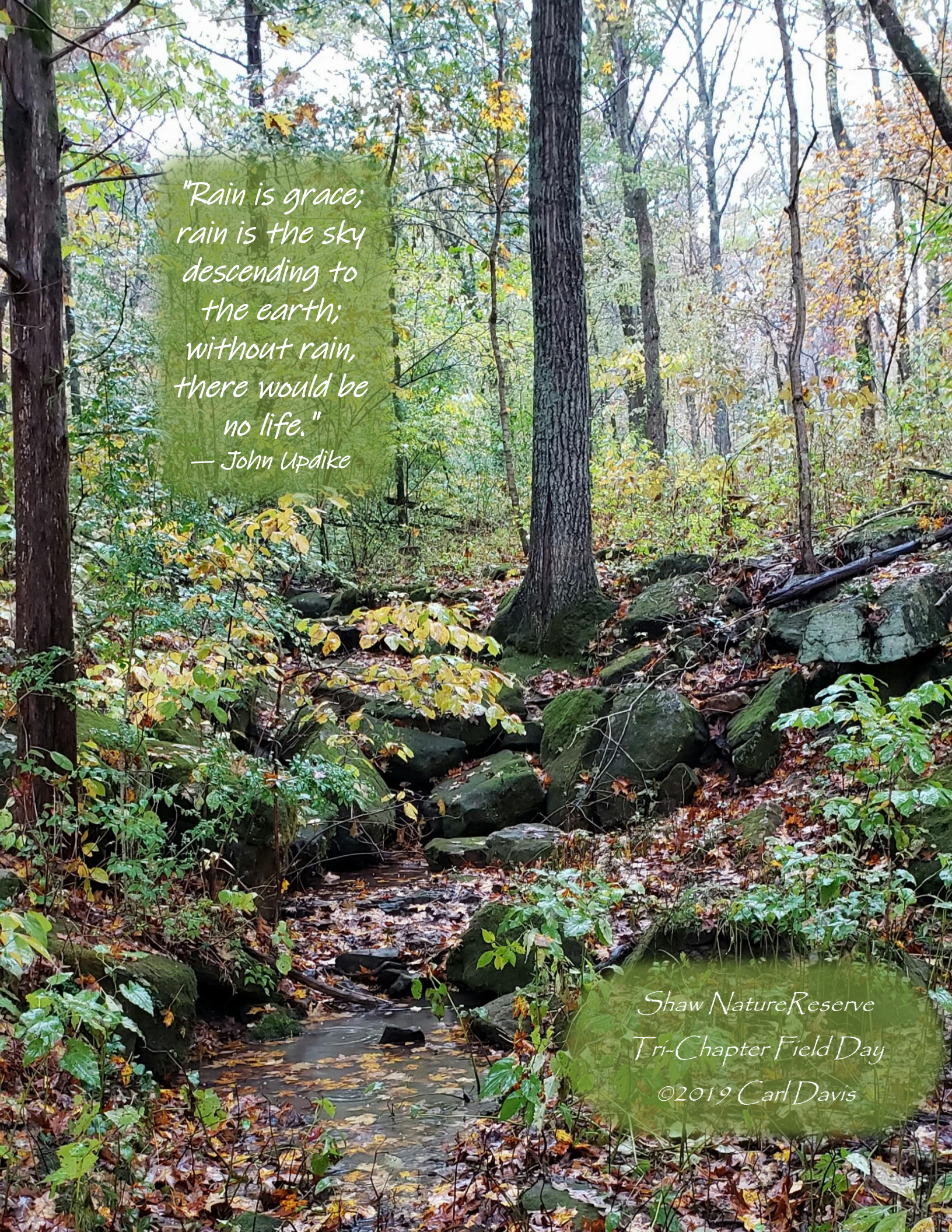
Member's Name:		Phone Number:	
Name of item	size (s/m/l/xl)	quantity	total

SAVE, then EMAIL and ATTACH COMPLETED FORM TO:

Kari S. Pratt

kpratt@lindberghschools.ws

636-391-2901

A photograph of a forest stream with mossy rocks and autumn foliage. The stream flows through a dense forest of tall trees, some with green leaves and others with yellow and orange autumn leaves. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and moss. The scene is captured in a natural, slightly overcast light.

*"Rain is grace;
rain is the sky
descending to
the earth;
without rain,
there would be
no life."
— John Updike*

*Shaw Nature Reserve
Tri-Chapter Field Day
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