



From
Our President
Greetings, all!

Fall is here and our Chapter has certainly taken advantage of the great weather we have been having. Tri-Chapter field day was so much fun and informative ... who can forget the snapping turtles that Steve Teson pulled out of his many tubs of reptiles he brought to the field day!

The gardens that our chapter maintains have been "put to bed" so to speak as well as so many of our other projects. (I heard that Mother Earth has graced the Main Street Garden with her presence.)

In other news — at our last meeting, we re-elected Stephen Baldwin as Vice President and welcomed Beth Zona as our new Secretary.

We do have to celebrate the final 2021 Master Naturalist training class! About 35 people completed these classes this year. We have been fortunate to have six of these new interns join our chapter. Please welcome Judie Heintz, Laurie Meacham, Joanne Keay, Lloyd and Bonnie Alinder, and Michelle Reasor-West. There are two other interns who are looking at our chapter, so hopefully my next newsletter will be welcoming these two individuals into our group.

I really want to thank those members who have stepped up to be mentors for our new interns. I am listing them in the order of the new members listed above: Jeanice Kaiser, Alberta McGilligan, Martha Hessler, Connie Campbell (both Alinders), and Elaine Browning. This is such an important function in helping to keep up our retention levels. But that doesn't mean that others can't be involved in making sure these new trainees feel welcome at our meetings and at our projects.

Finally, I want to thank Steve McCarthy as he finishes up his two year term as secretary. His minutes are the highlight of my month! If you haven't read your minutes for the last two years, go back and do so. You will be laughing out loud!

Alison

Alison Robbins
President, Confluence Chapter

Honorary Member



At our wonderful Field Day this year, we inducted Diane Donovan into our membership. Diane is a native plant specialist who worked at Shaw Nature Reserve for years.

She is also the person who started seedlings for us two years in a row and will do again in the spring of 2022. These seedlings resulted in about 2000 native plants to give out to projects and members. You will probably see her working on some of our projects so give her a good welcome.

MN Alberta McGilligan



MN Elaine Browning





Awards and Recognitions

Achieving their annual certification volunteer and advanced training hours:

Master Naturalist Certification—Templer, Amanda

Member – Annual Recertification

Baldwin, Stephen, Bourisaw, Donna, Browning, Elaine, Campbell, Connie, Dvorak, Frank, Gagnon, Gail, Geile, Valerie, Harmon, Jean, Hessler, Martha, Holt, Tom, Kaiser, Jeanice, Kaiser, Jerry, McCarthy, Steve, McCoy, Pat, McGilligan, Alberta, Moyer, Don, Murray, Kathy, Newcomer, Nancy, Oldfield, Sandy, Sallee, Terri, Santos, Carmen, Shew, JoAnn, Stevens, Sue, Teson, Steve, Volk, Allison, Walsh, Pam, Wester, Gary, Zona, Beth, Zupec, Jill, Zupec, Mark

Missouri
Master Naturalist
2021 Certification Pin
Eastern Meadowlark
Sturnella magna



Lifetime Achievement Member Award (Volunteer Hours)

Sallee, Terri—Bronze (250)

Oldfield, Sandy—Bronze (250)

Bourisaw, Donna—Pewter (500)



MMN Class of 2021



In alphabetic order: Acosta, Miguel; Alinder, Lloyd; Alinder, Bonnie; Anthoney, Lyn; Barley, Sheryl; Barnett, Jack; Bly, Yvette; Copple, Michael; Dierkes, Lauren; Fritts, Debbie; Hays, Richard; Heinz, Judith; Heitman, Mary; Hughes, Steven; Keay, Joanne; Kinsella, Eileen; Lakin, Ann; LeBaige, Don; LeBaige, Rosanne; Lubershane, Andrea; McDonald, Virginia; Mecham, Laurie; Minx, Tiffany; Monahan, Kris; Neu, Cindy; Nock, Jean; Penkoske, Michael; Reasor-West, Michelle; Serotte, Eleasa; Shapiro, Gabriel; Simons, Elizabeth; Spitznagel, Gerry; Sprung, Celeste; Thomas, Georgia; Winkelmann, Terry





White and Albino Hummingbirds

Although somewhat rare in nature, there are indeed white hummingbirds! There are three types, a true Albino, and a Leucistic hummingbird ... and a mixture, known as Pied (or Piebald).



Melanin is important for hummingbirds as it dictates skin tone, eye color, feather strength, and ultraviolet sun protection. Less melanin produces a lighter color, while more melanin produces a darker color.

An albino hummingbird features white feathers along with **pink eyes, bill and feet.**

These hummingbirds are very rare, and are the result of a genetic mutation that stops the creation of any dark pigment. These hummingbirds lack melanin which equates to no color or pigmentation.

Leucistic hummingbirds can produce some melanin, and have **black eyes, bills and feet.** Their feathers may be pure white, whitish,

off-white, partially-white, tan, or gray instead of the normal colors for that species. These are somewhat rare, but not as rare as the true albino hummingbird.

These pictures were taken Sept 3, 2021 in St. Peters, MO Photos provided by Alison Roberts.

View more pictures at: [White, Albino, Leucistic and Pied Hummingbirds: Characteristics, Identification and Photographs \(hummingbirdcentral.com\)](http://White, Albino, Leucistic and Pied Hummingbirds: Characteristics, Identification and Photographs (hummingbirdcentral.com))



Advanced Training 2022

◆ Tuesday, January 11, 2022
Planting Trees for the Future
Meredith Perkins, Executive Director of Forest ReLeaf, will be back with us in January to discuss the effects of climate change on native trees. The very long life span of a tree means we are planting for future generations. Should we plant what we know, or should we be planting different native trees that will thrive in a climate more similar to East Texas?

◆ Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Forgotten Trunk in the Attic
Galen E. Gritts, a registered member of the Cherokee Nation, is a historian and researcher who will provide an overview of why Native nations are "invisible" to many Missourians. Missouri and many neighboring states have no extant tribes and haven't had any for some time. This will provide a look at the Native American tribes whose ancestral lands are in Missouri. This program is in partnership with:



The Indigenous Tribes of Missouri



Missouri has been home to many Indigenous peoples over the centuries before the founding of America. In our February Advanced Training program, we will host a registered Cherokee tribal historian who will talk about the Native American tribes who have called Missouri home.

Although they may have limited access to ancestral lands today, they have deep spiritual

ties to their original homes in Missouri.

Before the Indian Removal Act of 1830 there were nine tribes and others who inhabited and have ancestral connections in Missouri. These include:

- Chickasaw
- Delaware
- Illini
- Kanza
- Ioway
- Otoe-Missouria
- Osage
- Quapaw
- Sac & Fox
- Shawnee

Photo caption: A delegation of members from the Oto Nation. National Archives, Washington D.C.; photography by John K. Hillers, circa 1881-1907.





Mistletoe

(Phoradendron)



Mistletoe is an evergreen parasitic plant that grows in large clumps and is usually noticed when oaks lose their leaves in the fall. Mistletoe becomes attached to the host plant by haustoria (rootlike structures) that take nutrients from the host tree.

Older trees and trees harmed by pests or storms are more likely to host mistletoe. The white berries, each with a sticky seed, are typically spread by birds from tree to tree. Other tree hosts include pecan, hickories, elm, and other hardwoods.

To control the spread, prune at least 1 foot below where the mistletoe is attached.

Mistletoe is the common name for obligate hemiparasitic plants in the order Santalales.

The eastern mistletoe native to North America, Phoradendron leucarpum, belongs to a distinct genus of the family Santalaceae.

Mistletoes are often considered pests that kill trees and devalue natural habitats, but some species have recently been recognized as **ecological keystone species**, organisms that have a disproportionately pervasive influence over their community. A broad array of animals depend on mistletoe for food, consuming the leaves and young shoots, transferring pollen between plants and dispersing the sticky seeds.

In western North America their juicy berries are eaten and spread by birds while in Australia the mistletoe-bird behaves similarly. When eaten, some seeds pass unharmed through their digestive systems; if the birds' droppings happen to land on a suitable branch, the seeds may stick long enough to germinate. As the plants mature, they grow into masses of branching stems which suggest the popular name "witches' brooms".

A study of mistletoe in junipers concluded that more juniper berries sprout in stands where mistletoe is present, as

the mistletoe attracts berry-eating birds which also eat juniper berries.

Such interactions lead to dramatic influences on diversity, as areas with greater mistletoe densities support higher diversities of animals.

Thus, rather than being a pest, mistletoe can have a positive effect on biodiversity, providing high quality food and habitat for a broad range of animals in forests and woodlands worldwide.

Mistletoe - Wikipedia
ENH1332/EP596: Key Plant, Key Pests: Oak (Quercus spp.) (ufl.edu)
Mistletoe UF/IFAS Extension (ufl.edu)

Figure Cluster of mistletoe. Credit: UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture
(<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/mistletoe.shtml>)

[Mistletoe Through the Ages // Missouri Environment and Garden News Article // Integrated Pest Management, University of Missouri](#)



Mistletoe Salesman

Hairstreak

Atlides Halesus

The great purple hairstreak, *Atlides halesus*, is one of our most beautiful and fascinating southern butterflies. Although its preferred and most frequently used common name is great purple hairstreak, it does not have any true purple coloring on it. A few publications use the name great blue hairstreak, which is more appropriate.

Larvae feed **only** on plants of the parasitic **mistletoe** genus *Phoradendron*.

Phoradendron species are hemiparasites on trees from which they gain water and inorganic nutrients, but their leaves contain chlorophyll and are capable of photosynthesis. The genus name *Phoradendron* is derived from the Greek roots "phora" (to bear or carry) and "dendro" (tree) in reference to the fact that they grow on trees.

Mistletoes are dioecious (with male and female flowers on different plants).

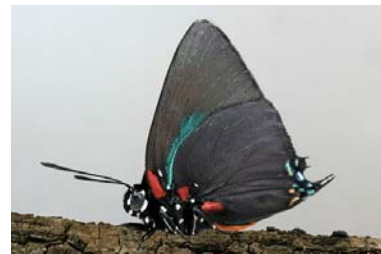
Oak mistletoe, *Phoradendron leucarpum*, is the only host for the great purple hairstreak in the southeastern United States. It is found from central Florida west to Texas and north to southern areas of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York (eFloras.org 2017, Plants Database 2019, Spooner 1983).



Female great purple hairstreak, *Atlides halesus* on beggarticks, *Bidens alba* Credit: Donald W. Hall, UF/IFAS



Figure — Great purple hairstreak, *Atlides halesus*, larva on mistletoe. Credit: Jerry F. Butler, UF/IFAS



Male great purple hairstreak, *Atlides halesus* Credit: Donald W. Hall, UF/IFAS

[EENY-110/IN267: Great Purple Hairstreak: Great Blue Hairstreak *Atlides halesus* \(Cramer\) \(Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae\) \(ufl.edu\)](#)





Can Trees Save Our Planet?



MN Gerald W. Lindhorst

Anyone who has paid any attention to the weather is aware our climate is changing. Increasingly, wildfires rage across the West, floods and tornados hammer the Midwest, and hurricanes rip through the South and along the Eastern shoreline.

Almost all of the world's scientists attribute the changing climate to our Earth warming. Climate change has always happened on Earth, which can be found in the Earth's geological record. However, it is the rapid rate and the magnitude of climate change since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution that is now a world-wide concern.

Scientists have found the Earth is being warmed by we humans who continue to increase the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere. The CO2 is a result of us burning fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas) to provide energy. More than 70% of the world's energy comes from burning fossil fuels.

To stop global warming ASAP, the world needs to remove a lot of the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere (CO2

makes up 99.4% of the greenhouses gases). Most of the world's leaders have made it clear that they are counting on trees in the world's forests to do much of that work. Recently, 133 countries pledged to halt global deforestation by 2030 and to restore degraded woodlands.

Through photosynthesis, trees and plants absorb CO2 from the atmosphere, and the carbon becomes part of the plants and soil. Large forests tend to be ecologically healthy, and this healthy biology results in carbon storage on a massive scale.

Globally, forests are our lungs and life-support system, covering 30% of the Earth's land area and hosting 80% of its biodiversity. This ecosystem contributes to our health and well-being through water regulation, the provision of food, medicines and materials, soil stabilization and erosion control, and air and water purification.

But forests continue to disappear. Last year the loss of primary old-growth tropical forests rose by 12% over 2019, according to the World Resources Institute. That loss added about twice as much CO2 to the atmosphere as what's emitted by cars in the United States every year, the institute estimated.

Planting billions of trees across the world is one of the cheapest ways of taking CO2 out of the atmos-

phere to tackle the climate crisis, according to many scientists. New research estimates that a worldwide planting program could remove two-thirds of all the emissions from human activities that remain in the atmosphere today.

Some scientists and environmental activists doubt that trees can do as much work for adjusting the climate as many claim. There are also the issues of land use, such as remaining space needed for agriculture and selecting and planting the right trees in the right areas to grow and prosper.

While it appears planting new trees alone cannot solve our climate crisis, a planned restoration of existing forests and significant tree planting can play a significant role.

One scientist noted that tackling climate change is like building a house; "Reforestation is like a hammer," he said. "Is it the sole tool that you can use to build the house? Absolutely not. But is it a valuable tool? Yes."





Naturalists in Action

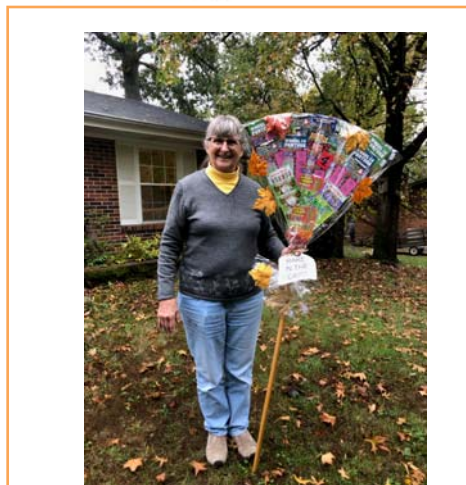
The Wheelbarrow crew



On a cold Fall morning in November, seven brave Confluence souls brought their shovels and wheelbarrows to Babler State Park. They had volunteered to dig into a huge pile of mulch, fill their wheelbarrows and haul it to a garden that had been planted during the MMN Field Day in October.

The crew worked diligently covering over 200 prairie plants until the approximate 60 x 40-foot garden was packed with mulch. Pictured are (left to right front row) Karin Foster, Gary Schneider and Celeste Sprung. Back row (left to right) are: Nancy Newcomer, Jerry Lindhorst and Donna Bourisaw.

MN Jerry Lindhorst



The Friends of Belleview Farms

who are the people behind the creation of the new park held a fund raiser on October 23. It included music, visiting, a tour of the farms and a raffle of some very nice prizes. Two lucky winners from Confluence were Alberta McGilligan who won a leaf rake with about 40 lottery tickets attached and Karin Foster who won a charcuterie package. Confluence members working on the project are Bob Lee, Martha Hessler, Karin Foster and Alberta McGilligan. The location is in Wildwood. If anyone want to participate in this exciting project contact one of the people named.



THE TRI-CHAPTER

FIELD DAY on October 9 was a big success. Confluence was well represented and led many of the classes and projects. the weather was very nice, although for those doing the volunteer projects of planting a new native garden and raising the rocks around the Babler Sign it seemed a little too warm. Both projects were completed and were a good addition to the park. The park management was very appreciative.

Activities included hikes, bird walk, and a tram ride with narration about the role of the CC and WPA in building some of the very beautiful buildings that are still in use in the park.

Other activities were classes on seed starting, building native habitat, learning about the quarry that produced the stones the CCC used in the buildings. A spider hike led by the Babler Naturalist Dustin Hillis, a session of Stream Team monitoring and night sky viewing were included in the day's activities.

Confluence member Steve Teson brought his turtles, amphibians and snakes and presented a very entertaining 2 hours on his collection. Both park staff and park visitors stopped by to hear and see. Good job Steve.

Total attendance was about 65. A survey will be circulated to ask about what people would like for next year.

MN Alberta McGilligan



Jean Giono (1895–1970), *Regain*, 1930, translated from the French by Henri Fluché and Geoffrey Myers, *Harvest*, 1939

It was a joy of which he wanted to savour all the smell and taste the juice as long as possible, like a sheep eating grass in the evening among the hills.

He went on like that, until the beautiful silence had settled within him and around him, like a meadow.

He came to his fields. He stopped in front of them. He bent down, picked up a handful of that rich earth full of air and seeds. It was an earth full of good will.

He felt all its good will with his fingers.





Master Naturalists in Action



→
Rattlesnake
Master
Also known
as Button
Snakeroot
*Eryngium
yuccifolium*



←
View a small
portion of the
garden

Quail Ridge Native Plant Garden Shines!

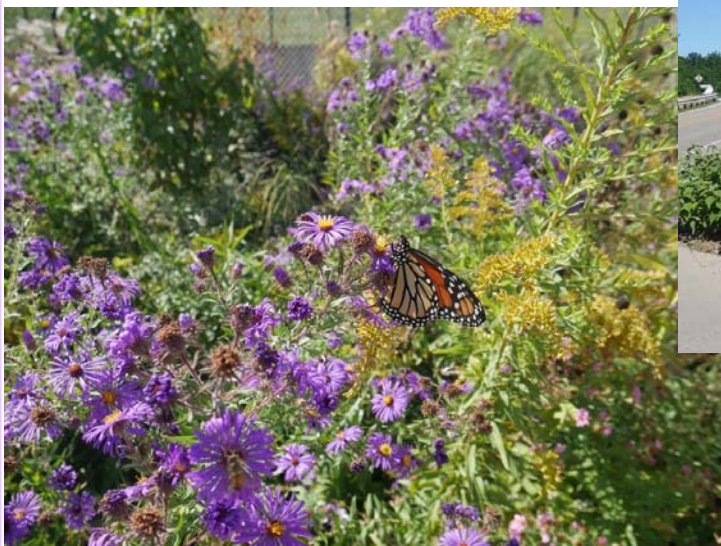
It was a banner year! Our garden was more beautiful, manicured, and naturally watered than any of our 10 years before!

It was only to be celebrated by a record number of public dogs playing with Ginger & DC (our garden mascots). Walkers passing by made many comments and engaged with dog talk & garden ooh's & ahhh's. Such fun!

Lastly, our celebrated luncheon spread of BBQ Chicken, Sweet Potato Casserole, Seven Layer Salad, Elaine's fruit dish & Scott's glorious dessert. Thanks to all Garden Naturalists & Nature Gardeners: Beth Zona, Scott Barnes, Elaine Browning, Jane Porter, Joann Shew, Leslie Limberg, Frank Dvorak, Russ Walker, and Carmen, our trusty garden lead... a magnificent & FUN year!

MN Leslie Limberg

The O'Fallon Public Works Gardens



Entrance



↑
The Rain
Garden

Photos by MN Frank Dvorak

→
The Secret Garden (They finally removed "that thing" away.) Not flowering when Frank took this picture: Purple Cone Flowers, Meadow Blazing Star, Goldenrod, Asters, and others.





From Our Members

By MN Deborah Moulton



Bombus with Gray Goldenrod and New England Aster



Bombus with Ohio Horse Mint



A Dog and his Human

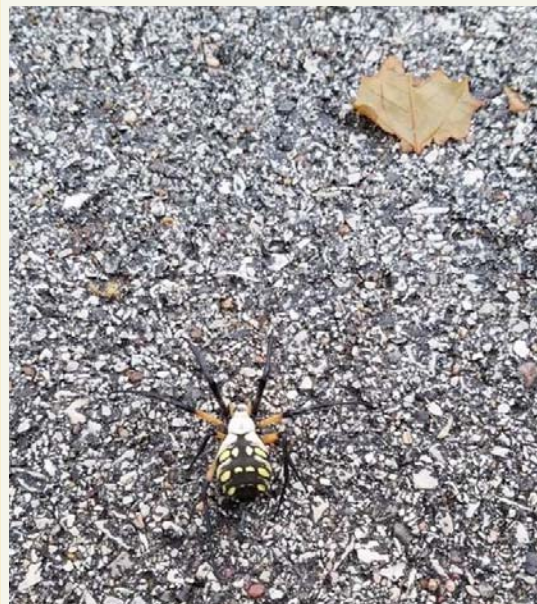
Photo by MN Allison Volk of Tim and Rigi

Mother Nature

The 2021 version of 'Mother Nature' figure constructed by master naturalist and master gardeners with native plant materials at the Main Street Garden in St. Charles. This location has high visibility to the many visitors who shop and stroll in the Saint Charles historic district in the fall. The dramatic eyes are milkweed seed pods and acorn caps. MN Frank Dvorak provided the beauty berry and assisted in construction as "the tall person".



Photos by MN Elaine Browning



While taking my daily walk at Veterans Park I noticed a very big and bright spider on the walking path. The spider was crossing the path and moving steadily. It had a plump oval body with yellow spots, and long legs. It appeared smooth rather than hairy. (I hope it was not offended by my description.) The spider was about 2 inches from leg tip to leg tip. The legs were brown near the body and black toward the ends. I pointed out the spider to a family group also walking the path, and they were intrigued by the spider too. (Their comment: "I am glad it

was not in our house.")

The internet tells me this is a **Yellow Garden Spider**, and they are common, large, and weave interesting webs. I have no idea where the web was; the path has grass on either side.

Frank, and spider

MN Frank Dvorak





*Early Morning at Quail Ridge
By Joann Shew*

ONE SMALL THING

By MN Jo Ann Shew, Confluence Chapter

Let's start by telling ... Just one small thing

Just one small thing ...
My first lone fall walk with DC at Quail Ridge (QR).
A place walked many times in fall and winter,
And now ... I have returned.

Just one small thing,
I know the path without getting lost,
Which is like moving without prodding,
without pushing, without navigation, without compass.
Just as water leaves and goes to the sea, I know my way.

Just one small thing that captures a big, bright moment.
Here, I have seen beautiful sunrises.
Here, I have seen light glimmer and light dancing,
light over the prairie grasses, flowers, and birds on their way.

Today is different. Just one small thing. No sun today.
The sun has said, ... not today, walk in shadows of gray."

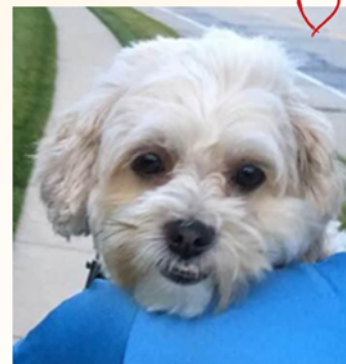
The day is overcast
but just as beautiful as days of summer,
spring, and fall colors.

The shadows remind me,
fall is coming and peeking a glance for today.

The fall gray is wrapping me up and reminding me,
"It is time to begin settling in."
The voice of fall speaks, "I'm here."

Your thoughts will come and whatever thoughts they are,
They can move you even more than thoughts in sunlight.
Thoughts may move more slowly but much deeper.
You can feel and hear the breeze more clearly.
The breeze is heavier and cooler than sun breezes.

What will the coming days and months bring?
Hopefully, just one small thing ...



DC





While flowers are known to be most attractive to bees, less is known about the nutrition flowers actually provide pollinators. A Mississippi State scientist is hoping to change that and is asking for **citizen scientist volunteers** to help collect data.

Priyadarshini Chakrabarti Basu, assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology, is building a **pollen database** to catalogue the nutrition profiles of over 100 bee-pollinated plants. Her work, in partnership with colleagues at Oregon State University, is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

An online training session will be held with volunteers this winter. Citizen scientists interested in volunteering to collect pollen for the project can contact Basu at pb1090@msstate.edu or by calling 662-325-6711. Ramesh Sagili, associate professor of apiculture at Oregon State, serves as principal investigator on the grant and also can be reached at ramesh.sagili@oregonstate.edu or by calling 541-737-5460. All volunteers who sign up will be provided pollen collection kits. A brief introduction to pollen collection can be found at <https://oregonstate.box.com/s/4zxia14r04xaw69rvnnigm9d48qshf97>.

<http://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2021/10/msu-scientist-building-pollen-database-improve-bee-nutrition-asks-citizens>



A honeybee collects pollen from Japanese privet. (Photo by David Ammon)

LEAVE THE LEAVES TO BENEFIT WILDLIFE



One of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need. Leave the leaves does not mean ignoring them and leaving them where they fell. You can move them to places in your yard where they are out of the way, will not kill your turf, and will still help wildlife. A thin layer of leaves can actually help turf—but too much will kill the grass. Consider raking leaves into areas around trees, or use them as winter mulch for perennials or to cover garden beds. Read More:

[Leave the Leaves to Benefit Wildlife](#)

[Xerces Society](#)

Researchers Develop Self-Pollinating Almond With a Gold Mine of Tasty Traits



ARS News Service

One day, Yorizane may be synonymous with almonds and California. So what is a Yorizane and what does it have to do with almonds?

Yorizane is a new self-pollinating almond variety developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service with superb consumer traits such as size, color, and flavor. But it is Yorizane's ability to produce an abundant harvest of nuts **without needing to be pollinated by insects or having another almond variety planted in the same orchard**—unlike almost all other commercial trees—that makes it so important to California's \$6-billion-a-year almond industry.

Self-fertile almonds actually are not new, explained research geneticist Craig A. Ledbetter. He is with the ARS Crop Diseases, Pests and Genetics Research Unit in Parlier, California, and Yorizane's breeder.

A variety called Tuono, originally from Spain, has been around for centuries. But it has few of the other characteristics that have made California almonds so popular. The main problem is that, unlike California's quintessential almond variety Nonpareil, Tuono's outside seed coat has a hairy texture.

Still, Tuono is reliably self-pollinating, so it is not surprising that

Ledbetter used it as the pollen-donating parent when he began breeding a new almond in 1996, crossing it with California-adapted almond cultivars and selections.

One successful selection eventually came to be named Yorizane. It hit the genetic jackpot, getting Tuono's genes for self-fertility along with almost all of the traits of Nonpareil, the most planted almond tree since it was first introduced in the 1880s.

In 2019, the Almond Board of California tested more than 60 almond varieties from around the world for growth characteristics and consumer attributes including ease of harvest, ease of cracking, resistance to kernel damage, yield, bloom date, harvest date, and especially aroma, shape, texture, taste and color. Yorizane consistently scored near the top in almost every category, in the end, making it one of the best rated varieties.

Small amounts of Yorizane budwood have been made available through Foundation Plant Services for research and breeding. Nurseries have been enthusiastic about reproducing Yorizane trees so that growers can start adding them to their orchards beginning in 2022.

But what is a Yorizane? Yorizane is the surname of the family that originally owned and raised stone fruit orchards on the 138 acres that became the ARS San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center in 1991. The Center wanted to honor the generations of Yorizanes who maintained that land.



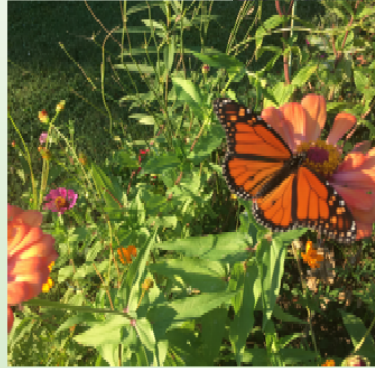


From Our Members



MN Elaine Browning

MN Karen
Sue
Stevens



Carolina Mantis
Photo by MN Scott Barnes

Young 5 lined skink
MN Scott Barnes





Thank You Confluence!

We had the tree planting at Babler State Park (Dec 4) and the turnout was beyond my wildest dreams.

I was hoping for at least 10 to plant 80 trees but had at least 20 who came to help. Sure made the job lighter for everyone.

A beautiful, satisfying day. The world got 80 more oak trees to help the climate.
(Perhaps the deer will be appreciative also)

Thanks millions!
Alberta





- ☞ Thank you to all of you that have taken the time to gather pictures and topics for this newsletter. You are all gifted photographers and writers!
- ☞ Thank you: Tom Holt and Justin Keay for AN ABSOLUTE break through! Your work has truly resulted in many NEW memberships!
- ☞ Gary Wester has graciously replaced long time Stream Team leader Cliff Parmer. Thank you Cliff for your many years good science, mentorship & real dedication to our creeks & critters & chapter. Thanks Gary for stepping up in a time of real need.

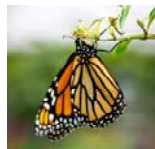
- ☞ Alberta McGilligan for jumping on the project with Belleview Farms.
- ☞ Alison Robbins for steering our group through the difficulties of another pandemic year, for keeping our meetings going from month to month, either by Zoom, or finding a physical location to meet, during a time when we find ourselves with no permanent home. It had to be difficult but she persevered.
- ☞ Deb Moulton for all the excellent programs and speakers for our Advanced Training, and for finding ways to get the presenters in front of our group, either remotely or in person. It was, no doubt, a challenge.

- ☞ Our Chapter Holiday Party is on December 14, 2021 on our regular Tuesday evening meeting night. Thanks go to Alison Robbins for once again obtaining St. John Hall, at St. John United Church of Christ in St. Charles, and taking the lead in organizing this lovely event.
- ☞ JoAnn Shew for your lovely poem, "One Small Thing", and the corresponding photo. It was charming, thoroughly enjoyable, and a great addition to our newsletter!



The **Xerces Society** reports that migratory western monarchs are being observed at their overwintering sites in coastal California in greater numbers than last year, giving hope for the struggling population. At overwintering sites in Pacific Grove, Pismo Beach, and a private

site in Big Sur, over 10,000 monarchs have been counted at each site. Last year, these three sites had less than 300 monarchs in total. Additional clusters have been reported from Santa Cruz, Monterey, Big Sur, Ventura, Los Angeles



and elsewhere. Altogether, as of November 12, 2021, there appear to be at least 50,000 monarchs easily accounted for at the overwintering sites, with many sites yet unvisited. Read the Blog at [The Bounciness of Butterflies | Xerces Society](#)

Our Leadership

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

Advisors

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

Project Leaders:

- Confluence Chapter Stream Team #3612—Gary Wester
- Babler State Park—Alberta McGilligan
- 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 and Leslie Limberg
- Native Flower Potting & Distribution Alberta McGilligan
- Rockwoods Reservation Native Garden—Karin Foster and Nancy Newcomer
- Belleview Farms—Alberta McGilligan
- Progress South Middle School Garden Clean Up - Leslie Limberg

Past Presidents

- Connie McCormack
- Scott Barnes,
- Jerry Lindhorst
- Cliff Parmer
- Leslie Limberg
- 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/>