



## Your key to discovering the *Natural Missouri*



### From Our President

Happy New Year to everyone!

With the Holidays behind us it's time to begin planning for our Spring and Summer activities. We continue to be blessed with a variety of interesting speakers for our Advanced Training and a multitude of projects including almost all member's interests. The upcoming Capstone project offers a multiplicity of small projects that should appeal to everyone.

The purpose of the Capstone project is for the membership of the Chapter to work together toward a single goal whereas our usual projects appeal to a certain portion of the Chapter. You will hear more about this project in the coming months and I hope that all of our members will turn out to lend a hand. Many friendships come about through these activities and they can be just plain fun as well.

If you haven't looked at the activities portion of the website lately please do so soon and find an activity that interests you. We will be trying to broaden our workday schedules to include both week-day and weekend days where possible. New members sometimes find the annual 40 hour volunteer service requirement

daunting at first. At least 10 of those hours can be attained by simply attending meetings. As for the remaining hours, before I retired I found that selecting projects with a significant number of hours per session made the 30 hours much easier to obtain. If you are a new member and are feeling overwhelmed, try this approach to completing your hours requirement.

I hope to see you at our next meetings.

*Cliff Parmer*  
President, Confluence Chapter

### Ephemeral Wildflowers

Ephemeral wildflowers are a special group of woodland flowers. Ephemeral flowers are so named because they appear above ground in early spring—they flower and fruit and then die back into the ground all in a short two-month period. Long before the trees had a chance to unfurl their leaves.

This remarkable group of wildflowers has adapted to the rhythm of the trees that they dwell underneath. A rhythm tied to the soil moisture, soil nutrients and available sunlight. Not to mention a very important relationship to ants.

Essentially a spring ephemeral wildflower appears early each spring, before the leafing out of the deciduous trees in which it dwells underneath and when full sunlight streams uninhibited to the forest floor. Sunlight is one of the keys to the ephemeral wildflower. If the flowers were to wait until the weather warms up, the leaves of the trees would enclose the canopy of the forest and cut off sunlight.

Soil nutrients are also at the highest levels at this time of year. A considerable

amount of decay from the previous year's leaves took place last autumn leaving a bumper crop of nutrients in the soil. The spring ephemeral wildflowers have first crack at this abundant food supply.

Many of the spring ephemeral wildflowers have seeds that contain a special oil that is especially attractive to ants thus ensuring the ants will carry off the seeds. The ants store these seeds underground and the seeds often sprout before they are consumed by the ants. This is a great way for the plants to disperse their seeds into the surrounding environment.



*Thalictrum thalictroides*, rue anemone

[http://www.naturesmart.com/articles/04\\_16\\_04.htm](http://www.naturesmart.com/articles/04_16_04.htm)

2014  
Volunteer  
Service Pin



The Black Bear



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## 2014 Volunteer Service Pin The Black Bear

*Ursus americanus*  
Family: Ursidae (bears)  
In the order Carnivora



The black bear is one of the largest and heaviest wild mammals in Missouri. It has a long muzzle with a straight facial profile; round-

ed, erect ears; rather short, stout legs; and a very short tail practically concealed in the long, heavy fur. For black bears in Missouri, the fur is predominantly glossy black; the muzzle is brown, and there is usually a white patch on the chest. The sexes look much alike, though females are usually smaller than males.

### Habitat and conserva-

tion: Black bears live in heavily wooded areas. In winter they den in a hollow tree, cave, an excavated hollow in the ground or another shelter. In summer they sleep in trees or on the ground. Black bears used to be abundant in the state but had become rare by 1850 and were nearly eliminated by 1931. Reintroduction efforts in Arkansas have led to their reappearance in our state. Because a bear can become a danger when it learns to associate humans with food, it is important to keep them wild.

Foods: Black bears eat a variety of foods. Plant matter includes grass, berries and other fruits, various seeds and nuts, the inner bark of trees and roots. Animal food includes ants, bees and their honey, crickets and grasshoppers, fish, frogs, small rodents, fawns, bird eggs and many kinds of carrion. Acorns are

an important food source in the fall as bears prepare for winter.

Distribution in Missouri: Most are south of the Missouri River, although some have been reported in a few northern counties. This is the only species of bear found in Missouri.

Status: Rare and uncommon.

Life cycle: Mating is in May or June but the development of eggs is arrested for 6 or 7 months. The eggs continue development about the time that bears enter hibernation, in October or November. Young are born in late January or February—sometimes while the mother is still asleep. A litter usually has 2 or 3 cubs. Winter inactivity usually extends into April, when bears leave their winter quarters and feed heavily. Cubs stay with the mother through the summer and usually den with her the next winter.

Human connections: In the past, bear meat provided considerable food for Indians and white settlers, and bear fat was valuable for numerous uses. Bear fur was used for bedding, coats and rugs.

Ecosystem connections: Bears feed on smaller animals and thus keep their populations in check; they also kill old, injured, sick animals unfit to survive. As scavengers, they eat carrion and therefore help clean the woods.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/black-bear>



## Milestones, Certifications, and Annual Pins



Scott Killpack awarded certification pins to Daniel and Denise Dundon



Pat McCoy was also awarded a certification award.



A 2013 annual pin was given to Barbara Thomas.



And Kathy Murray

Scott noted that in 2013, members reported 8,330 volunteer hours and 1,539 advanced training hours.



## BLUE BIRDERS AND PRAIRIE PLANTERS

This past January, Confluence Chapter Blue Birders and Prairie Planters met to plan two Spring Education meetings - one in April and one at our June picnic. Members attending monthly meetings will be in for several creative surprises, learning the A to Z of Bluebird Stewardship and Native Plants, both for Our Own Backyards!

Stay tuned to the website activities page, monthly meetings and emails coming to your computer really soon.



Left to right: Claire, Ann, Carmen, Mindy, Tom, Connie





Greetings from the  
2014 MMN Conference  
Silent Auction Committee!

The Silent Auction Committee needs your help! We are looking for individuals willing to donate desirable, useful, environmentally sustainable items (books, outdoor equipment, artwork or crafts, repurposed crafts, etc...) that will help to raise funds in the Silent Auction at the 2014 MMN Conference.

If you can't personally donate but know of a local business that would be willing to donate nature related item(s), please contact us.

Remember, the funds we raise from the silent auction will help provide scholarships for a select few naturalists to attend as well as contribute to conference costs.

Items from past conferences that sold best:

- field guides
- nature books
- framed nature photos or art work
- camping equipment
- memberships/free admissions to nature organizations (Powell Gardens, etc.)
- local merchandise gift baskets ("best of KC", wines, sauces, etc.)
- garden items (even live native plants)

Items that did not sell well were:

- t-shirts
- hats
- jewelry
- large items that would be difficult to transport home in a passenger car

Please help spread the word. If you are interested in donating or know of a business willing to donate please contact [Laney Beaman](mailto:laneybman@gmail.com) at [laneybman@gmail.com](mailto:laneybman@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to seeing all of you **May 30—June 1, 2014** at the 2014 MMN Conference being held in Kansas City!

Thanks and stay cheery!  
2014 MMN Conference  
Silent Auction Committee

## "It's a Party!"

Jerry Lindhorst

I remember getting so excited while walking to school in the morning early in March and spotting a robin hopping across the playground. My spirits immediately lifted. I was sure it would only be several more weeks and spring would finally come after a long hard winter. I'd soon be back on my bike in shorts and tee shirt racing toward Velvet Freeze for a double-scoop chocolate cone.

As long as I can remember, my grandmother would remind me in the cold month of February that seeing the first Robin is the exciting announcement that spring was just around the corner. If my memory is correct, I don't recall anyone challenging my grandmother's prediction. Seems to me some people still believe it. Now, however, that I am somewhat older, and a wiser Confluence member, I know differently.

From the above photo I took on January 28, it is easy to see that American Robins don't mind sticking around all year even in Missouri's coldest months. Flocking to a heated pool in my backyard, the Robins thoroughly enjoy their "sip and splash" parties, plus soaking up rays as they shake every part of their bodies to dry their feathers. And I can assure you that with a prediction of -5 to -15 degree predicted for tomorrow (Jan. 29), spring is not just around the corner. So much for the spring myth. (By the way for those who might not know, this vigorous bathing cleans the birds feathers, and this helps keep them warmer in cold months.)

Another old adage about Robins, however, seems right on. "The Early Bird Gets the Worm," has always made Robins one of my favorite birds. That's because I usually wake at 5 a.m. and can count on

listening to the Robins' cheerful wakeup call. And before I can get my first cup of coffee, they are already hopping around the yard enjoying a tasty breakfast of fat juicy worms.



These year-round birds are easy to attract in winter. Just keep water around for them to drink and dip. Robins are not like my greedy Sparrows and Doves who enjoy stressing my retirement budget by constantly emptying my bird feeder. Robins don't visit the feeder. I recycle stale bread and toss it out on the ground next to the water. If you happen to have some, Robins also like chopped raisins and watered down dog food.

Their habitat for housing is usually an evergreen, climbing vine or horizontal limb. My Robin friends, however, thank me for all the care I give them. They often forego the above mentioned nesting places, and at least one or two families in the spring build their nests under the shelter of my front porch to raise their families. They fail to pay me rent or even clean up their mess, but watching their children grow is payment enough.

Who cares if they don't signal that spring is nearby? I'm glad they're around all year.



STREAM TEAM  
# 3612

We will begin our 2014 monitoring season

**Saturday, April 19,  
starting at 9:00 am.**

Please note that it is not necessary to be trained to participate in monitoring and well-behaved children are welcomed. Most people find the macroinvertebrate (bugs, for short) fascinating.

Contact Cliff Parmer at [CliffHanc@aol.com](mailto:CliffHanc@aol.com) if you are interested in participating in the Stream Team's activities.





# Staying Warm?

Leslie Limberg



I can't help but worry about birds in extreme winter weather. My fear is dispersed somewhat after perusing books and web sites in search of answers. I've come up with ten ways birds stay warm:

- ◆ Most obviously they move by hopping, flying AND shivering in place to 'up' their metabolism and increase heat/energy production.
- ◆ Some, most notably geese and ducks, actually move heat from their feet to vital organs to keep warm.
- ◆ They seek out cavities for nesting and roosting. in snags, tree trunks, or using abandoned woodpecker holes. Some build cavities underneath snow and leaves.
- ◆ They puff up their feathers for thicker insulation.
- ◆ They huddle with other birds. This reduces surface areas exposed to cold and creates a 'heat exchange' between birds.
- ◆ They stand on the upper most electrical wires where the voltage is highest and the heat more readily transfers to their feet.
- ◆ They gorge themselves on fatty foods (suet/sunflower seeds) or whatever is available. Researchers are particularly intrigued with how Chickadees do this as a regular strategy.
- ◆ Birds move away from the wind. They move from the windward side of tree trunks to the leeward side. You can watch Woodpeckers and Nuthatches doing this on windy days. They seek out wind protection around buildings, fence rows and in brushy ravines.
- ◆ Many birds create torpor for themselves. Similar to the Eastern Gray Tree frog who freezes in Winter, some bird lower their body temperature to just tolerable levels at night at they sleep.
- ◆ They sun bathe, particularly first thing in the morning to warm up.

# MATSON Hill Hays Glade RESTORATION ALL WINTER LONG

Leslie Limberg



Well, even with knees that creak and shoulders that ache, some of us still swing chain saws with a vengeance. Out in the woods of Matson Hill Hays County Park, the Confluence Chapter has been working for the second Winter in a row, restoring a glade on Daniel Boone's grandson's property.

Working along side county park staff, the aroma of fresh cut cedar hangs in the cold air like a

Christmas morning, as does the occasional waft of singed hair. I'll never forget the look when master naturalist Larry Berglund finally discovered the stench was coming from his own hat (and scalp).

It's a beautiful thing—the luxury of breathing in fresh country air, the still lingering morning mist, an occasional Blue Jay, and the camaraderie of 5 harmonious chain saws all in a good days work. Go team!



Rob Merriman and Bob Coffing



# The Essence of Marcescence

Some trees stubbornly cling to their dead leaves throughout the winter. Pin oaks, scarlet oaks and American beeches are among a handful of local species that have marcescent leaves.

Marcescence, the persistence of withered tissue on a plant, occurs mostly on younger trees and on the juvenile parts (lower branches) of older trees.

Why would a tree evolve with this trait? Scientists think it may deter deer from feeding on a tree's nutritious twigs and buds. Desiccated leaves tend to be low in nutrients and difficult to digest, so their presence might cause a hungry deer to

look elsewhere for food. By spring, when herbaceous greens have stolen the deer's attention, strong winds and expanding buds finally force a belated fall for the leaves with an added purpose.

The leaves of the American beech, change from green to bronze in the autumn, ultimately becoming translucent white by winter's end. That bleaching may be the result of prolonged exposure to sunlight's ultraviolet radiation, a notorious fader of pigments.

Snow may also help with the bleaching. "Snow removes many pollutants from the atmosphere when it falls," says Purdue University's Paul Shepson. "Some of these pollutants, like hydrogen peroxide and nitric acid, interact with sunlight to produce a reactive intermediate called the 'hydroxyl radical,' which is a potent bleaching agent."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/metro/urban-jungle/pages/100126.html>

**"A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else."**

John Burroughs  
American Essayist and Naturalist  
1837-1921





# Thank You!



Sarah Berglund

To the Advanced Training Committee and Sarah and Larry Berglund for setting up the Missouri birds classes; and to Sarah Pitzer who "knocked it outta the park" with

the class presentations last spring and again this fall. I know that everyone is grateful for the time and energy you all put into the classes, which were all first rate.



Larry Berglund and Sarah Pitzer

To the Entertainment Committee for a great year 2013 and a fabulous Christmas Party. Your hard work is appreciated.



Peg Meyer, Cathy Dedecker, Jayme Gribble, and Kay LaBanca

Bob Lee for his ongoing continual commitment to our members and project creativity.

Jim Morrison whose commitment to Missouri stewardship is loud and clear.

Bob Coffing who braves all weather types, drives hundreds of miles weekly and works beyond the call of duty in the name of serving Missouri's natural resources.

Rob Merriman for making his Dad proud and our chapter rock!

## Dreys

Squirrel nests, or dreys, can be seen, usually about 30 feet off the ground, where two limbs meet, often in an oak providing acorns for the rodents.

Built in the summer or early fall, the drey begins as a collection of small, gnawed-off branches bearing green leaves. Even though they are brown in the winter, the leaves surrounding the drey continue to cling tightly to their branches because they were harvested well before the tree began the process of shutting down and shedding its leaves.



The drey's branches are loosely woven into a foot-wide hollow sphere, the inner surface of which is lined with a variety of materials, including grass, moss, leaves, shredded bark and pine needles. The outer layer of leaves helps shed water while the lining insulates against cold. A single entrance hole faces the tree trunk.

Some dreys appear flat or incomplete. Those may be either what's left of a hot-weather sleeping platform or the best efforts of young squirrels that were born in June.

Adult squirrels usually build a couple of dreys, giving themselves another shelter option should one nest be disturbed by a predator or overrun with fleas and lice.

Sometimes two squirrels occupy a drey, cozying up to share long nights, frigid days—and body heat. In the morning, if it's not too cold, they leave the nest to eat, play or mate.

Squirrels give birth to broods of about three in June and January. June broods are sometimes born in dreys, but January broods are most often born and raised in tree cavities.

Sources: Journal of Ecological Research, Journal of Mammology, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, North Carolina State, University, Cornell University, Urban Jungle, The changing natural world at our doorsteps, The Washington Post



## Cottonwood Borer *Plectrodera scalator* (Found at Forest Re-Leaf)

Adult beetles can be found on and around host plants during the summer. They are large (1 1/4 inch long), robust long-horned beetles with black antennae as long or longer than the body. The body is beautifully marked with a bold pattern of black rectangular areas on a creamy white to yellow background.

Adult beetles emerge from mid-May through early-July. Mated females dig burrows at the base of the tree and lay yellowish-white elliptical eggs in niches of chewed, shredded bark around the crown and buttress roots. Development requires 1 and occasionally 2 years before larvae pupate within larval galleries.

Cottonwood borers primarily infest cottonwood, but also occur on poplars and willows. Larvae (grubs) tunnel around the crown and buttress roots. Galleries, at

and below the soil line, vary in length and form tunnels up to 8-inches long to 2- to 3-inch diameter oval areas, depending on tree size and infestation site. They are often packed with wood shavings. Adults can be found on infested host plants during the daytime.

Adults are commonly encountered on trunks and branches of cottonwood and willow trees and other host plants during the summer months. Infested mature trees are usually not seriously injured. Larval

stages are rarely encountered unless heavily infested young trees are killed or fall over.

Young trees may be killed when larvae tunnel under the bark all the way around the base of the tree, girdling it. More commonly, they structurally weaken the tree causing it to fall over in high winds. Adults feed on leaf stems (petioles) and bark of tender shoots, occasionally causing shoots

to break, wilt and die."

<https://insects.tamu.edu/fieldguide/bimg177.html>



Picture by MN Jim Middleton





# Silk Moths of Missouri

<http://www.xplor.mdc.mo.gov/>;  
<http://mdc.mo.gov/>; <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

A **moth** is an insect related to the butterfly, both being of the order Lepidoptera. Most of this order are moths; there are thought to be approximately 160,000 species of moth, with many species yet to be described. Most species of moth are nocturnal, but there are also crepuscular and diurnal species.

Moths evolved long before butterflies, fossils having been found that may be 190 million years old. Both types of Lepidoptera are thought to have evolved with flowering plants, mainly because most modern species feed on flowering plants, as adults and larvae.

Some moths are farmed. The most notable of these is the silkworm, the larva of the domesticated moth *Bombyx mori*. It is farmed for the silk with which it builds its cocoon. Sericulture, the practice of breeding silkworms for the production of raw silk, has been underway for at least 5,000 years in China, from where it spread to Korea and Japan, and later to India and the West. The silk industry produces more than 130 million kilograms of raw silk, worth about 250 million U.S. dollars, each year.

Not all silk is produced by *Bombyx mori*. There are several species of Saturniidae that also are farmed for their silk, such as the Ailanthus moth (*Samia cynthia* group of species), the Chinese Oak Silkmoth (*Antheraea pernyi*), the Assam Silkmoth (*Antheraea assamensis*), and the Japanese Silk Moth (*Antheraea yamamai*).

Despite being notorious for eating clothing, most moth adults do not eat at all. Most like the Luna, Polyphemus, Atlas, Prometheus, Cecropia, and other large moths do not have mouths. Among those with adults that do eat, they will drink nectar.

In China, there is a legend that the discovery of the silkworm's silk was by an ancient queen called Leizu. She was drinking tea under a tree when a cocoon fell into her tea. She picked it out and as it started to wrap around her finger, she slowly felt something warm. When the silk ran out, she saw a small cocoon. In an instant, she realized that this cocoon was the source of the silk. She taught this to the people and it became common.

There are many more legends about

the silkworm.

The Chinese guarded their knowledge of silk. It is said that a Chinese princess smuggled eggs to Japan, hidden in her hair. The Japanese also love silk. It takes 5000 silkworms to make a single kimono.

The mopane worm, the caterpillar of *Gonimbrasia belina*, is a significant food resource in southern Africa. In Korea, silkworm pupae are boiled and seasoned, then eaten as a popular snack food known as *beondegi*. In China, street vendors sell roasted silkworm pupae. The pupae are a delicacy in the Northern Area of China. They are baked with Satay sauces and rice to add extra flavor. In Japan, Silkworm Pupae is used in many dishes, including some types of sushi and even salads.

Moth caterpillars, or larvae, are eating machines. They shed their skin when their bodies grow too big for their exoskeleton. After they molt four to six times, the caterpillars are ready to spin cocoons. Some use strands of silk to pull leaves around themselves. They form their cocoons nestled inside this protective curtain. Others burrow underground to form cocoons. All stay in cocoons throughout the winter and emerge in late spring as giant, colorful silk moths.

Giant silk moths have huge, velvety wings, bright colors and inviting, furry bodies. About 13 species live in Missouri.



*Bombyx mori*

## Luna Moth *Actias luna*

Luna moth larvae feed on the foliage of walnut, hickory, persimmon and sweet gum trees. Adults don't eat at all and only live about a week.



## Sphinx Moth *Darapsa myron*

Common in woodlands and brushy areas. Consistently found at lights and also seen feeding on nectar from flowers; larvae feed on the foliage of grape vines, Virginia creeper, viburnums, raccoon grapes and related plants. Adults hover around flowers drinking nectar in a manner reminiscent of hummingbirds.

## Imperial Moth *Eacles imperialis*

Common in the Ozarks and eastern Missouri often found near maples and sassafras. Early May through August from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.



## IO Moth *Automeris io*

Statewide, with larger populations in eastern and southern Missouri; occurs in a variety of habitats, but especially in forests and park-like areas; from early May into September;

## Spiny Oakworm Moth *Anisota stigma*

Common in the Ozarks, but found wherever oak trees occur; late May through August throughout the night; Oakworm caterpillars burrow into the soil to overwinter and turn into adult moths.



## Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar*

Specimens of this extremely destructive pest species have been found on several occasions in Missouri; extremely destructive, invasive, non-native species

## Honey Locust Moth *Syssphinx bicolor*

Fund throughout Missouri often near honey locusts and Kentucky coffee trees; mid-April through September from dusk until dawn; produces three generations each summer



## Polyphemus *Antheraea polyphemus*

Statewide near forests and woods; mid-April through August from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. to dawn. Named after a giant from Greek mythology who had a huge eye, this moth uses its large eyespots to scare off predators.

## Cecropia Moth *Hyalophora cecropia*

Statewide near willows, plums and other hardwoods. Late April through June from 3:00 a.m. to sunrise. With wings that can stretch over six inches, female cecropia moths are bigger than some birds and bats.



## Regal Moth *Citheronia regalis*

Found in healthy mature forests in the eastern half of the state. Late May through July from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. Regal moth caterpillars, called hickory horned devils, can grow up to six inches long and have inch-long spikes on their heads.





## Work Day at Quail Ridge Park

MN Ann Finklang

*"Bring work gloves, water and the usual garden tools. Volunteering depends on weather, so you need to email Carmen Santos to confirm current volunteer dates and times."*

The above activity is listed on our volunteer web site for Wednesday mornings during the growing season. However, it does not include the wonderful learning aspect of the workday or the bonding with other volunteer.

I volunteered at Quail Ridge during the past couple of years and I would like to share my experience with you.

When I started volunteering I could not name most of the native plants in the prairie garden, as I have yet to schedule the Master Gardener class. Now I can identify the majority of the plants in our prairie. This is just one of the great benefits of working in the demo prairie garden. Most of the time I can decipher weeds from the native plants which I find challenging especially when the plants first peak through the ground.

It is not only a learning experience in native plants but also learning about birds, lady bugs, butterflies, and other wild life. Often we are serenaded by the blue birds and other feathered friends while we tend to the garden



Another benefit from helping at the prairie garden is the positive feedback from the walkers, joggers, and bikers who take time to express their appreciation for our care given to the garden. Quite often they will have a question regarding one of the native flowers or a problem in their own garden that they would like to discuss. Sometimes they want to know where they can find a particular plant growing in the garden. One lady was very happy she recognized the blazing star

plant after it was featured in the Conservation magazine.

At the end of summer 2012, Carmen and I were talking and she mentioned the Rain Garden in Quail Ridge Park about a quarter of a mile from the prairie garden. We checked it out and decided it had potential to become a showcase for rain gardens.

The rain garden needed a group to 'love and care' for it. Just like the prairie garden which, when we first saw it



had more weeds than native plants, the rain garden, a smaller area, needed attention. Once the Confluence Chapter adopted the garden, we worked out a project plan. The next week we weeded and cut down the over grown tall weeds. The Bermuda grass was a challenge and Ben Grossman and his crew attacked it with a vengeance. It was surprising to find a number of native plants surviving as they had been threaten by the Bermuda grass and seemingly overtaken by the weeds. The rain garden is located down the hill from the pavilion by Henry's Pond. It was designed to demonstrate what home owners can do to help with storm water in their own yards.



Quail Ridge is an awesome park and the Confluence Chapter has improved it by adopting the Prairie Demo Garden and the Rain Garden. In addition the chapter has blue bird boxes installed and monitored for activity by our chapter volunteers. The Confluence Chapter can be proud of the projects created and care for at Quail Ridge.

## Joe Pye Weed



Joe Pye weed is an erect, clump-forming, moisture-loving, Missouri native perennial that occurs in low moist ground, wet meadows, wet thickets and stream margins mostly in the far southeastern corner of the State. It typically grows 4-7' tall and features coarsely-serrated, lance-shaped, dark green leaves (to 12" long) in whorls of 4-7 on sturdy green stems which are hollow. Tiny, vanilla-scented, dull pinkish-purple flowers in large, terminal, domed, compound inflorescences bloom in mid-summer to early fall. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies, bees, bumble bees, and other insects.. Flowers give way to attractive seed heads which persist well into winter. *Epatorium fistulosum* is a Joe Pye weed cultivar that is noted for having rose-purple flowers and burgundy-purple stems.

No serious insect or disease problems. Leaves may scorch if soils are allowed to dry out.

Many people perceive Joe Pye weed to be nothing more than a roadside weed and have never seriously considered its outstanding ornamental attributes. It is a substantial plant which needs a large space, but when planted in groups or massed can provide spectacular flowering and architectural height. Border rears, cottage gardens, meadows, native plant gardens, wild/naturalized areas or water margins.

MO Botanical Garden

Never does nature say one thing  
and wisdom another.



~Juvenal, Satires





## Eagle Days

MN Scott Barnes

I worked Eagle days at Squaw Creek again this year and, as usual, it was a great experience. Some of you knew Kenyon Greene a MN from the Osage Chapter in Kansas. He is the one who invited me years ago to work eagle days and experience Squaw Creek. Unfortunately Kenyon passed away early in 2013. I decided to go to eagle days one more time in his memory as eagle days were a passion for him. What better way to remember him.

Well, it was the coldest Eagle Days I had ever worked and one of the coldest in the history of eagle days. The event runs from Friday through Sunday, Friday is focused as a school day program, while the weekend is oriented to the general public. This year we made it to Sunday morning and the weather gave them no choice but to close the reserve for that Sunday for safety reasons. If you get a chance, Squaw Creek reserve is a great place to visit and view many bird species.

Squaw Creek NWR was established in 1935 as a feeding/breeding ground for migratory birds. The refuge is made up of 7,350 acres along the Missouri Flood plain, 30 miles north of St. Joseph, MO.

This year I also worked Eagle Days at the chain of Rocks Bridge for School days on Wednesday and Thursday. It was a totally different experience compared to Squaw

creek. Really, there is no way to compare the two since the settings are so different but they are both very enjoyable to work and remind me of why I became a Missouri Master Naturalist and continue to participate.



## Jim Morrison Master Naturalist Confluence Chapter, Class of 2012



*Jim has left us ...*

*"Mother Nature has lost a strong supporter and we in Confluence have lost a delightful member and friend." Jerry Lindhorst*



*As o'er the stormy sea of human Life  
We sail, until our anchor'd spirits rest  
In the far haven of Eternity, ...*

*Robert Montgomery  
1807—1855*

## Our Leadership



President—Cliff Parmer  
Vice President—Alberta McGilligan  
Secretary—Carol Morgan  
Treasurer—Ann Finklang  
Advanced Training—Steven Thomas  
Volunteer Coordinator—Rob Merriman  
Membership Services—Pat Burrell-Standley  
Fun Committee—Cathy Dedecker  
Communications—Jerry Lindhorst  
Web Site—Rick Gray  
Photography—Joe Adamo  
Newsletter—Carmen Santos and Bill Brighoff  
Advisors—Scott Killpack, University of Missouri Extension, and Kevin McCarthy, MDC

### Project Leaders:

- Daniel Boone Hays—Bob Coffing
- Matson Hill Park—Bob Coffing
- Cuivre River State Park—Bob Coffing
- Confluence Chapter Stream Team #3612—Cliff Parmer
- Babler State Park—Alberta McGilligan
- Lewis & Clark Boathouse and Nature Center—Leslie Limberg
- Weldon Spring Prairie Demo Garden—Leslie Limberg
- Quail Ridge Prairie Demo and Rain Garden—Carmen Santos
- Bluebird monitoring - Mindy Batsch
- Nature Explore Classroom Education—Connie Campbell
- Nature Explore Classroom Construction—Gary Schneider
- O'Fallon Public Works Project—Carmen Santos
- 2014 Capstone Project at Rotary Park—Bob Lee.

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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.

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