

Missouri Master Naturalist

Confluence Chapter

Annual Report for 2020

The 2020 unique conditions required a modification of our meetings. For the first 3 months, the meetings were held first at the Interpretive Center at the Nuclear Waste Trail and Museum in Weldon Springs, MO until the building closed due to new construction. The meetings were then held at the August A Busch Memorial Conservation Center near Weldon Springs. With the forced mandates of COVID, it was decided to have virtual meetings for July and August and then for September and October at Busch. For the month of November, the meeting was held at the St. Charles County Broemmelsiek Park visitor center. December reverted back to a virtual meeting set up by the new Chapter President, Alison Robbins.

The Following is a list of the current Chapter Officers :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contact Number</u>	<u>email</u>
Alison Robbins	President	636-541-3194	pjrobbins60@gmail.com
Stephen Baldwin	Vice-President	314-304-5845	baldwinsm@aol.com
Steve McCarthy	Secretary	314-300-2608	mccarthy5881@gmail.com
Jean Crinean	Treasurer		jean.crinean@yahoo.com
Debbie Moulton	Advanced Trainer	314-283-2328	moulton.deborh@yahoo.com
Alberta McGilligan	Vol. Chairman	636-399-6567	albertamcgilligan@yahoo.com
Tom Holt	Membership Chair	636-980-7079	holtt1947@cougars.ccs.edu

2020 Confluence Chapter Summary

- There are:
 - currently **72** active members
- There were:
 - **4101** service hours reported
 - **646** reported Advanced Training hours reported
 - **1** new Certification of a Missouri Master Naturalist
 - **43** Annual Recertifications
- **Lifetime Awards:**
 - Bronze – **1**
 - Pewter – **2**
 - Gold - **1**
 - Silver-Sapphire – **1**

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

Due to the COVID sanctions, the amount of activities that members were able to participate in was greatly reduced (as seen in this years service hours reported. Some of the activities/ Programs that the members did participate in were:

- 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, Broemmelsiek and Veteran's Tribute. In 2020, the total fledgling successes from these sites are: 205 Bluebirds, and 20 Tree Swallows.
Outdoor Education Classes with the St. Charles County Parks
- 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. All public activities were cancelled for the remainder of the year.
- 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 The Meadowlands Farmers Market.

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 year's COVID challenge caused the Monarch Tagging to be cancelled. However, Tom Holt participated in the many meetings trying to allow it to happen, but the event was cancelled for the 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.
- 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. Unfortunately, this year has reduced the amount of assistance our members can contribute.

- Many more not listed

Leslie Limberg, past Confluence Chapter President and a certified Missouri Master Gardener, has won the Missouri University Extension recognition as Master Gardener of the Year. She is active in the Confluence Chapter Quail Ridge Garden as well as some others in St. Charles County.

Despite social distancing, members were able to still participate in some activities such as this one at St. Charles County Quail Rich Park.

Talking about determination and great success! This was our best year ever!

The Quail Ridge Prairie Demo Garden's (Awesome) Team ...

From the left: Frank Dvorak, Joann Shew, Jane Porter, Russ, Beth Zona, Allison Volk, and Carmen. In the ground posing her 'May West Pose' is Leslie Limberg. AWOL this day was Jean Harmon and Elaine Browning was taking the picture.



What a team!

At Quail Ridge:

Helianthus maximiliani is a North American species of sunflower known by the common name Maximilian sunflower. This sunflower is named for Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied, who encountered it on his travels in North America.



This is another activity dear to the heart of some MO Master Naturalists:

success ...

Tree Planting at Babler State Park

A group of about 20 folks representing all three chapters of the St Louis Missouri Master Naturalists came together on a beautiful day to plant 150 trees that were given to Babler State Park by Forest ReLeaf. We arrived at 9:00 AM on November 5 and found a well prepared Naturalist (Dustin Hillis) and assistant. He had chosen the locations, marked the spots and as we divided into three groups and went to the sites he delivered trees to each site. Diggers and planters began working and in a few hours had planted all the trees. Dustin was then kind enough to prepare chili using a recipe for Dutch Oven Cooking that they are going to be doing for a public event. It was delicious and enjoyed by all of us.



**Bringing
Conservation
Home**



Congratulations to the MG Native Area Demo Garden team!

The Saint Louis Audubon Society, conducted a St. Peters Extension native area property review, and awarded the garden the Audubon "Bring Conservation Home" Platinum Certification.

Unwanted invasive plant removal is a task that Confluence members are happy to become involved in. It builds good camaraderie.

Honeysuckle Hack
Center for Autism Education—Oct. 24, 2020
MN Jim Middleton
and MN Gail Gagnon



One of the perks of doing outdoor activities as a Missouri Master Naturalist, is seeing Nature in all its beauty, such as this Indigo Bunting that took flight as its photo was taken. This photo will be used in a classroom talk when the schools open again for visitor presentations.

