



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.*

Hi Everyone,

For about a year I have been the Confluence Chapter president. It dawned on me this summer that it was now my turn to not just represent the chapter, but also to thank our fantastic members for volunteering. Like I was elected to genuinely, authentically thank members for all we do? Express my appreciation, pleasure and elation? Awesome job.

It may seem kind of silly. But for years after a day's project is complete, yeah, I have thanked people, but always with a little voice in the back of my mind that said, " And who are you to thank them?" Why would I thank them when we were all the same, doing the same day's work? It was more like we all should be thanking each other. Good insight, albeit goofy.

As president, it is now especially fun... thanking members with 100% confidence, passion & pride. But I should also be thanking them for allowing me the privilege of representing such fantastic people, of connecting with those also in the throws of their nature experience, and expressing the virtues of Missouri stewards on a mission. Fun is such a small adjective.

So, wow, thanks for the presidency, Guys!

I look forward to 2012 with more gusto, advanced knowledge and serving our community.

Leslie Limberg  
President Confluence Chapter  
Missouri Master Naturalists

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## Hays Park-Matson Hill Project Awarded \$7000...it all began with a vision



In the above imperfect cropping of two pictures, the oldest black walnut tree in Missouri stands next to the Daniel Boone Hays House in Defiance, MO. *Imagine: Did the family plant the tree as a sapling for a purpose or did they just let it grow from seed?*

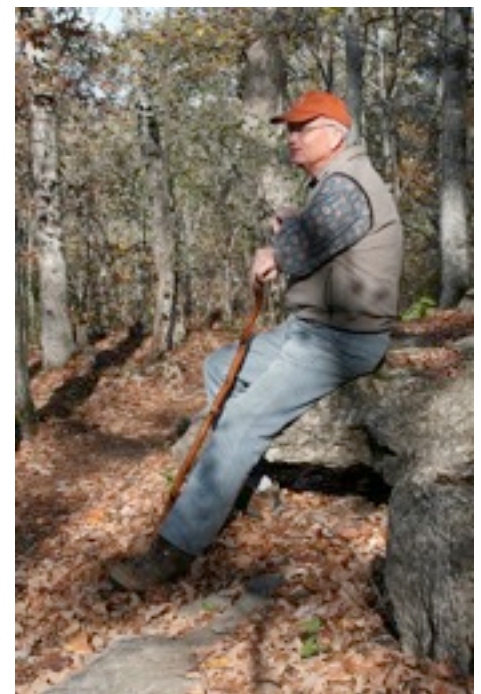
Ben Grossman approached the chapter last year with a request that Confluence consider managing an historical park from start to finish. When **Bob Coffing, Sam Hodge, Bob Lee, Steve Thomas and Larry Berglund** agreed to head up the new project, they knew that the Hays Park model would have a vision unlike other chapter assignments.

This place was going to be different. It was going to fulfill the Master Naturalists' mandate to *LEARN, TEACH, VOLUNTEER*. They knew they wanted it to be a venue for our members to LEARN more, not just remove invasives. They knew they wanted it to be a place to TEACH others what we have learned; to tell stories that other naturalists and the public would take to heart. It would be a place where we could VOLUNTEER doing what we love and find what each of us is *passionate* about. It could set the example for other chapters of what Master Naturalists can do for themselves and their community.

No, Hays Park is definitely going to be different.

This project was recently granted the full request of \$7000 from MDC. This money will go to change scrub land into a short grass prairie and tell the story of the importance of prairies. It will also be spent on fire clothing, on-site milling and erosion equipment.

Take it from me: If you want the next step in becoming Master Naturalist, Hays Park will have a place for you. Contact Bob Lee at [rllee010@earthlink.net](mailto:rllee010@earthlink.net) to see how you can grow.



**Sam telling a story**

## Cuivre River State Park Hike by Steve Thomas

Eight members of the Confluence Chapter enjoyed a field trip to Cuivre River State Park on Saturday, October 15. Park Naturalist Bruce Schuette led the group on a 2-mile hike along the Blazing Star trail. The hike included travel through woodlands, savanna and remnant prairie. Bruce identified wildflowers and other native (and some non-native) plants along the way. He described the measures taken in the restoration efforts of woodlands and prairies, including the use of prescribed burns. The autumn weather was perfect for a hike.



## Spring Bend Blue Bird Park Results by Mindy Batcsh



Our results of fledglings so far at Spring Bend:

28 Eastern bluebirds

6 tree swallows

14 chickadees

8 house wrens, abandoned: died

***Remember to: Learn.....Teach.....Volunteer***

## **Master Naturalists Help Green Up Joplin with Trees Donated by Forest ReLeaf**

On October 12th volunteers, including **members of all three St. Louis area chapters**, assisted forestry programs manager Mike Walsh with the loading of 860 Forest ReLeaf trees into two rental trucks bound for Joplin and the adjacent city of Duquesne. The native trees, all of which were grown in our CommuniTree Gardens nursery, represent the first major donation of trees to the area after last spring's devastating tornado. [Click here](#) for the full story in the Joplin Globe.

Forest ReLeaf was able to transport these trees thanks to generous financial support from the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri. The Missouri Department of Conservation also arranged for several forestry staffers to help load, unload and drive trees to Joplin.



## **Stream Team Summer and Fall – Where Oh Where Have the Macros Gone?**

by **Cliff Parmer**

The long, hot and dry summer took a heavy toll on our sites on the Femme Osage Creek. Flows either stopped altogether or became miniscule and the macroinvertebrate population in our sample nets reduced accordingly. Where we usually would find ten or more species we now find two or three, and those are more pollution tolerant. Hopefully Mother Nature has evolved those critters to withstand such events and their eggs are in the gravel waiting for cooler temperatures, higher flows and more dissolved oxygen. The water chemistry did not significantly change except for the percentage of dissolved oxygen which is a function of water temperature. Cooler water holds more oxygen.

The early summer session was fortunate to have a guest – Renden and Jeff Hornung's nephew Reid, a delightful 7 year old. When we rendezvoused at the parking lot there was a steady shower falling so we

decided to wait it out. After a while it became obvious that Reid was dying to get out of the car so we broke out the umbrellas and went for a walk up the Lost Valley trail. The trail parallels the Little Femme Osage and soon there is a low-water bridge which provides easy access to the stream. The nature gods smiled upon us and left a small net on the gravel bar. So Reid and I set out to explore the stream while the rain slacked off. To make a long story short, Reid was like a very curious puppy off the leash. By the end of the day he was wet, muddy and smiling from ear to ear! He's expressed a strong desire to come out and play again.

Our activities are over for this year, we'll resume next spring. Thanks to **Larry Markley, Kay LaBanca, Larry Berglund, Renden Hornung, Leslie Limberg and Ann Finklang** for their participation in our Stream Team



**Welcome New Members!**

*l to r:* **Aaron Kaminski, Jennifer Moore, Rich Riester, Nancy Newcomer, Carol McClanahan, Rob Merriman**

**Jennifer** volunteers at the outdoor classroom for Babler Elementary and is interested in children's education

**Robb** read about MMN in the MO Conservation Magazine and has been volunteering at Lum Miller, and will be the Confluence member in charge of working with our partners on the Hays-Matson project. He's already certified!

**Can you help?**

**Jim Phillips, a fellow member of the Confluence chapter, is looking to rent from one of us a personal cabin resting in the woods. Please contact Jim at:**  
[crowcraft2002@yahoo.com](mailto:crowcraft2002@yahoo.com)



**2011 MMN Conference:  
*What a blast!***

What a great time we had at the 2011 Master Conference in Joplin. We went there to learn, and we did, about chert prairies, interpretation, Ozark forests and glades, bats, GPS positioning, mussels, butterflies, nature photography, birds of prey, among many other topics. But, we also had fun with friends, ate good food, and had excellent entertainment. When the time comes around to register for the 2012 conference, *please* consider joining your friends from Confluence: You won't regret it.

*Questions? Comments?*  
*All are welcome:*  
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