



Your key to discovering the *Natural Missouri*



From
Our President

Welcome
to our NEW newsletter.

With each editor, our 'newsyletter' takes on a welcome flair, but as always it reflects our history of stewardship & community.

The newsletter was originally the brain child of Ann Finklang in 2007. Ann worked for 3 years collecting articles, encouraging members to document, tell stories & write about their experiences.

Ann passed the editorship to Sarah Berglund for a couple years. Sarah then added her inspiration and creativity with welcoming touches that jazzed it up.

Now we're in 2012. Carmen Santos, our new editor has graciously offered to keep it going and put it together with help from members.

Carmen in her usual entrepreneurial fashion is inspired to add educational tidbits for us to further our knowledge about Missouri flora & fauna. And of course, the newsletter will serve as a historical reference for our chapter and for the world to see the difference we are making in the stewardship of Missouri's

resources.

Thanks to all who remember their cameras on their volunteer & advanced training expeditions. Just a picture or two and a paragraph is all it takes to document our activities... no big deal.

In the tradition of fun, inspiration, & good stewardship,

Leslie Limberg
Confluence President



2012 Volunteer
Service Pin
The Regal Fritillary

Inside this issue:

Speyeria idalia	2
Quail Ridge Demo	2
1st State Capitol Garden	3
Invasive: Reed canary	4
Possum Haw	4
Black Mustard	5
Night Life with Kevin	6
Anniversaries;	7
Mingo	8
Wentzville Conservation	9


Thank You!

- ✓ Scott Barnes for a wonderful job at the 1st Capitol Herloom Vegetable Garden.
- ✓ Ann Finklang for relentless teamwork.
- ✓ Connie Campbell for coordinating the Wentzville Conservation Day

It's OK to think small when it comes to courage. When life is at its darkest, the smallest courage sheds great light.






Speyeria idalia

2012 Volunteer Service Pin
The Regal Fritillary

A large butterfly with reddish-orange forewings. The hind wings are blackish-gray with silvery-white spots. There are other species of fritillaries in the state. As with all brush-footed butterflies, the first pair of legs are shortened, somewhat hairy-looking, and useless for walking. Larvae are velvety black to yellowish or deep orange, with orange or reddish stripes, and with yellowish-white, branching spines with black tips.

Wingspan: 3-4 inches; larvae can grow up to 1 3/4 inches long.

Found most often in prairie localities. Locally common in prairie meadows in western Missouri, and less common in north-eastern Missouri. Practically absent from the eastern Ozarks and Mississippi Lowlands. Populations are declining because their prairie habitat is disappearing.

Larvae eat violets (plants in the genus *Viola*). Adults are attracted to flowers, especially those of butterfly weed, common milkweed, pale purple coneflower, thistles and clover.

Formerly nearly statewide. Now confined to our few remaining tall grass prairie remnants.

Native resident species found most often in prairie localities. Vulnerable to extirpation and is on the Missouri Department of Conservation's Watch List. Populations are declining in North America and in Missouri. Destruction of high-quality tall grass prairies is the main reason for the decline.

There is one brood a year. Eggs hatch in spring when the violet food plants begin to grow. Males begin emerging in early June, followed in a few days by the first females. The female does not lay her eggs until early fall. Males are commonly observed courting slowly back and forth across prairies in search of emerging females. Violets are the only acceptable place for females to lay their eggs, and in autumn the females have to search for them. Eggs overwinter, and emerged larvae can hibernate.

The regal fritillary is a unique and disappearing part of our native heritage. If you own grassland, manage it so that many kinds of prairie wildlife can benefit, and use pesticides sparingly. Finally, don't let collectors capture them.

The caterpillars are herbivores that graze on vegetation. The adults serve a role in pollination. All stages provide food for predators.



To identify and learn more about animals, plants and mushrooms near you check out the Missouri Department of Conservation field guide at mdc.mo.gov/node/73.



Quail Ridge Prairie Demo Garden

There is something special about this place.

No matter how hot it is, there is always a cool breeze keeping one refreshed. Every year since we have been working there, a red winged black bird serenades us continuously.



Red-winged
Blackbird
(*Agelaius*)

In addition to this bird we often see blue birds, purple martins, killdeers (kill dares) butterflies, ladybugs, and all kinds of bugs. (We take pictures of the ladybugs and report them the Cornell University Lost Ladybug project. www.lostladybug.org)



The ground seems to be extremely fertile and as a result the weeds do as good—and sometimes better—than the wild flowers we want to grow. This creates a very challenging situation—if we do not kill or pull these weeds early in the spring they will compete and “take away” from the wildflowers.

We have several native prairie wildflowers/grasses growing in the garden.

These include Asters, Ironweed, different Goldenrod plants, Slender Mountain Mint, Obedience Plant, Prairie Dock, Compass Plants, MO Primrose, Purple Puppy Mallow, Milkweed, Beard Tongue, Indian Grass, Wild Blue and White Indigos, Prairie Drop seed Grass, Little Blue Stem Grass, Rattlesnake Master, Wild Quinine, Coreopsis, Switch Grass, River Oats, and some which have decided to move in on their own.



Switch Grass

This year keeping up with the weeds has been a challenge. Thanks to Leslie Limberg, Joe Veras, and the inexhaustible Ann Finklang we have made great progress. We plan to work at the site every Wednesday from 8:30 to around 10:30 am.



Foxglove
Beard-Tongue

You are welcomed to join us. We will gladly share with you the joy this garden brings to our lives.





Before Missouri was granted statehood on Aug. 10, 1821, various locations in St. Louis had served as the seat of government for territorial affairs. As statehood became a certainty, the search began for a site to become the permanent seat of government. An undeveloped tract of land located in the center of the state overlooking the Missouri River was chosen to become "The City of Jefferson," Missouri's permanent capital.

Until the new Capitol could be constructed, the state's first legislators needed a place to meet. Nine cities competed for the honor of hosting the state's temporary seat of government. One of these cities was St. Charles, a growing center of trade located on the Missouri River with easy access to the most rapidly growing areas in the state via the river or the Boonlick Road. The citizens of St. Charles pledged that if their city was chosen as the temporary capital, they would furnish free meeting space for the legislators.

On Nov. 25, 1820, Gov. Alexander McNair signed a bill making St. Charles the first capital of Missouri. The



Don Juan

state's first legislators met in St. Charles for the first time on June 4, 1821.

The meeting place provided by the citizens of St. Charles was on the second floor of two newly constructed adjoining Federal-style brick buildings. The Peck brothers, Charles and Ruluff, owned one of the buildings and they operated a general store on the first floor. Chauncy Shepard owned the adjoining building with a carpenter shop on the first floor. The second floor of the building was divided and used as Senate and House chambers, an office for the governor, and a small committee



Raspberries



Hops

room. Four Missouri governors ran the state's affairs from the Capitol in St. Charles until the new Capitol in Jefferson City was ready in 1826.

The buildings that now make up the First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site were acquired in 1960 by the state of Missouri through then-Gov. James T. Blair. Concerned citizens of St. Charles who recognized the value of the buildings prompted his efforts. The state began a 10-year restoration project that initiated the revitalization of the historic core of St. Charles.

Eleven rooms in the Capitol



Heirloom Garden

complex have been restored to their original state, and nine rooms are complete with furnishings from the 1821-1826 period. The Peck brothers' residence and general store have been restored and furnished as they might have looked in the early 1800s.

Our task as Master Naturalists was to clean and re-furbish the garden with period/heirloom plants and herbs, and to re-establish a native garden that had been neglected.

From the summer of 2011 to the spring of 2012 our team cleaned flower beds, removed weeds, and planted flowers, herbs, and vegetables that would have been on the site since its origin.

On May 29, 2012 the St Charles Master Gardeners took over this project—we thank them. Many thanks also to all master naturalists who participated on this very successful project: Amy Ludwig, Ann Finklang, Barbara Lomker, Carmen Santos, Jerry Lindhorst, Joe Veras, Kay LaBanca, Leslie Limberg, Scott Barnes, and Tom Nagle.



Grapes



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
 MN CONFERENCE
 SEP 21-23, 2012
 LAKE OF THE OZARKS
 WWW.MONATURALIST.ORG

POSSUM HAW
 Deciduous Holly
(Ilex decidua)

On your travels through our trails and parks look for this awesome native shrub.

Usually a shrub with a spreading, open crown, but sometimes a small tree to 30 feet tall. This specimen occurs on dolomite glades; in rocky, upland, open woods, in low wet woods along streams and lowlands, in borders of woods; and along fencerows (and on of my flower beds).



Invasive:
 Reed canary grass
(Phalaris arundinacea)

A cool season, rhizomatous perennial wetland grass native to temperate regions of Europe, Asia and North America—including northern Missouri. The Eurasian ecotype has been selected for its vigor and has been planted throughout the United States since the 1800s for forage and erosion control. It has become naturalized in much of the United States.

Reed canary grass is a large, coarse grass growing 2 to 9 feet tall. The stem is erect and hairless with gradually tapering leaf blades 3 1/2 to 10 inches long and 1/4 to 3/4 inch in width. Blades are flat and have a rough texture on both surfaces.

This grass is one of the first to sprout in spring, and it forms a thick rhizome system that dominates the subsurface soil. Seeds are shiny brown in color.

Our native ecotype of reed canary grass is not easily distinguished from the Eurasian ecotype, but it typically does not form dense stands, and co-exists with other native vegetation in high-quality moist prairies. Even as a single invading plant, the Eurasian ecotype rapidly forms a dense clump and starts to spread out aggressively. Reed canary grass may also resemble the native bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and orchard grass (*Dadylis glomerata*), especially in the spring.

Reed canary grass spreads aggressively by prolific seed production and creeping rhizomes. The plant produces leaves and flower stalks for five to seven weeks after germination in early spring, then spreads laterally. Growth peaks in early summer, with a second growth spurt in the fall. The shoots collapse in mid to late summer, forming a dense, impenetrable mat of stems and leaves. The seeds ripen in mid-summer and shatter when ripe. Seeds may be dispersed from one wetland to another by waterways, animals, people and machines.

Reed canary grass forms dense monotypic stands that crowd out native plants and grows too thick to provide suitable cover for wildlife. Although used as hay for livestock, it is of little value as food for wildlife. It promotes silt deposition and can constrict waterways and irrigation canals. Conversely, when its colonies perch on top of cut banks, it



can promote further erosion of soil beneath the dense mats of rhizomes by causing cutaways where water flows rapidly.

Because reed canary grass has underground rhizomes and a prolific seed bank, this plant is difficult to eradicate. It is important to plant native species adapted to the local area immediately after efforts to control or eradicate reed canary grass have been conducted.

Glyphosate formulated for use in wetlands will kill reed canary grass (especially young plants) when applied to foliage. Apply in early spring when most native plant species are dormant. To maximize growing shoot exposure and to minimize herbicide use, remove the previous year's dead leaves by burning or mowing before applying herbicide. To avoid impacting shorter vegetation, apply herbicide to taller stands of reed canary grass with a wick applicator attached to a tractor.

Another control method is to mow in mid to late September, then spray reed canary grass in October (after warm season grasses are dormant) with a 5 percent active ingredient solution of glyphosate.

To reduce reed canary grass cover, deplete the seed bank and stimulate native seed banks, apply a wick application of glyphosate in late May or early June followed by a mid to late summer burn.

Alternative Native Plants:
 Virginia wild rye, prairie cordgrass

For Additional Information
www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/exotic/vegman/twentyon.htm;
www.ipaw.org/invasers/reed_canary_grass/index.aspx
www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/reed-canarygrass.pdf
www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/fact/reed_canary.htm
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/aqua011.html
www.paflora.org/Phalaris%20arundinacea.pdf
 W00045 7/2010
www.MissouriConservation.org



Reed canary grass closely resembles orchard grass, but the inflorescence of reed canary grass is more narrow and pointed.



Forest ReLeaf Results

Master Naturalists from our three local chapters and other volunteers planted **2750 trees** on a beautiful Spring Sat in March.

The trees were packed up in a tractor trailer and sent to Joplin.



shutterfly

I put two new albums on the Shutterfly website of Towne Park Dedication. What a great capstone project! The dedication and hard work of those of you who worked on the project is apparent in the result. Wonderful job!

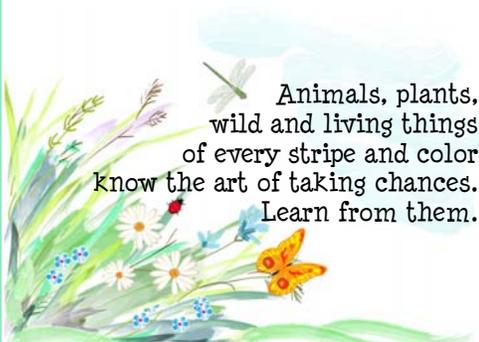
Site Name: Master Naturalist Pics
Site URL: <http://masternaturalistpics.shutterfly.com/>

Lee Phillion



Never go to
bed mad—
Stay up and
fight.

Let nature teach you the way of courage.



Animals, plants,
wild and living things
of every stripe and color
know the art of taking chances.
Learn from them.

Wildflowers of Missouri *Brassica nigra* (black mustard)

This introduced plant is believed to be native to the southern Mediterranean region of Europe, where it has been cultivated for thousands of years.

Habitats include weedy meadows, thickets, areas along railroads and roadsides, fallow fields, vacant lots, and miscellaneous waste places. Disturbed areas are preferred; Black Mustard doesn't invade high quality natural areas to any significant degree.

Faunal Associations: The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract primarily small bees and flower flies; less common visitors include White butterflies and wasps. The foliage is occasionally eaten by the caterpillars of various White butterflies, including *Pieris rapae* (Cabbage White) and *Pontia protodice* (Checkered White). The pungent foliage is usually avoided by mammalian herbivores; it is somewhat toxic to them.

If you see a lanky mustard plant with narrow stalks of yellow flowers that is over your head, there's a good chance that it's Black Mustard. The seeds of Black Mustard are often used in the table condiment, Mustard. Among the many *Brassica* spp. and *Synapis* spp. (Mustards), Black Mustard can be identified by considering the following characteristics:

- 1) It is often quite tall,
- 2) the slender siliques are appressed together near the stalk of each raceme,
- 3) the siliques have distinctive beaks and are always less than 3/4" long,
- 4) the leaves narrow clasp the stems,
- 5) the terminal lobe of the

- 6) the lower leaves often have short stiff hairs and feel bristly to the touch. Other mustards are often lacking one or more of these features.

In Ethiopia, where black mustard is cultivated as a vegetable in Gondar,

Harar and Shewa, the shoots and leaves are consumed cooked and the seeds used as a spice. Its Amharic name is senafitch.

Ground seeds of the plant mixed with honey are widely used in eastern Europe as cough suppressant. In East-

ern Canada, the use of mouche de moutarde to treat respiratory infections was popular before the advent of modern medicine. It consisted in mixing ground mustard seeds with flour and water, and creating a cataplasm with the paste. This cataplasm was put on the chest or the back and left until the person felt a stinging sensation.

The plant itself can grow from two to eight feet tall, with racemes of small yellow flowers. These flowers are usually up to 1/3" across, with four petals each. The leaves are covered in small hairs; they can wilt on hot days, but recover at night.

Black mustard is thought to be the seed mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 13:31-32.

Despite their similar common names, black mustard and white mustard (genus *Sinapis*) are not closely related. Black mustard belongs to the same genus as cabbage.



NIGHTLIFE WITH KEVIN

Leslie Limberg

In a moment of terror, Leo called me worried about the lightning. I had told him that Kevin wouldn't take the risk of hunting for amphibians, if the storm got so bad that resulted in death defying electricity. Boy was I wrong!



And boy, was I glad I was wrong. Our traipsing through rainy muddy

corn fields really paid off. Never mind the clock. Never mind anxious husbands calling at 11:30 PM, AND ... never mind the crackle of bolts from heaven to earth.

Kevin & I were on a mission.

This was not National Geographic on TV, but Welton Springs Geographic in reality ... what naturalists do regardless of logic & planning. We couldn't be more awe-struck repeatedly stopping the truck, jumping out with flashlight to see if it was a Leopard frog, a toad, or a peeper.

On we drove stop to stop, 15 in all, from Refuge Lake in a big circle to Lake 33 to Pine Trail & and back, looking for the lost survey spots, small ephemeral ponds

hidden in wooded outcroppings. With cupped ears we followed the loudest call. "It's over there!" "It's in this direction!" We were right, both times. We found them both, with a little help from the sheet lightning that lit up the woods like a giant torchlight.

Finally the culmination came as a fluke ... merely choosing to cross ankle high water to climb a levee in an exhausted moment of unrelenting passion. It was deafening. The sound was consuming. The frog reverie was instant contagion. Kevin & I froze, barely breathing, counting the species of frisky frogs. There were thousands, calling their loved ones hither.

I drove home, 3 hours after our monthly meeting was over, yes, a tad late. Maybe Leo was asleep. Either way, it really didn't matter.

My smile wouldn't quit. I kept the radio off and relished the internal satisfaction ear to ear.

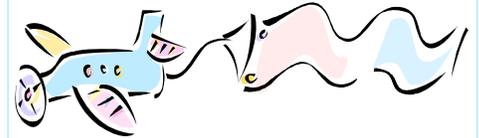
Thanks Kevin. You're the best advisor a master naturalist could have.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

SCOTT'S CORNER

COMING
SOON!



ADVERTISEMENT

Looking to carpool with 2-3 others to September's conference (9/21-9/23)

Leaving Friday noonish from Forstell commuter lot on Hwy 70

Will drive... 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe

LeslieLimberg@aol.com

*Animals are such agreeable friends.
They ask no questions,
they pass no criticisms.*

George Eliot, English poet & novelist



From Kevin's Pond

Anniversaries

Kevin McCarthy
Interpretive Center Manager
and Confluence Chapter Advisor

If you haven't heard... MDC turns 75 years old this year. Since 1937, MDC has been in the forefront of conservation, writing the book on resource management and paving the way for many other states to follow. There has been a lot of focus on the MDC website, in the **Conservationist** magazine and other outlets to remind the citizens of Missouri what an



amazing journey it has been. I personally wasn't there 75 years ago when our states' natural resources of wildlife, timber and fish were

depleted to a point that required the citizens of the state to stand up and say "enough is enough," but maybe you were? What if we had that same passion today from all the citizens of the state to say "enough is enough" with bush honeysuckle, European starlings, zebra mussels, amphibian chytrid fungus, white-nose syndrome and other exotic invaders...?

Well, we may not be there yet, but maybe taking a look back at some local MDC events might give a small glimpse of our future. Where were you when...?

- ◆ Rockwoods Reservation was purchased as Missouri's first Conservation Area on June 27, 1938.
- ◆ Animal pins were opened at Rockwoods Reservation in the 1940s... then removed in 1993.
- ◆ August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area was purchased from the Federal Government in 1947.

- ◆ Powder Valley Nature Center opened in 1986.
- ◆ The first MDC Volunteer program began at Rockwoods Reservation in 1987.
- ◆ Columbia Bottom Conservation Area was purchased in 1997.
- ◆ Confluence Chapter formed the first St. Louis Master Naturalist Chapter in 2005.

Are these areas and programs the same as they were 75 years ago, if they even existed? While I wasn't present 75 years ago to see history first hand, I can look at existing habitats and see where they are going. I encourage all members in Confluence to continue to help spread the word about conservation, native species protection and exotic species eradication. Considering there are almost 3 million people living in the St. Louis metro area and there are only 70 or so of us... there are a lot of people who might listen. Who knows, they might stand up again to say "enough is enough" and to get involved to volunteer, plant native plants, eradicate exotic species and protect something that they've already said is worth protecting 75 years ago.



Butterflies and Woodpeckers On Hummingbird Feeders?

Carmen

I am looking for your pictures of butterflies and woodpeckers feeding on hummingbird feeders.

I could not believe it when I saw a Spicebush butterfly feeding on my hummingbird feeder. I tried to take pictures but she moved away too quickly for me.

As for woodpeckers, I also see them all the time on my hummingbird feeders. The picture you see here is not mine—I am also working on taking their pictures.



Master Naturalist Outings

Cathy Dedecker,
cathydedecker@sbcglobal.net

Tuesday, June 12, 6 to 9 pm — Towne Park, Nature Explore Classroom

Take this opportunity to see first hand the efforts made by Master Naturalists and Ben Grossman—whose vision and talents are second to none! Ben will take us on a tour of the classroom, and you can learn how he utilized all the resources on the property to make this classroom. This is the Capstone project that has been in the works for two years.

We will have the picnic first—bring a dish to share, and your own table settings, plate and utensils. Chicken and brats will be provided.

Location: Take 70 west towards Wentzville, Exit 40/61 towards Hannibal. Drive approximately 6 miles (you will pass Flint Hill), exit and take a right to **Farris Road**. You will notice some large homes. Take the first right, and drive about one mile. You will see the picnic area and playground, where we will meet.

Tuesday, July 10 — 6 to 6:30 pm, Farmers Market

We will have our very first Farmers Market from 6-6:30 pm during the social hour of our monthly business meeting. This is your chance to bring your fresh vegetables, plants or flowers to barter and trade or simply share if you so desire with other members.



I wonder who has the best tomatoes!!!!

Tuesday, August 28 — 5 to 9 pm, A tri-master naturalist picnic and advanced training.

Advanced training will be held from 5 to 6:30 pm for archery and shot gun shooting. All equipment will be provided. Bring a dish to share, lawn chairs and the FISH will provide drinks and utensils. The social and meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.

Location: Jay Henges Shooting Range, off Hwy 44. We will offer the chance for members to carpool, from the St. Charles area, the Weldon Springs area, Hwy 270/Ballas and perhaps a few more. More details to come.

Mingo

By Scott Barnes
and Joan Twillman

The long anticipated trip to Mingo had arrived and it was well worth the wait. Joan pulled off another great adventure for us which I personally will not forget.

Except for Bill and Ben Brighoff, we arrived the night before and spent the evening relaxing; Popular Bluff was fairly close and had nice hotels but if you missed this trip, you might want to check with cabin dwellers, Sam and Patsy Hodge or Jerry and Shirley Ritesma, to find the place to stay just outside Mingo: friendly, inexpensive, accommodating, and just plain good.

Thursday morning, a couple possums sauntered across the lawn at the Red Mill entrance as we prepared to head to the boats. There were ten Master Naturalists, as well as a local photographer and two peerless MDC professionals, A. J. Hendershott and Dr. Pat Harrison, our hosts for the tour. In short, if you ever get the chance to attend an event that A. J. or Pat directs, you might want to take that opportunity. We spent the morning and afternoon paddling among white-blossomed lotus, cypress trees, and tupelo in Monopoly Marsh as our



species reside within those few miles than live in many states! We walked the boardwalk for a close-up of the border trees and plants on the fringes of the swamp. I would list the birds we got to enjoy but I would have to make up some great names as I can

MDC experts pointed out endemic species and explained both the history and present conditions of the wetlands.

Southeast Missouri is an amazing place and quite unlike the rest of Missouri. The vegetation is often familiar yet different—pumpkin ash with bases that swell as they enter the water; cottonwood trees with truncated leaves that do not quake in the wind the way St. Louis foliage does; and sugarberry that are a lot like hackberry but

then- not quite the same. The animals are also a bit unfamiliar: fish crows that call a different song; water moccasins that swell up to travel high in the water; and “swampers”-



cottontails with short ears and big bodies that are camouflaged exquisitely. Southeast Missouri is a special land: unique, palpably alive, lovely, fascinating, and a bit alien.

A variety of different habitats filled our second day: driving a few miles changed everything- the view, the elevation, the geology, the organisms, in fact- the entire experience. More

never remember the birds names. The two day trip could not have gone better if it had been written for a script.

A. J. and Pat recommend traveling with someone who knows Mingo, checking ahead to learn which areas will have water, and visiting in May, October, or perhaps even February. The scenery is spectacular! Mingo is a definite for the “must visit” list and I know for myself I will definitely be going back there.



Wentzville Conservation Day

Connie Campbell

On April 24, 2012, five enthusiastic and knowledgeable Missouri Master Naturalists from our chapter facilitated activities with over 150 third graders at Heritage Intermediate School in Wentzville, MO.

Mindy Batsch supervised the children with building a raft to float a boiled egg across a "river". The raft was made from natural materials, which is what the pioneers used as they crossed the country in the 1800s. The egg symbolized the Conestoga wagons and other supplies that traveled with the pioneers. Sarah Berglund engaged the third graders with a lesson called "The Circle of Life." The lesson helped the children to realize what happens to nutrients in food and how excrement is essentially a part of the circle of life. The students even learned a new word... "Poopamatata"! Tom Nagle led an activity on bird beaks and bills, which helped the children to understand the correlation between shapes and sizes of beaks and the food each bird eats.

The students enjoyed using different tools to pick up the different shapes of "food". Leslie Limberg helped the students learn more about tree identification with a variety of leaves, nuts, fruits, and twigs. Leslie always knows how to interest children with her open-ended questioning technique. Jennifer Moore led a lesson about butterflies, specifically the Monarch butterfly. The children learned how the butterflies sense their world and what attracts them, as well as other useful information about these delightful creatures. Connie Campbell helped the students learn how all the plants and animals are interconnected with a food web activity. The children were sur-

prised with how much the food web looks like a spider web and really shows that we are all linked together.

Also, Keri Freeman, from Cuivre River State Park, brought a reptile, amphibian, and insect program to the Conservation Day. Kim Allen and another third grade teacher at the school have been working on an outdoor habitat at Heritage Intermediate School. The work they have done has brought nature alive for the fortunate students of the school. Five of the lessons were held outdoors in this habitat area and two of the programs with more fragile components were held indoors. The students were well-behaved, engaged, and enthusiastic about learning more about nature. The students were also informed about the Nature Explore Classroom at Towne Park, which is quite near them.

All in all, it was a fulfilling day!



The Confluence Chapter was founded in 2005 as the fifth Master Naturalist chapter in Missouri. The chapter was formed by 24 individuals from St. Charles County, St. Louis County, and St. Louis City after completing the Missouri Master Naturalist™ training program. We share a common interest in nature and in volunteering to help protect, preserve and restore Missouri's natural heritage. Most of our members live in the region West of the Missouri-Mississippi Confluence and from both north and south of the Missouri River.

We operate according to the bylaws and operating handbook of the Missouri Master Naturalist Program developed by the Missouri Department of Conservation and University of Missouri Extension.

Visit us at <http://www.mmnconfluence.org/>

