



November 2014, Volume 8, Issue 04

*Confluence Chapter
St Charles County, Missouri*

Your key to discovering the *Natural Missouri*



From Our President

The December Chapter meeting marks the transition from my presidency to that of Alberta

McGilligan so I think this president's letter is a great opportunity for Alberta to introduce herself to those of you who haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting her. Alberta has been a very active Chapter member for several years and I have had the honor of having her as my vice-president, so I believe that the Chapter will be well served with Alberta as president.

Here, then, is Alberta's first president's letter.

*Cliff Parmer
President, Confluence Chapter*

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve this wonderful chapter in a leadership position. I am eagerly looking forward to see where the next couple of years will take us. It has been my privilege to work with many of you since I became a member of the chapter in 2007. I have loved the variety of activities, dedication and genuine "niceness" of the people in this chapter. To those

of you in the new class who are just joining us—welcome—to those who have been with us a long time—thank you for your volunteer hours and helpfulness to our communities.

There is a true sense of fostering a love of natural things that we spread through our efforts to the people who may not even notice we are there. However, if by our work they somehow begin to appreciate the beauty of parks and wildflower gardens, or kids begin to appreciate the natural world—we have succeeded.

We will continue to have interesting Advanced Training opportunities and a variety of new volunteer opportunities. I understand we have very busy lives and many of us are active volunteers in other worthwhile organizations. With that said, I will appreciate every hour you can spare to volunteer for our organization. We will have ongoing projects as well as one day events that may need a large participation. Choose whichever type will work for you.

Above all, I want the next couple of years to be a source of enjoyment and fun for you, so let me know any ideas you have for making our chapter an even better place to spend our time and talents.

*Alberta McGilligan
President Elect, Confluence Chapter*



Did You Know?

In the fall and spring of 2013, 1,230 children from 16 different schools visited St. Charles County Parks to participate in school outreach programs, which highlight history and nature. The Confluence Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists Program assisted 1,155 of these students at Towne Park.

In the fall and spring of 2014, 1,095 children visited St. Charles County Parks to participate in school outreach programs, which highlight history and nature. The Confluence Chapter of the MO Master Naturists Program assisted with 1,035 of these students at Towne Park.

*Thank you,
Master
Naturalists!*



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To engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education
and volunteer community service.
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Those Fascinating Frost Flowers



MN Lee Phillion

Some days you just get lucky. Saturday, November 1, 2014 was one of those days for my husband and me. During an early morning trip to Ha Ha Tonka State Park near Camdenton, Missouri, we happened upon a garden of frost flowers blooming on a stand of wing stem and other tall plants at the bottom of a draw—nature's gift those who venture into the woods on a cold morning.

Photographs (mine at any rate) cannot capture the true beauty of these delicate and transient treasures. The paper-thin layers of ice (the frost flowers) that are extruded through slits in the stems of wing stem and certain other plants form when freezing air temperature meets soil that is moist or wet but not frozen AND a plant stem that has not previously been frozen. That typically occurs in November in Missouri. And, practically speaking, it's a once per year event for any given plant.

Capillary action draws the water up the plant's stem, where it expands and splits the stem vertically. The water then freezes on contact with the air. As more water is drawn

from the ground through the split, a ribbon of ice curls unpredictably from the stem.

The length of the split determines the width of the ribbon, and it is thought that unequal friction along the sides of the split can cause the ice to form "petals."

Although we just happened upon the frost flowers, one can look for them when conditions are right in the fall in areas where wing stem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) is present.



Arrive early.

Hawk Migration

Submitted by MN Leslie Limberg

HMANA (Hawk Migration Association of North America) celebrated its first annual International Hawk Migration Week (IHMW) September 20-28, 2014 by tallying over 1.2 million migrating hawks, eagles and vultures at 100 sites throughout Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Raptors tend to follow topographic features during fall migration such as north to south running ridgelines, coastlines, and river valleys. As they move further south, there's a funneling effect as they approach the southern US. The majority of hawks choose to avoid long water crossings so are then squeezed along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and on through Mexico. This is why the Veracruz, Mexico watch sites counted more than any other at 812,949 during IHMW. Corpus Christi, Texas located on the US Gulf coast tallied 226,224 raptors. <http://www.hmana.org/>



Milestones, Certifications, Annual Pins, and Other Recognitions



During the September meeting annual pins were awarded to Gail Gagnon, Debra Maurer, Barbara Moore, Lee Phillion, Ann Finklang, Carmen Santos, Bob Coffing, Bob Lee, Sam Hodge, David Morgan, Rick Gray, Jerry Lindhorst, Kay Labanca, Pat Burrell-Standley, Bill Brighthoff, Peg Meyer, Carol Morgan, Jennifer Moore, Rich Riester, Linda Wirick, Jim Middleton, Don Moyer, Phil Rahn and Lee Holloway.



Certificates were presented to Joan Twillman and Jayme Gribble, for their participation and second place finish in the Voyageur division (a category reserved for boats with 5 to 9 paddlers) during this year's Missouri River 340 Race (340-mile stretch from Kansas City to St Louis).

A certificate was also presented to Jayme for her baby. She had a bit of morning sickness during the race, but carried on rather well—pretty awesome.

As Lee Phillion says, "I think the very fact that a MO Master Naturalist is having a baby is news, given the average age of our group."



THE CONFLUENCE CHAPTER
MISSOURI MASTER NATURALISTS

Recognizes
BABY GRIBBLE

Ninth member of team Ladies & Clark
First fetus to race in the Voyageur Class
of the Missouri River 340

September 4, 2014
DATE

CLIFF M. PARTRIDGE, PRESIDENT





Matson Hill Project



*By Master
Naturalist
Patsy Hodge,
Miramigoua Chapter*

In 2011 the Confluence Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists approached the St. Charles County Parks Department about undertaking a large, long-term project. The project targeted a future expansion of Matson Hill County Park where Nathaniel Boone Hays (grandson of Daniel Boone) homesteaded. A set of goals and objectives were developed by Confluence and approved by Parks staff with work beginning in late 2011. In addition the Missouri Extension Education Foundation in St. Charles County became involved and was awarded a Missouri Department of Conservation Community Stewardship Grant to assist in woodland restoration, prairie establishment on an old field, and to purchase prescribed fire equipment.

Restoration activities include removing eastern red cedar, sugar maple, invasive plants such as bush honeysuckle, *Sericea lespedeza*, Johnson grass, thistle and honey locust. Cedar logs over 10" in diameter are being removed for milling. Smaller logs and slash are being burned in piles during the dormant season. Lumber is being used for a variety of park projects including building benches, fences, sign posts, kiosks, bridges and a variety of unique features in an outdoor classroom.

In 2013 the Parks Department, Master Naturalist and the Extension Education Foundation again partnered for another MDC Community Stewardship Grant along with the Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri. This grant expanded the woodland restoration area, purchased chain saws for the management activities, cleared an old field for future prairie establishment and assisted in hosting a field day to showcase the accomplishments of the partners involved and the success this grant could achieve.

To date, the partners involved in this project have been able to accomplish the following:

- Cedar removed from 30 acres of woodlands

The Five who initiated the restoration project-- affectionately called "The Fab Five"—Larry Berglund, Bob Coffing, Sam Hodge, Bob Lee, and Steve Thomas.



reserve for future park development.

Located in the Ozark Highlands Section of Missouri and associated with the Montgomery-

Warren oak woodland/forest rugged hills subsection, Matson Hill's beauty is inspiring. Prior to European settlement, this area was most likely oak woodlands in the uplands which graded into oak and mixed hardwood forests in the bottoms. This site, like many in the region were pastured and cropped. Fires were



- Selective control of sugar maple on over 50 acres
- Planted 9 acres of prairie
- Cleared 7 acres of old field for future prairie planting
- Two vernal pond installations (the second was completed after the Field Day)
- Hosted two field days open to the public
- Master Naturalist have received recognition from Missouri Parks and Recreation Association and St. Charles County for their volunteer contributions
- Awarded two MDC Community Stewardship Grants of \$21,930 (\$7000 on the first grant and \$14,930 on the second grant) plus expenses incurred by Park staff and the dollar value of Confluence's volunteer efforts totaling \$62,000.

The group keeps growing with "regulars" who do a myriad of projects

eliminated in forests and woodlands. After farming, the land was abandoned. Woodlands and fields regressed to overgrown, dense cedar-hardwood and old-field thickets. The opportunity for Confluence Master Naturalists to improve the habitat came to fruition through much planning and consistent hard work.



Bob Coffing leading the way of a group through the woodland restoration

Sam Hodge addressed about 100 participants to explain the Master Naturalist unique resource from creating the initial plan to completing the plan



Matson Hill County Park, near Defiance, MO was originally 54 acres in size. With additions, it has grown to 475 acres. Sixty eight acres of this park are open for public use as well as 6 miles of natural surface trails, the remaining are in





Confluence Chapter Stream Team



By Master Naturalist
Jerry Lindhorst

There is something delightfully relaxing about standing in a cool, crystal-clear stream listening to the water rush over a shelf of rocks and then watching as the ripples slow and slip into a pool of green water.

Joining Confluence's Stream Team allows you to enjoy that marvelous experience and to view the mysterious ways nature constantly changes.

In its August review of the Femme Osage Creek near the Daniel Boone home in Defiance, Missouri, the team found the creek's path had changed since it was checked in April. The spring rains created new faster ripples toward the stream where there were none before in the 100 yards checked by the team. Racing up and down the stream are many minnows. Crawdads dart from rock to rock. Small fish were collected in the team's macro-invertebrate (or bug) net. A rare water spider was also discovered. It was an exciting experience to observe.

Protecting the stream from pollution is the goal of the team. Without clean water, most living things on earth would perish. Project Leader and Confluence President Cliff Parmer, Past Vice President Larry Berglund, members Jane and Steve McCarthy, student Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell and Past President Jerry Lindhorst conducted a number of tests on the stream which included chemical analysis, bug collection and identification, stream depth where the team worked, and speed of the stream.



The Stream Team sets up its outdoor laboratory on the bank of the Femme Osage Creek. Center (front) is Larry Bergman and Cliff Parmer (behind Larry); (left) Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell; and (behind) Jane and Steve McCarthy.



The team collects bugs living in the stream by raking the gravel about six inches deep and letting the water rush into a net to capture the bugs.



The bug screen is carried carefully and placed on a table. The team lifts the tiny bugs off the net with tweezers and places them into plastic ice trays to be identified, recorded and released back into the stream. Variety, not the number of a specific bug, helps determine the health of the stream.

The tests found that this August differed from the last couple of years in that there was flowing water in the stream. In past years it was not unusual to have no flow at all.

Compared to our April results, the amount of nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) in the stream was a bit higher, probably due to the recent rains. Also, seasonally warmer water temperature results in a lower amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. These are factors that you cannot readily see but which are seen from our chemical testing.

What does this mean for fish and wildlife higher in the food chain? When streams have high nutrient or fertilizer, more algae and aquatic weeds grow. While plants exhale oxygen, they do so only during the day when photosynthesis is occurring. When vegetation in the water is rotting, oxygen is being consumed by the process. Since decomposition does not depend upon sunlight it continues through the night which reduces the available oxygen until the plants begin to respire as the

sun rises. If the oxygen available to insects and fish is already reduced by the water's lower carrying capacity due to warmer temperatures—cold water can hold more dissolved oxygen than warm water—then rotting vegetation further reduces available oxygen and insects and fish begin to die. The diversity of macro-invertebrates in the sampling was significantly less than seen earlier in April. When fewer insects and other forms of aquatic life are available as food for the fish, their populations are reduced which then affects their predators.

That's why keeping fertilizer runoff out of streams is so important!

The photographs exemplify how the stream team tests and records the health of the Femme Osage Creek in one of the two areas the team checks three times a year.



Cliff Parmer measures the stream's depth at one-foot intervals from the side of the bank across the stream to the bank.

Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell waits to grab a Ping-Pong ball that floats toward her from where it was dropped by the side of Cliff Parmer. The time it takes for the Ping-Pong ball to cover the distance between Cliff and Cassidy is recorded and then configured to give the speed of the stream.



Cliff Parmer uses chemicals to determine if the stream has become polluted since the last check in April, 2014.



COMMUNITREE GARDENS

MN Lee Phillion

On September 16, members of the Confluence Chapter enjoyed an evening tour of **CommuniTree Gardens**, the nursery operated by our partner Forest ReLeaf of Missouri.

Mike Walsh, Forestry Programs Manager at the nursery, led an interesting and educational tour of the six acre, 20,000-tree capacity nursery, arboretum, and the vernal pond and garden. A new, green house is under construction that will provide almost 600 square feet of growing space. The nursery is located on Creve Coeur Mill Road in Creve Coeur Park just south of the Page Extension.

Forest ReLeaf's "Project CommuniTree" is the region's only community-assisted nursery. It encourages community tree plantings by giving free trees to civic organizations, schools, neighborhood associations, parks and municipalities in Missouri and surrounding communities in adjacent states. Since its inception in 1996, Project CommuniTree has donated more than 100,000 trees in addition to the 50,000 trees Forest ReLeaf has distributed through its other tree programs.

Quite a few Confluence members already volunteer at the nursery. Notable for their dedication are Tom Nagle (who volunteers more than 500 hours per year at the nursery) and Kay LaBanca (who annually devotes more than 300 hours there).

Volunteering at the nursery can be addictive. First, there's Mike, who makes volunteers feel welcome and valued—and he provides excellent coffee and treats for break time! Then, there's the camaraderie. It doesn't get much better than working outdoors with interesting people on something



important. Seeing what you've planted and tended grow is a satisfaction exceeded only by the warm fuzzies that come when you help give the trees away. And, did I mention how much volunteers learn about trees?

Can't forget free shirts and caps, either. Oh, and there are sometimes free trees for volunteers to plant in their own yards.

Regular volunteer opportunities are Wednesday and Friday from 8 – noon, and you can show up and leave whenever you wish within those times. Break time is around 10:30 a.m. (That's when I generally show up.) Most volunteers come to the nursery one day a week, but some do two. There is no commitment.

Just show up whenever you can and BYOG (bring your own gloves) or Mike will provide everything you need.

There are additional volunteer opportunities in the spring during "Potting Saturdays." Those occur during March and April, when volunteers pot bare root seedlings provided by MDC. These events are a lot of fun for volunteers. The Confluence Chapter usually picks a Saturday to have a large turnout of potters whether they are regular volunteers or not. In past years, MMN have potted more than 3,000 seedlings in a single morning.



Throughout the growing season there is always something to do at the nursery: potting, weeding, fertilizing, pruning, mulching, maintenance, and tagging and harvesting trees for community distribution.

Recipients of CommuniTree trees must plant them on public or not-for-profit property and agree to care for the trees for at least three years after planting. The first Project CommuniTree harvest in 1998 supplied trees for a flood restoration project led by the Meramec River Recreation Association and the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Mike Walsh (mike@moreleaf.org) or Tom Nagle (jthomasnagle@sbcglobal.net).

Autumn Leaves Will Fall

by MN Leslie Limberg



Tis the season for making leaf mold. Rather than hauling leaves to the curb or building bonfires like some prefer, rake them into a pile, circle over them with a lawn mower a few times (changing directions to keep them in the circle), rake them back into a pile, then leave them alone. (Or move them under shrubs, trees or in the vegetable garden. With repeated rain and weather, they become a valuable renewable resource. What does leaf mold do?

• Improves Soil—Like peat moss, they lighten the soil, allowing roots to better absorb nutrients & grow faster

• Maintains Plant Moisture—Leaf mold holds up to 500 times its weight in water—a good safeguard during drought conditions, in and on the soil



• Builds Compost—with immune protecting microbes—good bacteria & fungus for soil, beneficial insects & plant roots

• Creates Natural Garden Fertilizer—a food source for worms & soil insects, who then produce humic acid, which acts like steroids for plants

To hasten the breakdown of leaves, turn the pile over occasionally, adding oxygen for microbes. Leaf mold is good for years to come. It turns to what gardeners call "Black Gold," or humus-rich soil. Thanks to trees, we not only have shade, beauty, wind protection and oxygen, but nutritious ground protection.

Monarch Butterfly

Egg and Newborn Caterpillar

By Scott Barnes





BIG BLUESTEM

Priscilla Stuckey

Big bluestem can survive without making seeds because this grass is in it for the long haul. The plant has roots that travel down to forever—at least compared to the grasses we are used to seeing in our lawns and parks and golf courses.

Just how long are big bluestem roots? Take a look at this marvelous illustration drawn by Heidi Natura, Conservation Research Institute.

<http://www.conservationsresearchinstitute.org/index.html>

Big bluestem roots go down not one or two feet, but nine feet into the soil. Nine feet! This is the grass that kept the prairie in place for millennia, the grass that was plowed up by European settlers in their frantic rush to plant short-rooted food crops. After the big bluestem and its long-rooted prairie—plant companions had been torn out, the prairie soil was opened to the wind, and the **Dust Bowl** ensued.

By contrast, look in the diagram at Kentucky bluegrass. This is lawn grass. Having trouble finding it? That's because on the scale of the prairie, Kentucky blue barely exists. It's the little toothbrush bris-



Blue Stem Grass in the background
—Quail Ridge Park Prairie

tle at the far left with roots only a couple of inches long. Those tiny roots are no match for the strong winds that buffet the prairie plains, the arid conditions at the surface of the ground. To thrive in the windy, sunbaked, fire-seared plains, you need deep, deep roots.

In an era of global warming, those long, long roots perform another service as well. Big bluestem has what plant ecologists call high root-to-shoot ratio, meaning that a lot of the plant is underground. And therefore it is especially adept at storing carbon.

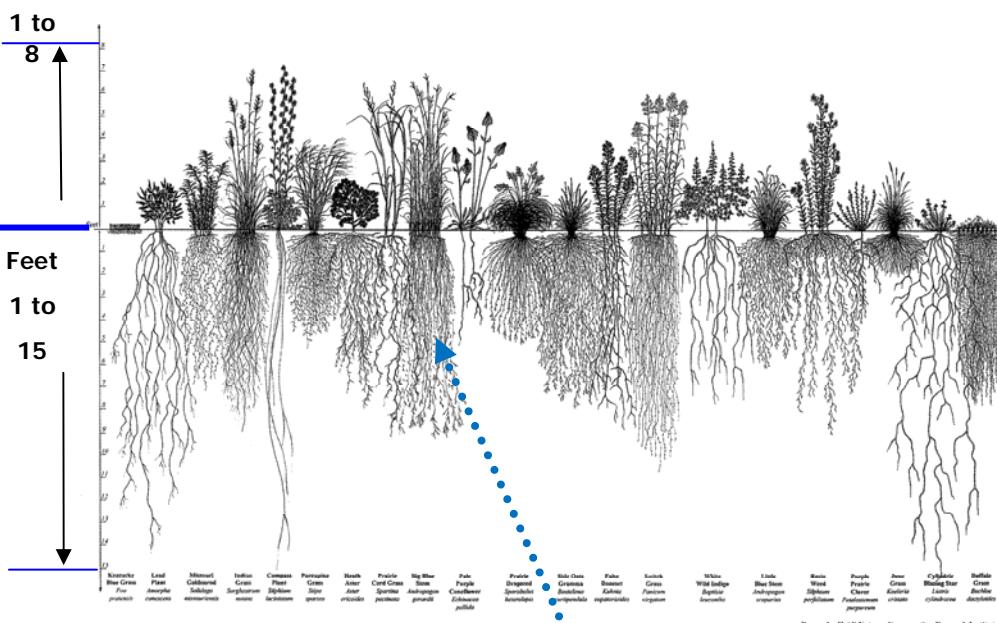
I love big bluestem. Not just for its autumn colors, which are splendid, but also for its adaptability. If one year doesn't work for you, hunker down and wait for the next. Rely on deep roots to carry you through. I love how strong it is, strong enough to hold precious soil in place for hundreds of thousands of years. I love that it could be a strong ally in the climate change we will continue to face.

We need native grasses—especially now. With the increasing likelihood of long-term drought on the high plains, we need the native plants, who

know how to thrive in uncertain times. We need their hardiness, their ability to hold and build soil, their carbon storage, their ability to withstand fire.

Consider adding a patch of native grass to your garden or yard. I have seen small bunches of native tall grass, like big bluestem, decorating the edges of flower beds or gardens. Enjoy the tawny, maroon hues that big bluestem wears in autumn. And take inspiration from its deep roots. <http://thislivelyearth.com/>

Priscilla Stuckey—writer, editor, and Earth-advocate whose passion for connecting with nature was reawakened as an adult. Author of **Kiss by a Fox** (Through heart-opening stories of her relationships with a dog, a creek, or a tree, author Priscilla Stuckey celebrates the profound connections linking people with all other creatures and points the way toward a deeply collaborative relationship with a living Earth. Get inspired to connect with nature through her creative nonfiction book blending personal stories with insights drawn from history, ecology, natural sciences, and many spiritual traditions—lyrical nature writing to rekindle your love for a living Earth.).



From left to right: Kentucky Blue Grass, Lead Plant, MO Goldenrod, Indian Grass, Compass Plant, Porcupine Grass, Heath Aster, Prairie Cord Grass, **Big Blue Stem**, Pale Purple Coneflower, Prairie Dropseed, Side Oats Gramma, False Boneset, Switch Grass, White Wild Indigo, Little Blue Stem, Rosin Weed, Purple Prairie Clover, June Grass, Cylindric Blazing Star, and Buffalo Grass. Drawn by Heidi Natura, Conservation Research Institute

<http://thislivelyearth.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Prairie-grass-roots-2-credit-small.jpg>. Conservation Research Institute is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of planning, design, installation restoration, and long-term management of sustainable ecological systems in built and natural environments through applied research, education, and outreach





Mantises

Submitted by MN Scott Barnes
with photos from his yard

Mantises are usually seen in and around the vegetation around houses as well as in grasslands, meadows, and agricultural areas. Although mantises are fierce predators to insects, this species is considered harmless to humans.



Chinese mantises were introduced to North America in 1896 and have spread since then. If you want to encourage mantises in your yard, avoid using broad-spectrum insecticides.

These are tree praying mantis egg cases I collected in my yard this fall. They were attached to my big bluestem grass and one on a little bluestem grass. Two of the egg cases are of our non-native praying mantis I believe. Last year I had quite a few different praying mantises in different areas of my yard but this past summer there were very few. They are fascinating insects to watch in your garden

but I do remove them if I find too many large females because of their appetites. They do prey on bad insects you do not want in your garden but also prey on the good insects.



They are amazing insects and they will let you get very close to observe them. They hatch in the spring and in our area only live until the fall as they cannot survive our winters and they lay the egg cases just before they die so that in the spring the young will emerge and start the cycle over.

Native Mantis:
Stagmomantis Carolina:



MG Conference

by MN Leslie Limberg

For months we prepared—hauling in fresh trap rock, disguising our weekly pruning like it was the botanical garden and picking up every single cigarette butt. Public gardens can be a lot of maintenance and this one at the Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Nature Center in St Charles was to be on display for the Master Gardener's annual state conference. The Confluence Chapter was on display as well, as this was our garden project, in fact our first project back in our first year as a chapter.



Leslie and Scott

This past September Scott Barnes and Leslie Limberg each took a group of 15 Master Gardeners for a garden tour yes, but perhaps more like a habitat tour.

Along the Missouri River, many critters have called our native garden home. Mission accomplished—as this is the very purpose of our stewardship, plants bring the bugs; bugs bring the animals.

We shared some history of the local boat builders, of recent Missouri River flooding and our choices of native plants for a 60 x 80 feet rain garden ("flood garden" really) sandwiched between concrete, stone and asphalt. Back in 2006 this plot was filled with construction debris interspersed with septic pipes, electrical conduits, water lines and large storm drains ... not a good place for a normal garden but an excellent spot for native plants tolerant of rising silt-laden river water.

It was a sunny Saturday, inspiration was at an all time high for everyone, visitors and tour guides. Even the Monarchs put on a show. The best part came at the end with a gardener's comment, "This is the best 45 minutes of the conference yet."

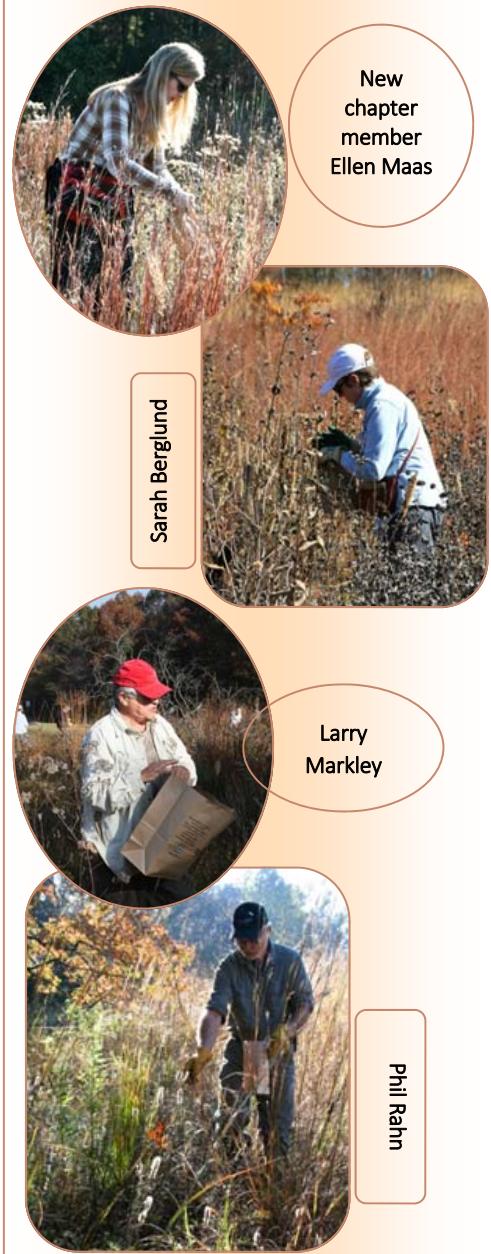
Ahhh, of course ... plants bring the bugs, bugs bring the animals, and all bring the gardeners as well.

Seed Collecting Cuivre River

Retired Cuivre River Park Naturalist (and honorary Master Naturalist) Bruce Schuette led a seed collecting excursion at Cuivre River State Park on October 25 for Master Naturalists.

The day was as perfect as the leaf color for the approximately 15 collectors, who were after Rattlesnake Master, Blazing Star, Slender Mountain Mint, Coneflower and other species from the park's prairies.

Bruce will dry and prepare the seed for planting in the park and to share around the region.



New chapter member
Ellen Maas

Sarah Berglund

Larry Markley

Phil Rahn





Babler State Park

Alberta McGilligan
and
Her Team of Master Naturalists

Before and After



Visitor Sign



Monument Planting



Main Garden



Awesome Job!



❖ We wish to thank our outgoing president **Cliff Parmer** for giving to our chapter that extra personal effort that is required to serve as president. We thank Cliff for helping make our chapter one of the best chapters in the state.

❖ We thank **Ann Finklang**. I Leslie Limberg first met Ann in 2006, as we built a walking path at the Big Muddy Fish & Wildlife Refuge in Chesterfield. Regularly and consistently since then, Ann has been engaged in major chapter projects. From rain garden installation at the Indian Camp Creek Park and the Quail Ridge Park to managing our state annual conference finances to our chapter finances the past 2 years, she has been an invaluable help and stellar volunteer. Most recently Ann has helped Carmen at the City of O'Fallon Municipal building, installing another native plant garden, not to mention her work with the City of Lake St Louis. **Awesome Ann!** THANK YOU so very much.

❖ Thanks again to **Gary Schneider** for hauling away pulled honeysuckle and rose brush from Rotary Park. Gary is worth his weight in gold for our chapter.

❖ **Joan Twillman** was our AT Chair for years before Steve Thomas. She has continued to be on the committee until this Fall, helping to coordinate scientific experts for our meetings, as well as awesome field trips. Her attention now goes to the Mississippi River Water Trail Assoc. Thanks Joan!

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 and Don Robinson 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.
- Rabbit Habitat—Nancy Newcomer



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/>

