

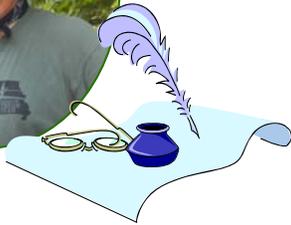


May 2014, Volume 8, Issue 02

Confluence Chapter
St Charles County, Missouri

Your key to discovering the *Natural Missouri*

From Our President



Happy Spring everybody!

After a long, cold winter,
the trees and wildflowers are

blooming, the birds are singing and
butterflies are starting to appear.

It's a wonderful time to be
outside and to be involved in one of
our Chapter's many volunteer pro-
jects. I hope that you will all enjoy
the remainder of the Spring and
become involved in a project. And
don't miss the June meeting at Quail
Ridge.

The MO Master Naturalist
Conference is being held in Kansas
City at the end of May and I hope
that some of you will be going. It
should be an interesting experience.

Cliff Parmer
President, Confluence Chapter



Welcome, Spring!

2014
Volunteer
Service Pin



The Black
Bear



ST CHARLES COUNTY PARKS
PRESENTED THE 2013
OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER,
NATURAL RESOURCES
TO OUR
CONFLUENCE CHAPTER.

WAY TO GO TEAM!

Inside this issue:

Blue Indigo; Awards	2
Capstone Project; Nature Journaling	3
Deserts; Stream Team; Birding	4
Bellefontaine; Two Kentuckians	5
Forest Relief; Other Projects	6
Success Story	7



Now Blooming
Blue False Indigo
Baptisia australis



A native bushy perennial with 3-parted compound leaves and showy, upright stalks of blue pea-flowers. Flowers showy, in the typical pea-family configuration, blue to violet, on upright racemes that can be 12 inches long.

Blooms May-June. Leaves alternate, on short petioles, trifoliolate (clover-like), bluish green, green, or gray green,

hairless, with margins entire (lacking teeth). The seedpods are inflated, lack hairs, are about 2½ inches long, and have a sharply pointed tip; they turn black upon maturity, and the seeds rattle around in the dry pods.

Height to 3 feet; on glades usually much shorter. Occurs in limestone and dolomite glades, rocky prairies, and fields.

Occurs naturally in the southern half of the state and in east central Missouri, but cultivated in gardens statewide. Concentrated in the northeastern section of the Ozarks and un-glaciated prairie region.

This is a popular garden plant for its flowers, interesting foliage, and ornamental seedpods. Kids (and adults) have fun rattling the dried pods (which are **toxic to eat**, however). The foliage of this and other *Baptisia* species has been used as a poor substitute for indigo in dyeing.



Mammals tend to avoid this plant's rather toxic leaves, but many in-

sects eat them: the wild indigo dusky wing (a type of skipper) and the dogbane borer moth eat this plant as caterpillars. The latter hollows out the stem and pupates in the cavity.



Wild Indigo Duskywing (*Erynnis baptisiae*) Butterfly and Caterpillar

The Genista Broom Moth Caterpillar also feasts on the plant as we found out at the Quail Ridge Prairie Demo Garden.



Genista Broom Moth and its Caterpillar on *Baptisia australis* at the Quail Ridge Prairie Demo Area

Bumblebees and other bees pollinate this plant.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/blue-false-indigo>; Photos by CGS

Milestones, Certifications, and Annual Pins

March:

Scott Killpack and Kevin McCarthy awarded Rob Merriman a bronze milestone pin for 250 hours of volunteer work



Scott Killpack and Kevin McCarthy awarded a certification pin to Don Moyer



May:

Annual pins were given to Alberta McGilligan, Steve Thomas, Ann Russell, Larry Berlund, Cliff Parmer, Joe Veras, Connie Campbell, Rob Merriman, Glenn Bish and Joe Adamo.





Capstone Project 2014 Starts Up

By Master Naturalist Leslie Limberg

A cool Saturday in April was the perfect beginning to our latest chapter capstone project at Rotary Park in Wentzville. Many in the St Louis region and beyond already know the park, having attended Spring Renaissance Faires and Summertime State Fairs for years.

Surrounding the central field in the valley are Oak-Hickory woods, where we pulled Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose. The city had already tended to these invasive plants, so the grow back was not bad and the volunteering was easy. Soon to be a better bird habitat and native plant display!

Come join chapter volunteers in the outdoors, bring your picnic lunch, and help out our feathered friends—we'd love more company.

Email Gail Gagnon, our newest and most illustrious project lead. (glynngagnon@gmail.com)



(L to R) Bob Coffing, Daniel & Denise Dundon, Project Lead Gail Gagnon, Rob Merriman, Steve & Barbara Thompson, Bob Lee, Leslie Limberg (sitting down), with Bob Lee taking the picture.

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

John Muir, 1838 - 1914. A Scottish-American naturalist, author, and early advocate of preservation of wilderness in the United States.

Nature Journaling A Path to Deeper Observation

by Master Naturalist Pat Burrell-Standley



People keep nature journals for many reasons and in many different ways. Whether you draw, write or both; whether you record all the time or infrequently; whether you keep data about nature or

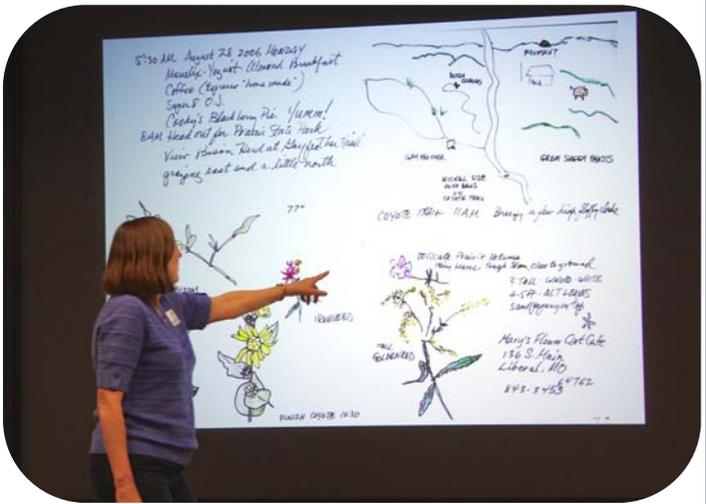
emotional responses to nature, or something in between; doing so *will* improve your observational skills. There are many things we see frequently, but if asked, can't describe even obvious things about them. We just don't take the time to really see what is there. If you want to describe something in detail or to draw something - even in a simplified manner, you have to take the time to really observe it. Thoroughly describing something in words, drawing, or both, even just occasionally, will push you to look closer and observe more deeply.

People keep nature journals for many reasons. The most common is to answer the question "What is it?"; but a few others include studying a plant, animal, or ecosystem; tracking something over time - such as plant or animal development, behavior or interactions; cataloguing something such as plant types in an area; or just keeping a nature journal for fun. So what you include in a page can be quite varied, ranging from a biologist's precise and measured recordings numerous times a day to jotted notes; from sketches or elaborate drawings to prose, poetry, or emotional responses to nature.

REMEMBER - Slow down and OBSERVE.

- Include date, time of day, location, and weather comments on your page. This will enable you to learn what is expected under those conditions and what is unusual.
- Why Draw? Drawing gets you to look more closely. Drawings show biologically significant detail which might be missed in a written description alone. Goal of drawing: The goal is not pretty pictures! Rather the goal is to accurately observe and record information.
- Record your observations when you see them - the memory does not work so well later - one tends to add and/or forget details!

- Go Beyond ID - Look for Relationships- habitat, weather, animals, behavior...
- Remember to ask yourself questions - I wonder???- become a curious naturalist. Add questions to your pages. Some of these questions might be about the observed animal or plant, or perhaps whether it is acting upon or being acted upon by things in its environment (pollinators, predators...).
- Remember that scientists ask lots of questions - some with answers, some without known answers.
- It is good to indicate size when you can. Sometimes you can compare size to something else, and sometimes you can even measure it.
- Include both drawings and comments or notes on a page. Some details are not apparent in a quick sketch: color, size, texture, odor, sounds, mood, behavior, reactions, etc.
- Take a walk and make a journal page about something you see which interests you. This is what you might do most of the time, but if you want other ideas from time to time some are listed here.



1. List what you see in a location. List the wildflowers you see on a hike. List the birds which come to your feeder for a day, or over time. Keep a running list of the date you first notice returning birds in spring...
2. Make quick (2 minute) field sketches of songbirds. Add notes and phrases to supplement the quick sketch. Remember, your goal is an informative sketch not an artistic one.
3. Draw bird calls. Just concentrating on how to represent a call also helps you remember it.
4. Compose a page about one item. Draw and describe the item. Zoom in (do close ups of the item) - zoom out (show the whole item or show its habitat).
5. Draw a landscape (habitat) at the top of the page. Below it draw and write notes about the individual plants and animals you see in the landscape. Are they different than those you see in other habitats?
6. Look for animal tracks in the mud or snow. What story do they tell?
7. Draw an "event map" showing what (and where) you see things on a hike.



Deserts Are Not All Bad

By Master Naturalist Jerry Lindhorst

My fear of deserts came from watching the movie "Lawrence of Arabia." The characters in the movie face death in the desert's hills and valleys composed of nothing but endless sand with no wildlife except vultures, and no streams or vegetation in sight for many miles. I swore the only desert I would ever experience would be found in another movie.

However, escaping this year's unrelenting cold, I fled to Arizona for two weeks in February and surprised myself by agreeing to hike in a desert near Mesa, Arizona. Just 20 minutes from where I was visiting my brother-in-law, lies User Mountain National Park (UMNP). Before hiking, I read that the park's 3600 acres is composed mostly of 30 miles of trails in a mostly flat desert terrain tucked between mountains. UMNP is located in Maricopa County within the Sonoran Desert.

While difficult for me to believe about any desert, this one is reported to have 16 native species of cactus; 15 different grasses; 33 shrubs; 14 different trees; and 43 wildflowers. I'd have to see it to believe it. A map showed if I stayed on a particular hiking path I would be close to roads in the event the desert tried to swallow me, so off I went.

Wow, what a surprise. Hiking at the beginning of spring in UMNP allowed me to see how some deserts are much more than endless sand. I was delighted to see that this desert did contain a large variety of plants and animals. In only a two-mile hike, I saw seven different species of birds including lots of quail and doves and two hawks. Several rabbits ran along the trail. Ground squirrels scampered all around me. I also saw deer tracks.

While I only heard coyotes during the night, the park ranger told me they were abundant. I had to admit it was exciting for a desert.

I rated the Saguaro Cactus as the most eye-catching plant. These are called the signature plants of the Sonoran Desert. The Saguaro Cactus typically grows to 40 feet and can look like a man with his two, or three or four arms raised upward. The round Barrel Cactus, which hovers close to the ground and grows to two to four feet tall, was my favorite. It had beautiful yellowish flowers growing on top. I was able to find six different cactus which included what we have in Missouri, the Prickly Pear.

Splashes of other brilliant colors came from the wildflowers and shrubs. Yellow is the most prominent in this desert. It is offset by red, blue and green. My favorite colorful shrubs were a Brittlebrush and Chuparosa. Amazingly, I found that the flowers, shrubs and trees are every bit as beautiful as in Missouri in the spring.

Okay, the only thing, I can add is don't formulate your views by watching movies. Shouldn't I have already known that?

Saguaro Cactus



At dusk, this Saguaro Cactus looks like a human with outstretched arms. It is called the large "armed" cactus. Its size of up to 40-foot make it the desert's most outstanding plant. It is the largest cactus in the U.S.

Barrel Cactus



There are two types of Barrel Cactus, one that grows to 4-foot and another that reaches 10-foot. Both have beautiful yellow blooms on top. One is described as having fishhook stickers that really should carry a sign saying "beware."

Colorful Shrubs



These two shrubs are really attractive and frequently found together. The yellow flower Brittlebush is a drought-tolerant shrub that reaches 3-foot and blooms only in the spring. The flowering red shrub is an Ocotillo that is common in the Sonoran Desert and a favorite delight of hummingbirds.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Excellent Day, Excellent Stream

MN Jerry Lindhorst

On a perfectly magical spring Saturday manifested with the sweet songs from happy birds, and the sound of water trickling over stones, Confluence's Stream Team 3612 walked toward Femme Osage Creek. A lot of laughter, splashing and learning was shared by those of us who want to protect our streams. The group's macro invertebrate survey and water chemistry analysis found that the stream has remained healthy despite the droughts of the last two years.



Pictured from (LtoR): Larry Berglund, Donna Johnson, Phil Rohn, Amy Hemrich, Judy Brandenburg, and Cliff Parmer.

First Bird Survey at Rotary Park

MN Jerry Lindhorst

A little rain did not stop Confluence members from completing the first bird survey for the 2014 Capstone Project at Rotary Park in Wentzville. The survey identified 30+ different birds from three different segments of the park: the lake trail, the creek trail, and the woodlands area behind the Renaissance Fair grounds. Surveyors (L to R) left are Gail Gagnon, Larry Berglund, Peg Meyer, Pat Burrell-Standley and Sarah Pitzer.

Sarah is our instructor for the Confluence Bird Education Series (2013-2014), and a Naturalist with Missouri Department of Conservation.





Confluence Chapter's Newest Partnership

By Master Naturalist Leslie Limberg

March was cold and chilly, but not so much that we couldn't work the new gardens at Bellefontaine Cemetery, our newest and most unlikely partner. Yes, one of St Louis's oldest cemeteries dating from 1849 is updating 15 of their display gardens with a grant from the Department of Conservation, using shade tolerant native shrubs and perennials.

Our Confluence Chapter teamed up with several other community groups, students, and garden clubs to "Green Up" their already glorious grounds. Eleven of us volunteers attacked! their freshly tilled garden beds on two Saturdays. And what a pleasure to work in lovely loose soil and fresh mulch—no clay!

Thanks to master horticulturist, Kyle Cheesborough, the work was easy and went fast with plenty of time leftover for tours of the famous family mausoleums, architecture from all over the world, and ancient trees, some the biggest we had ever EVER seen. Several of us were screaming, having never seen such well cared for OLD trees... American Chestnut!, American Elm (state record breaker) that took 4 of us to hug, Huuge! Sycamores

and Persimmons.

This cemetery has regular architectural and horticultural tours, sure to drop your jaw all along the way, with wide open fields, valleys, hills, a creek, interspersed with St Louis history family stories. Kyle also pointed out the resident Great Horned Owl in an Austrian Pine, mushrooms, juvenile Red Tailed Hawks, and their "green cemetery" area.

Visit the Bellefontaine Cemetery at www.bellefontainecemetery.org



Two Kentuckians Move to Missouri

By Master Naturalist Patsy Hodges

Almost two hundred years ago, two notable Kentuckians came to Missouri. Young Daniel Boone Hays, grandson of Daniel Boone, left Kentucky and settled near Defiance on a farm with a grain grist mill. James Stark left Kentucky and traveled through Missouri on horseback with saddle bags laden with fruit tree seedlings. Stark settled in Louisiana, MO, starting a nursery in 1816. It which remains robust today!

Hays and Stark. Could there be a connection between the two? Evidence points to YES! The old fruit trees at the Daniel Boone Hays home have been identified as Stark Brothers trees. We don't know if they date back to Hays himself, but they surely were planted by his immediate descendants.

The unfolding story involves Victoria Barton, a graduate student at Lindenwood University. In 2012, she entered the picture as one of the volunteers working with the Confluence Master Naturalist Chapter in cooperation with Ben Grossman of St. Charles Country Parks. Victoria also worked at the Daniel Boone Homestead near the Hays property. She had a bodacious idea of making contact with the Stark Bros Nursery to answer our intriguing question. Is there a connection? To

our surprise and delight, Elmer Kidd, Chief Production Officer at Stark Bros, responded with enthusiasm to the challenge of identifying and reproducing the legacy pear trees using bud grafting techniques in the fall of 2012.



Sam Hodge picked up the young trees at Stark Bros Nursery in Louisiana, MO. Thanks to the help of Elmer Kidd, Chief Production Officer of Stark Bros Nursery, new and viable trees were produced with bud-grafting techniques from the aging pear trees on the Daniel Boone Hays property, one of Confluence's on-going restoration projects

Cuttings were taken from the aging, ailing and fragile pear trees. The Stark Bros staff performed their grafting magic and grew the stock in their nursery. On April 18, 2014, the bud-grafted pear trees made their way back to St. Charles County when Sam Hodge picked up the treasures.

Sam delivered the young grafted pear trees to Dr. David Knotts, Director at Lindenwood's Daniel Boone Homestead and to Ben Grossman with St. Charles County Parks to establish the trees in both locations to continue the genetic legacy.

Elmer Kidd of Stark Bros is currently propagating cuttings from apple trees on the Hays property. If he is successful, we will be preserving a legacy that has a direct connection to two significant early Missourians who originated in Kentucky, Hays and Stark.

End of the story... for now!



Dr. David Knotts, Director of the Daniel Boone Homestead, receives some of the young Stark Bros grafted trees to be planted in the orchard at the Homestead. The other pear trees were planted at the Hays property in cooperation with St. Charles County Parks. The legacy, trees, and story will grow with time.





Forest ReLeaf

Master Naturalist Patsy Hodge

Workday of Naturalists at Forest ReLeaf.

Forest Relief has provided more than 5,000 free trees to Joplin, Dusquenne, Bridgeton, Ferguson, Weldon Spring, and more for reforesting after tornadoes in Missouri since 2011. Trees went to for homeowners and local non-profit and public plantings.



Tom Nagle was recognized by Mike Walsh as the Master Naturalist volunteer that gives more time than any other volunteer he has ever had! That's pretty awesome since he has large number of volunteers (MNs and others) that give huge amounts of time to Forest ReLeaf. This is Tom acting silly.

Other Projects

Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park



St Charles Parks—Quail Ridge in Early Spring—it was cold that day!!!

Judy Brandenberg and Leslie Limberg



Joe Veras and Ann Finklang



The Rain Garden





A CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

From "My Mississippi," US Army Corps of Engineers Publication



Another rare, iconic beauty, the regal trumpeter swan, has become the sight to see -- and hear -- along the Mississippi River during the winter. During peak season, the largest North American waterfowl appeared in record numbers at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Alton, IL), an ideal habitat due to their wetlands and nearby agriculture fields for feeding. "Between January and February, we had 17,000 people come into the Audubon Center and well over half of them came in just for the swans," says Lane Richter, senior ecologist at the Audubon Center at Riverlands, which was named a Globally Significant Important Bird Area due to the large amount of overwintering swans. "They're a gorgeous bird and it's just awesome to see [visitors'] faces when they see the bird flying over and honking," says Richter, who lists their easy-to-spot features like pure-white plumage, contrasting black bill, legs and feet, and "rich, trumpeting sounds," which earned them their species name. He also asserts that visitors connect with the birds because of their relatable social behavior, including tight family bonds that encourage them to fly in smaller family groups and their practice of mating for life and raising their young together. For prime bird-watching, the ecologist suggests visiting from November-February before their migration to Wisconsin for breeding purposes.

Also, he recommends staying alert right before the sun rises and sets so you can observe their majestic flights, made all the more awe-inspiring due to their average size of 25 pounds. "It's a lot of weight to get off the ground, so when they're tak-

ing off, you can actually hear them smacking against the water as they're using their feet to run, and their wings are hitting against the water as well, so it makes a really nice percussive sound. And then when they're landing, because there's so much weight behind them, you'll hear these big splashes, and swans come in and

ski across the water." He adds, "They look like miniature airplanes coming in, and you'll hear them calling as they're flying overhead. It's a real joy to be able to see them fly into the sanctuary and to hear them. They certainly enhance the experience of being outdoors. They're beautiful to watch for sure."

Charlie Deutsch, a wildlife biologist at the

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, explains that their mythological background only contributes to their popularity with adults and children alike. "There's the whole thing kids hear about the ugly duckling turning into the beautiful swan," he points out. Indeed, their "great success story" from near extinction to last being counted at 46,000 in North America and over 10,000 along the Mississippi Flyway, has all the makings of a fairytale. In fact, it was the fowl's legendary beauty that nearly caused its demise centuries ago after hunters overexploited their snow-white skin and plumage for powder puffs, hat adornments and even pens. By the early 1900s, the number had dwindled down to a meager population of 69 in the lower 48 states, also caused by the trend of turning wetlands into agricultural fields starting in the 1700s.

The Rise of the TRUMPETER SWAN

Enter the Trumpeter Swan Society, formed in the 1960s, who swooped in to save the extraordinary birds by uniting with biologists and natural resource managers to raise trumpeters using eggs from Alaskan swans, the largest remaining population. Young birds were released in Midwest states, including Minnesota and Wisconsin, and finally found their way to the Riverlands in the winter of 1991. "I've been here for 23 years, so I was actually fortunate to be one of the few folks to see the first group come here and see the population grow fairly slowly," Deutsch relays. "They showed up with these neck collars on so they could be identified and biologists could get a better idea of where

they're going during the winter. We started calling about the band numbers and figured out that they were birds that were released in Wisconsin through a partnership with the Trumpeter Swan Society," he says, adding that he has watched the population double in size from 500 to over 1,000 in just a year.

The biologist continues, "The swans are large, they're iconic and they were once here in the Flyway, and then they were extirpated and now they have made a great recovery, so the swans are a good ambassador species for people to think about why conservation is important.

TRUMPETER SWAN FACTS

- Largest waterfowl species native to North America.
- Most trumpeters weigh 21-30 pounds, although large males may exceed 35 pounds.
- Wingspan of 6-8 feet and height of about 4 feet.
- Adult birds are primarily white with contrasting black bill, legs and feet.
- The male is called a cob; the female is called a pen. Young swans are known as cygnets and can be harder to spot due to their sooty grey plumage.
- At 15 weeks, cygnets already weigh about 20 pounds.
- Adult swans eat aquatic vegetation, including leaves, seeds and roots - tubers of duck potato and sago pondweed are important food. Wild swans have also adapted to field feeding, eating grains and veggies that have been harvested. Newly hatched cygnets feed mainly on aquatic insects and crustaceans. At about 5 weeks of age, their diet changes to include more vegetation. By the age of 2 to 3 months, the cygnets' diet is basically the same as that of the adults.
- They typically mate for life.
- The three major US populations: Rocky Mountain, Pacific Coast and The Interior, which includes Central, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways.

Our Mississippi is a quarterly newsletter of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about its work in the Mississippi River Basin. It is published in cooperation with other state and federal agencies and other river interests with whom the Corps collaborates and partners toward long-term sustainability of the economic uses and ecological integrity of the river system.

http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/Portals/52/docs/regional_flood_risk_management/our_mississippi/Spring2014/Ourmiss_Spring_14_LR_revised.pdf

<http://www.ourmississippi.org/>





Other News

Bob Lee presented Bruce Schuette with an honorary membership in the Confluence Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists at Bruce's retirement party at Cuivre River State Park on Saturday, April 26, 2014.



Bruce has been a good friend, mentor and supporter of the Confluence chapter since its inception.



Happy Impromptu Surprise Birthday Gathering for Bob Coffing! (Earlier this year.)



Congratulations to Carmen Santos for being awarded the Special Veterans Quilt, made by the School Children of Public School 536, Quilting Club, Bronx, NY in recognition for her volunteer services to the city of O'Fallon, MO. The proclamation signed by the city major included mention of Carmen's contributions to the Master Naturalist Program.



- ✦ For all the contributions to the newsletter!
- ✦ Larry Berglund for his continuing commitment to our avian education.
- ✦ 2. Gary Schneider and his trailer for hauling out the Rotary Park honeysuckle.
- ✦ 3. Gail Gagnon for stepping up to lead us on a new capstone project
- ✦ 4. Pat Burrell-Standley for our elegant new clothes
- ✦ 5. Again, to Bob Lee for his visionary skills with Wentzville's city planners

Chapter's Meeting/Picnic
June 10 at Quail Ridge Park,
Henry's Pond



5:30—6:30 pm —Project Tours
Prairie Demo, Rain Garden,
Blue Bird Houses

6:30—7:30ish pm —BBQ Dinner

7:30—8:30 —Business Meeting

Please RSVP
llimberg@aol.com

Let's welcome the new MN
trainees!
Wear your name tags!



Our Leadership



- President—Cliff Parmer
- Vice President—Alberta McGilligan
- Secretary—Carol Morgan
- Treasurer—Ann Finklang
- Advanced Training—Martha Schermann
- Volunteer Coordinator—Rob Merriman
- Membership Services—Pat Burrell-Standley
- 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
- O'Fallon Public Works Project—Carmen Santos
- 2014 Capstone Project at Rotary Park—Bob Lee and Gail Gagnon.



MOST WANTED

Articles by Master Naturalists!
Please help your newsletter.
Submit your input to Carmen at
escarmeng@charter.net

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/>

