

Your Key to Discovering the *Natural Missouri*

May 2021, Volume 15, Issue 02



From
Our President

Well, we made it to Spring! (Although that snowstorm in late April was pretty crazy, wasn't it?)

Lots of activities happening—spreading mulch at the Main Street Garden; blue bird boxes are being checked all over St. Charles County, including the 6 new ones at Towne Park; Quail Ridge, Babler and O'Fallon along with other gardens are being maintained by our dedicated volunteers... so many more activities that would take too long to list. We are a very busy chapter and hopefully, as more restrictions are lifted, we can do more.

Alberta keeps the calendar updated on our website, so check there if you are looking for some way to help out.

Meetings are still a little problematic—meeting outside at

Busch Wildlife works, but only if we have AT that doesn't require audio visual. Also, attendance isn't as high as when we were doing Zoom meetings.

We are still going to have our picnic at Brommelsieck Park for our June meeting. July's meeting site will be determined later. I don't think we are going to be able to get back into the Interpretive Center until late fall.

I'm exploring other places we can meet temporarily that will accommodate the audio visual needs. If anyone has a suggestion, let me know!

So, go and enjoy this beautiful Spring! Wildflowers are in bloom and it's time to put our summer vegetables in.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our picnic in June!

Alison

Alison Robbins
President, Confluence Chapter



"Looking Up"

What is it?

Update to 2021 Greater St. Louis Area
Missouri Master Naturalist Training

Good news!

There will be a training class this year!

The training, run by the Missouri Extension Center and Missouri Department of Conservation will be done as a combination of virtual speakers and in person field trips. The curriculum will be similar to previous years. The hope is to have 40-50 people in the class. Justin Keay, our MUE coordinator, is the lead on this project.

The planned dates for training are August 12-November 4, 2021. There will be some Thursday and Saturday field trips which will require the class to be broken down into smaller groups. At some point, current members from the three St. Louis chapters may be asked to lead a group for the field trips. I hope that we can all step up and agree to help out.

There are still a number of details to work out but Justin is doing a great job getting this training off the ground. We also need to thank the Training Committee which consisted of 2-3 members from each of the 3 chapters. (Tom Holt and Tom Nagle were our representatives.) Without them creating a curriculum and suggesting speakers, I don't know if this training would have happened.

While there may be only one training class this year, the hope is to have two sessions next year, to give the very long list of potential new Master Naturalists an opportunity to go through the training. We will all need to step up and help to ensure that the new members feel educated, but most importantly, welcomed in our chapters.

I will continue to give updates as needed during our regular chapter meetings.



Alison Robbins
President, Confluence Chapter



A partnership of the [Missouri Department of Conservation](#) and [University of Missouri Extension](#)
To engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education
and volunteer community service.

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Awards and Recognitions



Missouri
Master Naturalist
2021 Certification Pin
Eastern Meadowlark
Sturnella magna

Achieving their annual certification
volunteer and advanced training hours:

- ◆ Frank Dvorak
- ◆ Gail Gagnon
- ◆ Steve McCarthy
- ◆ Pam Walsh

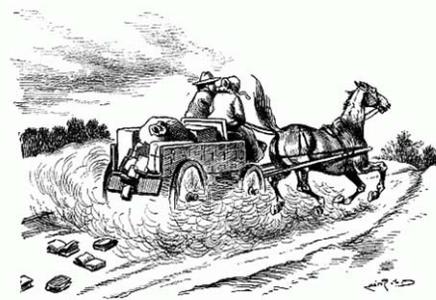
- ◆ Stephen Baldwin
- ◆ Donna Bourisaw
- ◆ Connie Campbell

*Allison is Rounding
Her Wagons ...*

Dear
Fellow Master Naturalists,

I wanted to share a new
adventure that I am partaking in.
My husband Tim and I, are
moving back to my roots in
Springfield, Ohio. With our chil-
dren grown and out of the house
and my husband retired, we are

moving closer to our family and
our beloved family farm.



What I have learned from
so many of you will stay with me
forever and I look forward to
seeing you again.

Allison Volk
avolk@mac.com

*Dear Allison,
We will miss you so ...*



Did you Know?

May 3, 1820

The Agriculture Committee is Born

As the primary occupation of
nineteenth-century America, agricul-
ture was vital to the country's stability
and growth. To ensure continued de-
velopment and give producers a politi-
cal voice in Congress, Representative
Lewis Williams of North Carolina re-
commended creating a separate and
distinct agriculture committee.

Before the committee's crea-
tion, agricultural issues were governed
by the Committee on Manufactures
and temporary, select committees.
The House approved the creation of
the new permanent standing Commit-
tee on Agriculture on May 3rd, 1820.

For 200 years, the U.S. House
Committee on Agriculture has stood
for both growers and consumers in
America. To commemorate the Com-
mittee's anniversary, USDA's National

Agricultural Library created a digital
timeline to highlight key events, mem-
bers, and legislation in the Commit-
tee's history.

The timeline includes docu-
ments and photographs dating from
the Committee's formation in 1820 and
explores key milestones, including cre-
ating USDA, establishing the Land-
grant University System, and forming
the Federal Crop Insurance Corpora-
tion.

Learn how the Committee sup-
ported research and innovations to
prevent illnesses and ensure a safe
food supply by eliminating harmful
pests and animal diseases.

Read how the Committee ad-
dressed the devastating Dust Bowl in
1935, by providing farmers with relief
and protecting the country's natural
resources through the creation of the
Soil Conservation and Domestic Allot-
ment Act. This act led to the establish-
ment of new USDA agencies to ad-
dress conversation issues. Learn the
remarkable story of how the Commit-
tee funded extensive USDA laboratory
research that produced a technique for
pushing penicillin production to an in-
dustrial level. This work allowed peni-
cillin to be used widely during World
War II, preventing countless amputa-

tions and deaths from infected
wounds.

House Agriculture Committee
Timeline — National Agricultural Li-
brary (usda.gov) Learn the whole sto-
ry at:

[House Agriculture Committee Timeline](#)
[| National Agricultural Library](#)
[\(usda.gov\)](#)



A great "roller" moves across the land during
the Dust Bowl, ca. 1930s. Courtesy of the U.S.
Department of Agriculture Image Gallery.
Background image: Heavy black clouds of dust
rising over the Texas Panhandle, March 1936.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress (Prints and
Photographs Division. LC-DIG-fsa-8b27276),
image by Arthur Rothstein.





Gray Wolf



By MN Jerry Lindhorst

(This is the 4th in a series of articles on Keystone Species in Missouri. Such species are living things that play a critical function in preserving the structure of our natural community. They can be any organism ranging from animals to plants to bacteria and fungi. Without these keystone species, the ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist altogether.)

Some Missouri hunters have spotted what they think is a large Coyote and shoot killing instead a Gray Wolf. The Coyote in Missouri is not a protected mammal. The Gray Wolf is protected as an endangered species in much of the United States, including Missouri.

If you're wondering, the Coyote's and Gray Wolf's fur coloring are somewhat similar. A Coyote weighs about 30 pounds and is about 2-foot tall with a tail 11 to 16 inches long. Much larger, the Gray Wolf can weigh from 60 to 120 pounds. The body size of the wolf ranges from 50-60 inches long. Its tail length is approximately 13-16 inches long.

'Back in the day', the Gray Wolf ranged throughout Missouri. As settlement in the state took place, fear of attacks on humans and livestock, and their feeding on game animals led to them being hunted to extermination. The massive killing of Buffalos also played a role in loss of the Gray Wolf's population. Today, MDC reports there is no evidence of Gray Wolves breeding in Missouri, but they do wander in our state from northern states.

Wolves will feast on large mammals including, buffalo, elk and deer. They will also eat rabbits and mice. When food is hard to find, they will hunt for frogs, lizards, large insects, and any garbage they can find.

The biology of gray wolves is complex and interesting. Most times, they are monogamous and live in packs led by a single pair of "alpha" wolves. The packs can travel quickly and can cover a long distance. MDC says the wolves that have appeared in Missouri, are apparently young and seeking new territories, away from areas populated by other wolves.

MDC reported a wolf that appeared in Missouri in 2001 was wearing a radio collar and an ear tag linking it to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, more than 600 miles away. Until the wolves breed again in Missouri on their own, they are considered extirpated.



Gray Wolf,
Photo by NPS Jacob W. Frank



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



Coyote—Image by CCA

Rachael Bale, Animals Executive Editor at National Geographic reports about Grey Wolves:

She writes that they are one of the most polarizing species NG reports on. To some, they're majestic icons of North America's wilderness. To others, they're dangerous and crafty—preying on ranchers' cattle and killing off elk (a much-contested claim).

It's taken decades of dedicated work to bring back gray wolves to the Lower 48 after they were nearly wiped out by hunters and ranchers by the turn of the 20th century. Today, there are at least 6,000, and the species has been declared recovered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also a much-contested move).

But now, there's a new "war on wolves," many conservationists say, one that could threaten their survival once again. In Idaho, a new law allows for the killing of up to 90 percent of the state's gray wolves. In Montana, a suite of new bills and laws allows hunters to kill as many wolves as they want and expands the ways in which they can do so, including by using methods that even some hunters say are unethical. Wisconsin hunters reportedly killed more than 200 wolves in just three days, far above the limit the state had set for its first wolf hunting season since Wisconsin's wolves had been removed from the endangered species list.

Montana has made killing wolves easier. Some hunters are pushing back.

Read more at [Montana has made killing wolves easier. Some hunters are pushing back. \(nationalgeographic.com\)](#)





Master Naturalists in Action

Main Street, St. Charles Garden Project Mulching Day



Frank Dvorak, Alison Robbins, Glen Bish, Jean Harmon, Allison Volk, Connie Campbell, Martha Hessler and Jerry Lindhorst

The Mulchers

MN Jerry Lindhorst

Once again, "The Mulchers," Martha Hessler's Team, showed their sprit and tenacity by pulling out rakes, shovels, and wheelbarrows from their SUV's and cars and entered the Main Street Garden while rain clouds threatened above.

Two years ago before Covid-19 cancelled project activities, the "Mulchers," were drenched in a downpour while mulching this beautiful native plant garden located on Main Street in historic downtown St. Charles. The team fought off the rain and did not leave until the last shovel of mulch found its home.

This year, the team was well aware that weather forecasters had predicted rain again, but the team showed up anyhow. As they watched a huge truck carrying the mulch pull into a parking spot behind the garden,

down came the rain and on came the rain gear.

This year, the mulch was desperately needed as a challenging batch of weeds had decided they were going to do their best to overtake the garden's plants. The team quickly cut cardboard boxes into smaller pieces and placed them into spaces between the plants before the mulch arrived. Ignoring the rain, the team quickly shoveled the mulch into wheelbarrows and rushed to spread it among the plants.

And suddenly, the rain stopped. There would be no downpour like last year. The team was able to slow down to enjoy one another and finish the mulching. No one was more pleased than the garden itself.

The Main Street Garden began as a chapter project when new property owners contacted MDC in early 2018 with an idea to transform the 4,000 square-foot lot into a native garden. MDC then contacted Confluence

member Tom Nagle, who brought it to the Chapter's attention and members approved.

In April 2018, using Tom's design plan and contacts, native plants were obtained and the lot was transformed. Martha took over as project lead and implemented a weekly work-day to continue the garden's progress and maintenance.

The project is now a partnership with St. Charles County Master Gardeners. The garden provides benefits not only to the local ecosystem and wildlife, but to the many visitors who frequent downtown St. Charles.





*Confluence Chapter
Stream Team*



By MN Lee Phillion

While Cliff Parmer concentrated on water chemistry, the rest of us sorted and counted macroinvertebrates—the Midges, Mayflies, Scuds and Aquatic Worms—we'd netted along various stretches of the Femme Osage Creek. Stream Team #3612 was back in post-vaccination action on a perfect spring day.

The Missouri Stream Team program is a way for citizens to learn about the 110,000 miles of creeks, streams and rivers in the state and take part in conserving them. Master Naturalists can get involved through litter pickups, stream bank stabilization, tree planting, water quality monitoring, and more. It's interesting and a fun way to be outdoors while providing a valuable service.



Cliff Parmer
Stream Team Leader
clfhanc@aol.com

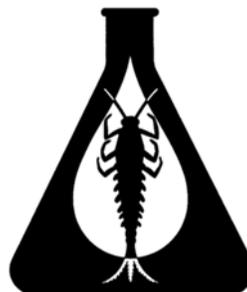


Cliff Parmer started Stream Team #3612 in 2008 when the Confluence Chapter took over monitoring of the Femme Osage, a gorgeous creek that runs near the historic Daniel Boone Home in Defiance. Cliff, along with Rob Merriman, are trained Stream Team monitors, but all chapter members are invited to participate. You will receive "on the job" training at the site and have a great time.

If you are thinking about getting your feet wet in Stream Team water quality monitoring, the next Femme Osage monitoring will take place on July 17. Let Cliff know if you wish to join him.

If you want to learn more about the physical, biological and chemical aspects of streams by taking the entry level monitoring training, go to:

<http://www.mostreamteam.org/water-quality-monitoring.html>





Turning Black?

Black death in monarch butterflies is one of several recent threats to the one of our most popular and revered insect species.

One day, your caterpillars are munching away on their milkweed, and the next, they turn lethargic. Their colors seem a little off. Their black bands appear wider than usual. Gradually, the entire caterpillar darkens, and its body looks like a deflated inner tube. Then, right before your eyes, the caterpillar turns to mush.

Signs that your caterpillars will succumb to black death:

Lethargy, refusing to eat, discoloration of the cuticle (skin), watery droppings, regurgitation, shriveled tentacles

Even after several years of raising bumper crops of monarchs in your own milkweed patch, you may still be in danger of infestations. In the worst case, a catastrophic parasite infestation can occur, leading to an overall decline in the health of your caterpillar population.

What are the signs? Some or nearly all of the monarch caterpillars slowly turn black and die. Chrysalis discoloration is another thing to look out for. While a healthy chrysalis does turn dark just before the adult butterfly is ready to emerge, an unhealthy one turns solid black—and adult butterflies never emerge from them.

What Causes Black Death in Butterflies?

In most cases, black death has two causes: a bacterium in the genus *Pseudomonas* and the Nuclear polyhedrosis virus. *Pseudomonas* bacteria prefer moist environments and are pretty much

ubiquitous. You can find them in water, in soil, in plants, and even in animals (including people). In humans, *Pseudomonas* bacteria may cause ear, eye, and urinary tract infections, as well as other hospital-acquired infections. *Pseudomonas* is an opportunistic bacteria that typically infects caterpillars that are already weakened by other diseases or conditions.

The Nuclear polyhedrosis virus is almost always deadly to monarchs. It resides inside the caterpillar's cells, forming polyhedra (sometimes described as crystals, although this is not entirely accurate). The polyhedra grow within the cell, eventually causing it to burst open. This is the reason infected caterpillars or pupa seems to dissolve as the virus ruptures the cells and destroys the structure of the insect. Fortunately, the Nuclear polyhedrosis virus does not reproduce in humans.

Tips for Preventing Black Death in Monarchs:

If you're raising monarch butterflies in a classroom or in your backyard butterfly garden, there are several precautions you can take to lower the risk of black death.

The *Pseudomonas* bacteria like moist environments. Keep your breeding environment as dry as possible. Raised cages constructed of ventilated mesh are a good choice.

Keep the cage out of the sun.

Vacuum up any frass (butterfly droppings) and old milkweed leaves.

Wipe down and dry the cage daily.

Rinse milkweed cuttings and leaves with water before feeding.

Watch for condensation in breeding cages. Be sure to let milkweed plants dry completely before use.

If you see any signs of sickness in a caterpillar (lethargy, discoloration, etc.), isolate it from the other caterpillars.

Remove any chrysalides that are turning black.

If you have evidence that your butterflies are suffering from the black death, disinfect the cage with a 5 to 10 percent bleach solution prior to raising any more.



Citizen Scientists and Preserving Monarchs

The monarch butterfly population has crashed in recent years, experiencing an 80 percent decline in North American populations over the past few decades. Only part of this downturn is due to the "black death." Other parasites affecting monarchs include tachinid fly infections, *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE), and *Trichogramma* and Chalcid wasps. Unfortunately, the most serious threat to monarchs comes from human sources including insecticide and herbicide use and loss of habitat.

Today there are several monarch preservation opportunities for students and ordinary citizens to take part in that offer opportunities from monitoring and reporting infestations, to tracking migrating butterflies, to getting grants to launch new backyard gardens and promoting butterfly health.

Sources:

"Agreement: Monarch Butterfly to Get Endangered Species Act Protection Decision by 2019." Center for Biological Diversity. Web. Accessed June 9, 2018.

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"Monarch Predation by Invertebrates, Parasitoids, and Disease." Monarch Watch. Web. Accessed June 9, 2018.

"Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus." International Butterfly Breeders Association. Web. Accessed June 9, 2018.

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Pseudomonas, Southern Illinois University. Web. Accessed January 7, 2013. Parasites and Natural Enemies, MonarchLab, University of Minnesota. Web. Accessed June 9, 2018.

Citation:

Why Are Monarchs Caterpillars Turning Black? (thoughtco.com)

Hadley, Debbie. "Why Are Monarch Caterpillars Turning Black?" *ThoughtCo*, Aug. 27, 2020, [thoughtco.com/monarchs-turning-black-4140653](https://www.thoughtco.com/monarchs-turning-black-4140653).





Naturalists in Action



QUAIL RIDGE PARK



What a beautiful day for a controlled burn!

Photo by MN Elaine Browning

The Rain Garden Next to Henry's Pond.

"Spiffy" clean and ready for this year.

(MN Jane Porter, Elaine Browning, Leslie Limberg, Allison Volk, and Carmen Santos)



AUDUBON, PLUS ALL THREE MN CHAPTERS WORKING TOGETHER AT CREVE COEUR PARK PHOTOS BY MN LEE PHILLION





Ice Jam

MN Frank Dvorak

It is May (or is it June?) and the big freeze is behind us. I did not drive much this winter, but I went to the Lewis and Clark boathouse parking lot one day in February, expecting to watch pancake ice float down the river. I was desperate for some entertainment.

I was surprised to find the river clear of floating ice. The weather was still very cold, so where was the ice?

I have now learned the ice was probably stuck in a jam upstream. See this article describing an ice jam near Jefferson City. Or watch the 4 minute video.

<https://riverrelief.org/the-missouri-river-ice-jam-of-2021/>



Photo: Piles of frozen ice cover the Missouri River just downstream of Cooper's Landing. Photo by Steve Schnarr Article by MO River Relief. Missouri River Relief was founded to engage individuals and communities along the Missouri River in the exploration, enjoyment, restoration and care of the river through education, stewardship, and recreation.

Wandering Through Veterans Tribute Park

Frank Dvorak



White
Fringe
Tree

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*



Blue Heron on the creek behind MN Frank Dvorak's home. It has been around for a long time.

Is it Frank or the creek?

We ought to name it.

Photo by MN Frank Dvorak





Master Naturalists in Action

On March 12, 2021, six new bluebird houses were installed by members of the Missouri Master Naturalist Confluence Chapter in partnership with the St. Charles County Parks Dept. at Towne Park near Wentzville, MO.



Park Ranger Abigail Loucks contacted us about the bluebird population at the park and asked the Chapter to install the boxes. The MMN members will monitor these houses.

Involved with this installation were : Alison Robbins, Jerry Kaiser, Jeanice Kaiser, Tom Holt, Jane Porter and Stephen Baldwin. Abigail Loucks also helped to install these boxes.



Cleaning the Pollinators' Garden at Progress South Elementary School



Note from the School Project Leader:

Hi everyone,

I want to thank you all so much for coming out to help today! I can't tell you how much it was appreciated. Knowing I have great people backing us makes what we do at PSE worth all the hard work. I cant wait for those first native blooms! Please come by often and walk around the pollinator habitats and enjoy what nature does best.





From Our Members



I thought this was pretty interesting. At the beginning of March and perhaps late February I noticed honeybees in the tray of cracked corn I put out for the Doves. Apparently, there's a short period of time during warm winter days when honeybees get into feeders looking for dust from cracked corn. No flowers are available to them yet. The Queen starts to lay eggs as daylight gets longer and the worker bees need to find protein to feed the new babies!

Eagles Project:

Monitoring the eagle nests has been an interesting project which is getting more challenging as it's difficult to see through leaves!

I'm really only able to see one nest well enough to know what's going on. There were two tiny heads visible above the nest rim the last we checked. Next time maybe the chicks will be sitting on the rim.

MN Karen Sue Stevens

I have found, after a good deal of consideration, that the best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for Him there.

~Bernard Shaw, *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*, 1932



Spring at Wolf Creek

MN Paul Crombie has a wildflower home prairie (pictured below).

This is Indian Paint with Golden Alexander and Prairie Doc.



This woodland (pictured next) was burned in March revealing several acres of False Hellebore (*Veratrum woodii*). They are notoriously stingy bloomers.

A perennial of moist forests in the eastern two-thirds of Missouri, except for the southeastern lowlands, false hellebore is conspicuous in the spring for its large clusters of pleated leaves. Individu-

al leaves can reach 1 foot or more in length. There are usually several plants growing in close proximity on lower portions of east- or north-facing slopes or bluffs.

Here is MDC description of false Hellebore. Post burn wild flowers.

Flowering plants produce a stem that grows from two feet to more than four feet tall, its upper portion branched and bearing small purple flowers. In most years, however, few if, any plants, will flower at a site. The plant contains poisons and is avoided by most grazing animals due to its sharp, burning taste.



Photo by MN Elaine Browning of her majestic White Oak Tree in her backyard

It has been said that trees are imperfect men, and seem to bemoan their imprisonment rooted in the ground. But they never seem so to me. I never saw a discontented tree. They grip the ground as though they liked it, and though fast rooted they travel about as far as we do. They go wandering forth in all directions with every wind, going and coming like ourselves, traveling with us around the sun two million miles a day, and through space heaven knows how fast and far!

John Muir, July 1890





What is it?

Blue Jasmine, Clematis Swamp
Leatherflower



Climbing or weakly ascending herbaceous vine, with smooth, multiple-angled stems.

The species name *crispa* means "finely waved" or "closely curved." This plant was purchased at the Missouri Wildflowers Nursery a couple of years ago. They are presently out of stock but you can ask to be placed in their waiting list.

WHOOOOO KNEW?

Sixteen Species of Bats in Missouri

MN Leslie Limberg

Family: [Vespertilionidae](#)
Subfamily: [Vespertilioninae](#)

Genus: [Lasiurus](#)
[Eastern red bat](#), *Lasiurus borealis*
[Hoary bat](#), *Lasiurus cinereus*

Genus: [Corynorhinus](#)
[Rafinesque's big-eared bat](#), *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*
[Townsend's big-eared bat](#), *Corynorhinus townsendii*

Genus: [Eptesicus](#)
[Big brown bat](#), *Eptesicus fuscus*

Genus: [Lasionycteris](#)
[Silver-haired bat](#), *Lasionycteris noctivagans*

Genus: [Myotis](#)
[Southeastern myotis](#), *Myotis austroriparius*
[Western small-footed bat](#), *Myotis ciliolabrum*
[Gray bat](#), *Myotis grisescens*
[Keen's myotis](#), *Myotis keenii*
[Eastern small-footed myotis](#), *Myotis leibii*

[Little brown bat](#), *Myotis lucifugus*
[Northern long-eared myotis](#), *Myotis septentrionalis*
[Indiana bat](#), *Myotis sodalister*

Genus: [Nycticeius](#)
[Evening bat](#), *Nycticeius humeralis*

Genus: [Perimyotis](#)
[Eastern pipistrelle](#), *Pipistrellus subflavus*

(Follow the links (blue text) for pictures and more information.)



Male silver-haired bat captured in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 2010.

Author Larisa Bishop-Boros

CC BY-SA 3.0

AND THIS IS. . .?

There is lore here in Marthasville that a group of settlers came west late in the year and lived in hollow sycamores. Apparently it was common. If anyone wants to see a nice livable example there is one just a cross the Meramec river from Fenton MO.



MN Paul Crombie

The Social Life of Trees

MN Frank Dvorak

I would like to pass along a recommendation to watch or read about the forest research by Suzanne Simard. Her work was the subject of a news story on NPR last week. Watch the TED talk (about 15 minutes) or the shorter National Geographic video.

<https://suzannesimard.com/media/>

I have ordered her book which will arrive next week. I hope it proves to be an interesting and informative read.

PS: Carmen has seen her talks—fascinating learning about "human" trees.

REMEMBER:

When you bury a body, cover it with endangered plants so it's illegal to dig it up





MASON BEE CONDO



We have 12 units occupied out of 21, and the bees are still moving in.

In the top row on the right there is a white looking dot that is the head of the bee about to fly out! It's hard to see and I hit the shutter a moment too soon.

MN Elaine Browning

Jane Goodall is Hopeful.



The 87-year-old primatologist, conservationist, and Nat Geo Explorer has spent most of her life fighting to protect wildlife and nature from the cruelty and destruction of humans, yet Goodall, has maintained an upbeat outlook that seems to defy reason. In her 2000 memoir, *Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey*, Goodall explored where that feeling comes from:

"There are really only two ways, it seems to me, in which we can think about our existence here on Earth," she writes. "We either agree with Macbeth that life is nothing more than a 'tale told by an idiot,' a purposeless emergence of life-forms... Or we believe that, as Pierre Teilhard de Chardin put it, "There is something afoot in the universe, something that looks like gestation and birth." In other words, a plan, a purpose to it all."



Photo of J. Goodall
by Muhammad Mahdi Karim
www.micro2macro.net

Elaine's Blues

Dominate Her Backyard!
But allow her and her family to share the space.





◆ Thank you to all of you that have taken the time to gather pictures and topics for this newsletter—We love you!

◆ Thank you Frank Dvorak for all your wanderings in and around St. Charles County, and for sharing all your nature observations in photos and articles. Bet you easily get in your 10,000 steps per day for good health!

◆ THANK YOU Allison Volk and Bon Voyage! You have served the Confluence Chapter since 2005 with such consistent laughter and research, learning & teaching us about eagles & mushrooms & the fine art of nature photography. Your presence makes us feel free, talkative, and engaging in good honest human values. Your courage & leadership will again grace the family and Ohio communities. Damn, you are soo good!.



I go to nature to be
soothed and healed,
and to have my senses
put in order.

John Burroughs



*I've banished Winter,
saith the Spring,
Awake! arise, ye flowers!
Brisk breezes blow,
Bright sunshine glow,
And rouse the young Year's powers.*

Henry James Slack (1818–1896), *The Ministry of the Beautiful*,
"Conversation IV: Spring-time on the Western Coast," 1850

Our Leadership

- President—Alison Robbins
- Vice President—Stephen Baldwin
- Secretary—Steve McCarthy
- Treasurer—Jean Crinean
- Advanced Training—Deborah Moulton
- Volunteer Coordinator—Alberta McGilligan
- Membership Services— Tom Holt
- Web Site— Gail Gagnon
- Newsletter—Carmen Santos, Peg Meyer, Leslie Limberg and Elaine Browning

Advisors

- UMO Extension, Justin Keay, justin.keay@Missouri.edu

Project Leaders:

- Confluence Chapter Stream Team #3612—Cliff Parmer
- Babler State Park—Alberta McGilligan and Bob Coffing
- Quail Ridge Prairie Demo and Rain Garden—Carmen Santos
- Bluebird Monitoring—Connie Campbell and Leslie Limberg
- Nature Explore Classroom Education—Connie Campbell
- O'Fallon Public Works Project—Carmen Santos
- Monarchs & Pollinators Network—Bob Lee and Tom Holt
- Birding Club—Gail Gagnon
- Main Street Garden—Martha Hessler and Tom Nagle
- Daniel Boone Hays—Bob Coffing
- Matson Hill Park—Bob Coffing
- Cuivre River and Don Robinson State Park—Bob Coffing
- Outdoor Classroom, Frontier Middle School—Jeanice and Jerry Kaiser

- Amphibian Monitoring—Steve Teson
- Wetlands for Kids—Glenn Bish and Rob Merriman
- Native Seed Collection & Distribution—Phil Rahn
- Native Flower Potting & Distribution—Alberta McGilligan
- Progress South Elementary Project—Leslie Limberg
- Seed Collection/Distribution Team—Leslie Limberg and Phil Rahn
- Past Presidents

Scott Barnes,
Connie McCormack
Jerry Lindhorst
Leslie Limberg
Cliff Parmer
Alberta McGilligan
Martha Hessler



The Confluence Chapter was founded in 2005 as the fifth Master Naturalist chapter in Missouri. The chapter was formed by twenty-four 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/>