



Your key to discovering the *Natural Missouri*



From
Our President

We're stewards. No, we're not flight attendants. We're stewards of our natural resources. According to Merriam Webster, "Stewardship (a noun) is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Gee, our natural resources are everywhere around us... sounds like a big job.

Lately, I steward (a verb?) trees & perennials using water. And I can't seem to put down the garden hose... everywhere I go there's a hose in my hand. Tuesdays I water at the Boathouse in St. Charles. Wednesdays I water at Quail Ridge in Wentzville. Friday through Monday I water in New Melle bits & pieces of the 5 acres around the house. I even watered my neighbors blackberries. In fact, now my hands are permanently molded into a loose fist like I'm holding an invisible garden hose. I wake up in the morning already ready for watering. Such a deal.

Not alone are we stewards of the land, but we're stewards of each other. A novel idea. I suppose Merriam Webster might say that we're "entrusted to the care of each other." So, we can steward our stewards, right? Our advisor Kevin

supports this idea as well. Why wouldn't we also need care similar to other Missouri resources? We are a viable community resource. Our chapter is certainly an integral part of Missouri's resources. We each deserve at the very least the care & respect we give the land (and the water).

So, Kevin, if we call a member on the phone to talk about their mother's funeral or their chemo treatment, or buy a dragonfly ornament as a present, can we add that time to our total service hours? Perhaps by having personal conversations during social hour at our monthly meetings, we could steward our stewards and duly claim our hours.

The more I think about it, this stewardship job is bigger than I thought.

OK now, where did I leave that sprinkler?

Leslie Limberg
Confluence President



... we simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to it's edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.

Wallace Stegner, 1909-1993



2012 Volunteer
Service Pin
The Regal Fritillary

Inside this issue:

Thank You; Virtue and MO Wildlife; Kevin's Pond	2
Bluebird Project Photos	3
Emerald Ash Borer	4
Boys Hope Girls Hope; Our Feathered Friends	5
Help Trees Through Drought; MN Outings	6
MN July Picnic Pictures	7
In Memory—Jim Phillips	8



Thank You!



★ **Bob Lee** for his 2+ years as Volunteer Services chair. Bob has gone beyond the call of duty and extended our reputation in the community far & wide. Our native plant services are famous with those partners that really matter, the MDC, DNR, Forest Relief, & St Charles County Parks. You got us on the map, Bob... Thanks! (New chair to be announced shortly.)

★ **Mindy Batsch & Tom Schultz** for wrapping up year #2 of successful Bluebird boxes. The Spring Bend Park Bluebird Trail was installed last year. This year we installed another 15 boxes at Quail Ridge Park, thanks to a grant from the Missouri Bluebird Society. That makes 30 boxes on 2 trails.



Tom built more boxes with the Cornell University School of Ornithology official design. Thanks **Renden & Jeff** for obtaining poles for the project. Thanks **Bob Lee** for donations of cedar lumber & manpower to build boxes. Thanks to **Leslie Limberg** for donating pole baffles. Thanks to **Connie Campbell** for your miles of trekking house to house, over hill & dale recording bird progress. Thanks **Joe Veras** for your extraordinary help as always. And thanks to **Claire Meyners** for your advice. You get the best coach award, Claire! **(MN interested in helping monitor boxes in St Charles County next year—April through August— let Mindy know.)**

★ Thanks to **Carmen Santos, Joe Veras, Ann Finklang, Scott Barnes, Amy Ludwig, Kay Labanca, Leslie Limberg, Jerry Lindhorst, Barbara Lomker, and Tom Nagle** for the fine job in the new & improved First State Capitol Garden. And special thanks to **Amy Ludwig— AKA Mother Nature—** for your



Amy

hard work and those Hostas you procured for the 1st Capitol garden. We received a letter of thanks from the DNR's Sue Love, extolling the team's virtues and thanking us for the beautiful new backyard we gave them.

Virtue & Missouri Wildlife



If you're at Powder Valley in the month of August or August A. Busch Conservation Center in September, look for Leslie's oil paintings, a display titled

Virtue & Missouri Wildlife



Our Leadership

President—Leslie Limberg
 Vice President—Alberta McGilligan
 Secretary—Connie Campbell
 Treasurer—Renden Hornung
 Advanced Training—Steven Thomas
 Volunteer Coordinator—Bob Lee
 Membership Services—Carol Morgan
 Fun Committee—Cathy Decker
 Newsletter—Carmen Santos
 Web Site—Rick Gray
 Photography—Lee Phillion
 Advisors—Scott Killpack, University of Missouri Extension, and Kevin McCarthy, MDC



From Kevin's Pond

Thoughts of Leopold

Kevin McCarthy
 Interpretive Center Manager
 and Confluence Chapter Advisor

Inspiration comes in many forms. I generally find mine by spending time outdoors with my wife, Tamara and daughter, Sydney. Today as I reflect on what article or topic I should write for the *Confluence Chapter*, searching for my own inspiration to write about the newest invasive species or MDC program, I happened to glance at my library over my desk and spot a particular book that means a lot to me. After a challenging work day wishing I was outdoors in cooler weather finding inspiration with Tamara and Sydney, I found a bit of unexpected inspiration that I'd like to share with each of you to read and reflect upon.

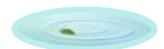
Enjoy:

A Sand County Almanac
 Aldo Leopold:

There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.

Like winds and sunset, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasqueflower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

These wild things, I admit, had little human value until mechanization assured us of a good breakfast, and until science disclosed the drama of where they come from and how they live. The whole conflict thus boils down to a question of degree. We of the minority see a law of diminishing returns in progress; our opponents do not.



What do we need to care for Bluebirds?????
First... you need...

MONITORS!



- Mindy Batsch, Bluebird Project lead
- Connie Campbell, expert assistant monitor



- Mindy and Tom Schultz our chief in construction & installation

- You also need a place for Bluebirds to eat & nest, in fresh air and open space... and... in a safe place to fledge their young



Spring Bend Park
St Charles County Missouri

- Above the Missouri River and the Katy Trail, Spring Bend is not yet open to the public. Prairie & woodland restoration is under way as a collaboration of the Master Naturalists and St Charles County Parks. Spring Bend was donated by private land owners, Bill & Nancy Knowles.

Ohhhh...
and you need HOUSES!



cavity bird nesting houses.... expertly built... good quality cedar for long lasting real estate... designed according to the specifications of the

Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Thanks to Tom Schultz & Bob Lee for their donation of material & time and to Claire Meyners, PhD for her consistent guidance & advice

And, what is a monitor without a truck?????????????



And of course... You need supplies.

Black galvanized metal stove pipe and caps for baffles and metal hole saw bit for the baffle cap

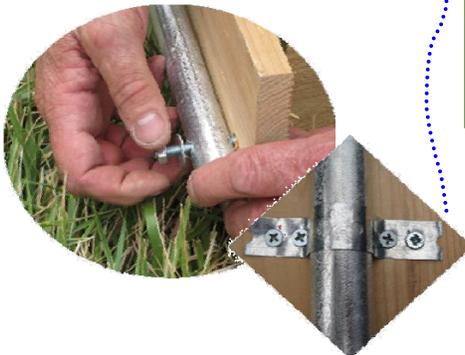


And PROFESSIONAL supplies like:

Cordless drills, small and large



And plenty of nuts & bolts, washers and metal strapping



What else do you need to care for Bluebirds?????????????

able-bodied, reasonably adept, happy volunteers!



Note...
Observe the (professional volunteer cutting grass around the pole with... a reciprocating saw!)—Ha ha ha ha!



Ahhhhh...

The beauty of the natural world—the inspiration!, the fragility, we can protect the wonder and the habitat of our precious bluebirds



Author and Artist: Leslie Limberg

Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic, invasive, wood-boring insect that infests and kills native North American ash trees, both in forests and landscape plantings. Just like chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease before it, EAB is capable of eliminating an entire tree species from forests and cities. This makes it one of the most serious environmental threats now facing North American forests.

Identify if you have ash trees in your yard. Check ash trees for signs of damage. An indicator can be small D-shaped exit holes in the bark left by newly emerging adults. Under dead bark there will be S-shaped galleries or grooves left by feeding larvae. Information about signs and symptoms is available at www.eab.missouri.edu.

Anyone finding signs of emerald ash borer in Missouri can call the MDC Forestry Division at 866-716-9974.



Ash trees (*Fraxinus* species) are easily identified if several simple factors are understood. Ash is unique from other trees because of the following distinctive characteristics:

Opposite branching and compound leaf according to the following descriptions of pictures. Remember, mountain ash (*Sorbus*) is not a true ash (*Fraxinus*), and is not affected by the Emerald Ash Borer.

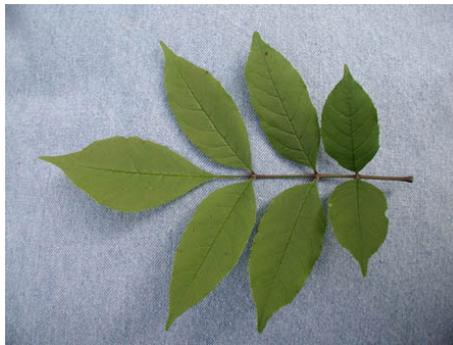
Opposite Branching - MAD Horse: Very few trees in our landscapes and forests have opposite branching. The predominant types are Maple, Ash, Dogwood and Horsechestnut. A simple phrase to remember when identifying trees with opposite branching is to use the acronym MAD Horse representing Maple, Ash, Dogwood, and Horsechestnut. When looking for opposite branching in trees, please consider that buds or limbs may die; hence not every single branch will have an opposite mate.



Opposite Branching

Compound Leaf:

A simple leaf is a single leaf defined by having a bud at the base of the leaf stem (also known as a petiole). A compound leaf is one that has more than one leaflet while the entire leaf, as defined, has a bud at its stem base (petiole). Ash typically have approximately 5-9 leaflets per leaf.



Black Ash One leaf, 7 leaflets



Green Ash One leaf, 7 leaflets



Ash—One leaf, 9 leaflets



A close-up of a healthy ash branch with seeds!

Homeowners and property managers should be cautious and informed as they seek to protect ash trees. "Don't be too hasty," said Wendy Sangster, an urban forester in Kansas City with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). "Learn about the emerald ash borer and when it is appropriate to remove a tree and when it is not."

Steps can be taken to protect an ash tree from the borers, and removing infested trees can slow their spread in a community. But homeowners should avoid costly and unnecessary tree trimming and removal or ineffective application of insecticides.

Property owners should beware of scam artists offering tree services who are not professional arborists. Beware of anyone asking for money up front or promising special treatments.

Sources:

Iowa State University Extension

David L. Roberts, Ph.D., Michigan State University Extension

www.eab.missouri.edu

[Jackson Extension site has more on Ash Tree ID information](#)

[Fraxinus - Ash Ohio State University Bulletin - Great details here](#)

[White Ash Identification](#)

[Green Ash Identification](#)

[Ash Trees Leaves/Bark/Twigs - Iowa State University Ext.](#)

<http://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-advises-caution-and-education-responding-eab>

(Material © by sources; used by permission)



New Chapter Project



Jerry Lindhorst

Boys Hope Girls Hope (BHGH) is a national program which helps academically capable and motivated children in-need meet their full potential and become men and women for others by providing value-centered, family-like

surrounds BHGH's national headquarters in Bridgeton (St. Louis County).

The plan to help save BHGH money is to turn the entire grounds around the headquarters into a native paradise. The large ground area is currently covered with grass that must be frequently cut, some invasive Pear Trees in front of the building, a forest of Honeysuckle on the south side, and a large rain run-off area causing an erosion problem also on the south side. The rain drainage also causes standing pools of water behind the building. The rain water comes from a neighboring business' parking lot.

Located in an industrial area occupied mostly with private businesses, the assisting partners decided in a recent meeting that it would turn the BHGH project into an educational pilot program to convince others in the industrial area that it would profit them to also go native.

MDC is working with BHGH to obtain a grant to help support the effort. MDC will also provide signage to inform businesses in the area what is transpiring at each stage of the native development. SNR is designing the landscape and pledging native plants and trees. Confluence's Jeff Hornung, who owns a landscape and tree care company, has volunteered to cut the grass and care for the existing trees until the native transformation is complete.

While trying to save mostly Palm Sedges and a sprinkling of native flowering plants that have been planted in the front of the building from the drought and an onslaught of weeds, rabbits and deer have been spotted early in the morning around the building. Going native will obviously benefit and produce more wildlife and birds.

Mulching around the new native plants in front of the building is the next stage of the project.

Members who are interested in participating in this project can contact Jerry Lindhorst at geraldwlindhorst@yahoo.com



Native planting in front of the building

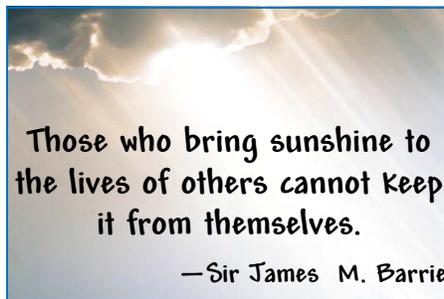
homes, opportunities and education through college.

However, like many not-for-profit organizations today, operational dollars are drying up, and unfortunate reductions in BHGH services have occurred and others are on the chopping block.

Together—our Confluence Chapter, Shaw Nature Reserve (SNR), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and several Great Rivers members—have joined forces to reduce the on-going expensive cost of maintaining the land that



The large grass area behind the BHGH Headquarters that must be frequently cut and pools with water from rain run-off.



Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

— Sir James M. Barrie



SCOTT'S CORNER

COMING SOON!

GONE TO UTAH?

Utah State Flower:

Sego Lily

Calochortus nuttallii



Our

Feathered Friends

The current heat-wave has been very difficult for the birds. One way to assist with their heat-stress is to keep water available in the shade (be sure it's in a shallow container such as a birdbath).



That water will be quite warm by late afternoon, so add chunks of ice to the water to cool it down. The birds also enjoy moving water, so turn a sprinkler on very low and they will come to "play" in the water!



Enjoy the show!

Kay Labanca

Help Trees Through Drought



Foresters with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourage homeowners and others to water trees in an effort to help them through this ongoing drought. Watering trees now can prevent losing them altogether.

"Living plants are more than 50 percent water," explains MDC Community Forestry Supervisor Nick Kuhn. "Water taken up by tree roots feeds the tree and transpires through the leaves. A mature tree can move hundreds of gallons of moisture a day."

When trees lose moisture through leaves and are not able to replace it, water stress develops. Windy conditions can accelerate this stress. Water stress may not kill a tree outright, but it could weaken a tree and predispose it to other insect and disease problems. Water stress also reduces fruit and nut production.

Symptoms of water stress include leaf droop and the eventual drying and scorching of leaves, resulting in tree canopies turning brown.

Some trees drop leaves to reduce water usage. That doesn't mean they are dying, but it does mean they are thirsty and they may have gone dormant. Some species will regrow leaves if watered or if rains return.

Trees and shrubs replenish water loss overnight and early in the day so watering anytime except afternoon works best. It stresses the tree less and less water evaporates.

Slowly soaking the ground under the canopy of the tree allows roots more chances to absorb water. Avoid watering the foliage since it could result in fungal growth on the leaves and sunlight could scorch wet leaves if watered during the day. Avoid also watering a tree through a pipe stuck into the soil. Slow watering will cover a larger area and reach all the ab-

sorbing roots.

Use a soaker hose, sprinkler or drip irrigation system. For smaller trees, simply poke holes in an old hose or recycle milk jugs or other large containers by poking a few holes in the base and filling them with water. If possible, water from the trunk to the drip line where the longest limbs end.

Apply the equivalent of about 2 inches of rainfall per week.

If you are using a sprinkler system, you can estimate this amount of water by placing several small containers under the canopy of your trees, he says. When the average depth in the containers equals two inches, you are done with that tree. You can also probe the soil to a depth of six to eight inches. If the soil is saturated to that depth then you are done. It's more about watering over the right area and to the right depth rather than a certain number of gallons.

Large shade trees can take time and be expensive to water so watering just a section of the tree at a time will still help the whole tree. Every few days, move the hose or containers and provide a drink to a different part of the tree's root system.

Newly planted trees are the most susceptible to water stress and should be monitored closely. Many times these trees have lost a percentage of their root system in the digging process and are not very efficient with water uptake.

Applying a ring of mulch around the tree trunk but not up against the trunk helps retain moisture. Apply a three-foot-wide circle of mulch about three inches deep and keep it about three inches from the trunk. Mulch keeps soil cool and adds nutrients as well.

Cracks in the soil indicate severe soil drying and add to drought stress for trees by allowing air to reach roots and subsoil and dry them out. Mulching or filling soil cracks with additional soil can help, but simply pushing in the sides of cracked areas can damage surface roots and expose a new layer of soil to sun and wind creating dryer soil.

For more information on tree care, visit mdc.mo.gov.



Looking to carpool with 2-3 others to September's conference (9/21-9/23). Leslie.Llimberg@aol.com



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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
IS AUGUST 31!

Master Naturalist Outings

Cathy Dedecker,
cathydedecker@sbcglobal.net

Tri-Chapter Master Naturalist Get Together and Advance Training all in one. Jay Henges Shooting Range, Tuesday August 28.

Advance Training 5:00 - 6:30 pm. Please come anytime and join the fun. We will be shooting Trap and Archery. Everything will be provided for you.



We ask that everyone bring a covered dish to share.

Miramiguo will provide drinks and paper products for all.

Please dress for the weather, we will be outside shooting and/or eating. Please bring a bag chair and bug spray.

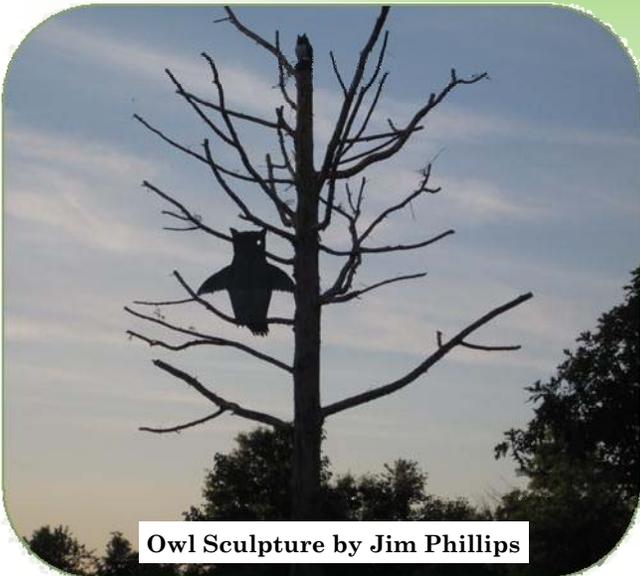
Come on out and enjoy friendships new and old. There is no need to RSVP for this event. It is open to all Master Naturalist. Come when you can and stay as long as you wish.

HUNGRY BABY
ROBINS NESTED
ON A FENCE

PHOTO BY
LESLIE LIMBERG



MN PICNIC, JULY 2012

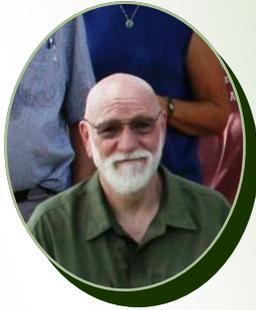


Owl Sculpture by Jim Phillips



In Memory of

Jim Phillips



Words for Our
Master Naturalist Artist

The most visible creators I know of
are those artists
whose medium is life itself.
The ones
who express the inexpressible -
without brush, hammer, clay or guitar.

They neither paint nor sculpt -
their medium is being.
Whatever their presence touches
has increased life.
They see & don't have to draw.
They are the artists of being alive.

J. Stone

No Creepy Crawlies Here: Just Cute Bugs

<http://www.livescience.com/>
Used by permission



Puppy-Faced Saddleback Caterpillar Credit: Gerald J. Lenhard | Louisiana State University. The saddleback caterpillar (*Acharia stimulea*, formerly *Sibine stimulea*) looks like a colorful cross between a Chinese parade dragon and a Scottish terrier. It's the larva of the saddleback caterpillar moth and is native to eastern North America. Although it may look cute enough to pet, watch out — its spikes, called "urticating hairs," are full of venom and deliver a painful sting.



Adorable Red Milkweed Beetle Credit: Treffly Coyne
The Red Milkweed Beetle

(*Tetraopes tetraophthalmus*) belongs to the Cerambycidae family of longhorn beetles and is red with black dots like a ladybug, but has a long and narrow body like a firefly. Its species name literally means "four eyes" because its antennae split each eye in two. Also like ladybugs, they are toxic to some animals, and their spots warn hungry predators to stay away.

Woodpeckers On Hummingbird Feeders?

Thank you Leslie for this wonderful picture of a Downy Woodpecker on your hummingbird feeder!



Chubby Bumblebee; Credit: Ron James. Compared to wasps, bumblebees are quite gentle and docile. They generally are not inclined to sting unless

their nests are disturbed, and spend their days buzzing from flower to flower as they collect pollen. They dwell in ground nests and die when autumn rolls around.



Darling Damselfly Credit: Crystal Perreira. This electric-hued bug is called a blue-fronted dancer damselfly (*Argia apicalis*) and is in the insect order Odonata, which includes dragon-

flies, and the suborder Zygoptera. Although they look very similar to dragon flies, you can tell the two apart because damselflies hold their long wings along and parallel to their bodies when at rest, while dragonflies hold their wings outstretched and away from their bodies. This beauty was photographed near a body of water at Mount Diablo State Park in the San Francisco Bay area.

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/>

