



Confluence Chapter
St. Charles County, MO

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

**Despite the weather, Confluence Members
Keep on Volunteering and Learning**

Wintery weather did not stop Confluence Members from volunteering to plant trees at Eco Park, sow prairie seeds, assist with controlled burns, restore glades, or help Kevin at the Rockwoods Maple Sugar Festival.

We also learned about owls, raptors, and the weather.
We've been busy!



Maple Syrup
Festival



Spring Bend burn



Tree Planting at Quail Ridge



left: Tour of National Weather office
right: Our own **Tom Schultz** and his raptor friend

A Look inside.....

Page 2 *Jerry Lindhorst* writes about the threat to the bee ecosystem

Book club meeting

Page 3 MMN honors *Carmen Santos*

Meet new members *Bill Brighoff* and *Holly Rivet*

Page 4 Classifieds

Florida MN's welcome 3 Missouri Master Naturalists

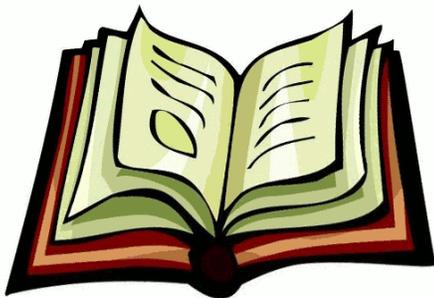


Are You Concerned About the Bee Pollination Threat?

Learn what you can do in your own backyard to help restore this crucial ecosystem

Jerry Lindhorst has written an informative article explaining the problem of disappearing honey bees and what we suburbanites can do to help the situation.

Please click the link: <http://www.mmnconfluence.org/documents/beesandpollination.pdf> (on the chapter's website) to read the article. I urge you to copy it for your files: It's a great resource, and worthy of a permanent place in your gardening literature.



Book Club February meeting

Where: Leslie Limberg

When: Feb. 22, 1-3 pm

Book: Hope Beneath Our Feet by Keogh

RSVP: llimberg@aol.com



**Carmen Santos Honored with
1st Annual
Golden Clipper Award!**

At our holiday banquet **Carmen** was surprised with the first ever Golden Clipper Award for the many hours she has worked beautifying the Jim Ziebel Butterfly Garden at Busch and the Howell Prairie Garden at Weldon Spring.

Congratulations, Carmen!
Many people and creatures benefit from your tireless efforts.

Did you know?Interesting facts about new members



Bill Brighoff: Bill actually **LIKES** pulling bush honeysuckle! He's also newsletter editor for the "Wild Ones", and is especially interested in prairies. He enjoys teaching, and, as a former science teacher, wants to continue that volunteer activity. Conversation starter: Ask him about his time in Belize!

Holly Rivet: She could be the youngest member of our organization, and definitely the youngest caver, having been a member of the Meramec Valley Grotto of the National Speleological Society since she was 12. Converstation starter: Ask her how the Missouri caves and the Galapagos Islands are similar.

Do More
by Wm Arthur Ward

Do more than belong: Participate
Do more than care: Help
Do more than believe: Practice
Do more than be fair: Be kind
Do more than forgive: Forget
Do more than dream: Work



k0036089 www.fotosearch.com

**40 (8-ft.)
m Oak Rails**
Great for split rail
fence

\$2.00 each
Contact:
Alberta McGilligan

For Sale or Trade
3 hand-painted 11"x14"
lithographs of orchids from
1885-1896
Authenticated, excellent
condition
Contact Leslie Limberg
llimberg@aol.com

Wherever we go, we're still Naturalists....

photo by Scott Barnes, article by Sarah Berglund

During the month of January, when it was cold and blustery in Missouri, Scott Barnes, Larry and I had the luxury of being in Florida. Although the sun was shining and we were surrounded by friendly condo neighbors, I still missed Master Naturalists. There's something so comforting about being in the midst of these people. I think it's our connection to nature that reminds us that really, in the big scheme of things, we're all interrelated. Master Naturalists seem so accepting of our foibles, eccentricities, and special gifts. Perhaps it's because we've spent so many hours studying how animals in nature don't try to change another species; they either let them live (or, eat them, of course!)



So, the first day down there, I googled "Florida Master Naturalists," <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu>, and contacted Joy Hazell in Lee County, asking if there were any meetings in January. She graciously replied she was not aware of a meeting, but would we like to join them for a Saturday field trip?

Their course is a mix of all ages and backgrounds, but most of the students take the courses with the intention of working (yes! for money) in the field of nature, rather than volunteering. Out of about twenty attendees, two were young geologists currently serving the Seminoles as archeologists of ancient sites, three middle aged women who direct kayaking trips in the manatee park, a young woman who is beginning a 'nature classroom on wheels,' another who will be a paid docent for Audubon.

There are three modules students must take before they are granted the honor of being a Florida Master Naturalist. Each module costs \$225 and last 4-6 weeks with classes once or twice a week and mandatory Saturday field trips.

The three 'show me' Naturalists were welcomed with open arms. I urge anyone who is going to be in a region for any length of time to connect with that state's master naturalist program. The day was the highlight of my month.

sarah.berglund@yahoo.com editor