

Missouri Master Naturalist
Confluence Chapter
2019 Annual Report

The Confluence Chapter meets on the Second Tuesday of each month at the Interpretive Center at the Nuclear Waste Adventure Trail and Museum in Weldon Spring, Missouri

Chapter data:

- There are currently **81** active members
- There was **7092.2** service hours reported
- The reported advanced training hour was **983**
- Of the 2018 Master Naturalists 2018 graduating class, all **6** who joined the Chapter received their certificate
- The following Awards and the number receiving the award given in recognition:
 - **Annual Award = 48**
 - **Lifetime Awards**
 - Bronze: **4**
 - Pewter: **3**
 - Gold: **3**
 - Silver: **1**
 - Gold Diamond: **1**

Partnerships:

The Confluence Chapter has partnerships that provide the members opportunities to serve. The following is a partial list:

- Forest ReLeaf of Missouri – St. Louis section
- Missouri Dept of Conservation E&I
- St. Charles Parks and Recreation
- Missouri Extension
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- Frontier Middle School
- Missouri Bluebird Society
- St. Louis Audubon Society
- Shaw Nature Reserve
- Weldon Springs Interpretive Center

Some of the activities/ Programs that the members participate in are:

- MDC Eagles Day at Chain of Rocks
The schools in the St. Louis metropolitan area visited the Chain of Rock's pedestrian Bridge over the Mississippi River to see Bald Eagles in their natural habitat. There were many opportunities to help in this endeavor from helping with parking, support of transportation to and from the parking area, sharing what to expect and then being guided tours on the bridge including helping with spotting scopes.
- Bluebird Monitoring at several St. Charles County Parks
There are four (4) St. Charles County parks that the Parks department allowed Bluebird houses to be set up. The Confluence Chapter Master Naturalists provide observations of the bird house activities

as well as maintain the care of the boxes, especially during the breeding season between broods. These parks are Spring Bend, Quail Ridge, Brommelsiek and Veteran's Tribute. In 2019, the total fledgling successes from these sites are: 134 Bluebirds, 25 Tree Swallows and 10 Chickadees. This information was provided to the Bluebird Society and entering into a database for analysis.

- **Outdoor Education Classes with the St. Charles County Parks**
The St. Charles Parks Education provides outdoor classes to area school districts from St. Charles and Lincoln counties at Towne Park north Wentzville, MO for elementary level grades. These classes are supported by the Confluence chapter members in conjunction with the Parks dept. personnel.
- **Outdoor Education Classes with MDC**
There are several outdoor programs by the MDC E&I group that are assisted by the Confluence Chapter members. The programs are held at the Rockwood, Busch Wildlife and Columbia Bottoms Wildlife Refuges. Some programs are open for the public at all ages and some are for specific ranges of ages, while others are specific for school events. The Master Naturalists provide programs or assist with programs as needed. As an example, MDC's "Winter In the Woods" program at Rockwoods is a public event that is supported by the Master Naturalist.
- **Amphibian/Reptile Monitoring in St. Peters**
This monitoring is done at a St. Charles County watershed area to determine the health of several amphibians (frogs, salamanders, newts) and reptiles (lizards, snakes and turtles).
- **Potting of Native Plants distributed at different public events**
The Master Naturalists provide Native plants to enhance the plants distribution in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. The plants are taken to public events that aren't specific to the subject of Native plants but are provided for participants to take to the participant's gardens for planting
- **Monarch butterfly tagging**
This event was taken place at the Weldon Spring Interpretive Center during the Monarch migration time over a period of two weeks. This was a participation of 4 MDC volunteers, 4 Master Naturalists and the general public. The public was educated on the reason for the tagging of Monarchs and the Monarch life cycle putting emphasis on the need to increase the planting of food sources for the Monarchs as well as the need for Milkweed for the breeding Monarchs. Over 200 Monarchs were tagged this year.
- **Maintaining the outdoor natural garden at Quail Ridge Park in Wentzville, MO.**
- **Building an Outdoor Nature Garden at Frontier Middle School Wentzville School District.**
The Frontier Middle School wanted an outdoor Natural plant garden for student education and awareness of nature's environmental dynamics. A contingent of Confluence Master Naturalist lead by Jerry and Jeanine Kaiser descended on the school grounds and built up the garden planting Native plants from the potting exercise stated in a previous bullet (see photo below). The science teachers were involved in the decision process and school administration acceptance. The teachers had their students water and provide some maintenance post completion. Master Naturalist volunteers will provide weeding and watering during the summer months when the school is on summer recess.
- **Clearing honeysuckle plants from MDC Conservation areas**
MDC called out for Master Naturalist volunteers to help clear areas of intrusive honeysuckle plants from the MDC sites of Busch Wildlife Refuge and Castlewood Park in St. Louis County.
- **Forest ReLeaf**
Members partnered with Forest ReLeaf to help manage their nursery which provides 25,000 native plants annually for distribution to non-for-profit organizations.
- **Many more not listed**

Some of the photos related to the above activities:



Bluebird Monitoring at Quail Ridge Park



Potting of Native Plants



Monarch Butterfly tagging at Weldon Springs Interpretive Center



Example of Native Plant at Quail Ridge Park in Wentzville



Preparing and planting the Outdoor Nature Garden at Frontier Middle School on DD St. Charles County