



*From
Our President*

Hasn't our Fall been beautiful?

While the trees and other deciduous plants have shed their leaves, we were so privileged to see this wonderful time of preparing to rest. But our chapter doesn't rest.

We had a very successful field day in October and some good work days at our gardens. Mother Earth did make it back to the Main Street Garden. (Which by the way, the Main Street Garden was designated as a Garden of Excellence! Way to go Martha H and her crew!)

In November, we elected Stephen Baldwin as our President and Beth Zona as our Treasurer. Both of them

have been active in our chapter and will make wonderful leaders. Martha Hessler agreed to take on the role of Vice President for the remaining term vacated by Stephen. We are still looking for someone for the Secretary position to fulfill a 1 year term vacated by Beth Zona

The 2022 MMN Training class has successfully graduated about 35 members. A number of members from all three chapters as well as our MDC representative, Jenni Rabenau as well as our MUE representative, Eli Isele, guided these classes as the summer and early fall went on. One particular person, Janie Lewis, an employee at the Kirkwood MUE was most helpful in getting everyone coordinated and on schedule! We have 5 new members, Ron Adelman, Nicole Snyder, Christine Evans, Aina Ferris and Kathleen Benkendorf joining our chapter. Tom Holt is looking for mentors for these individuals. If you are interested, please contact Tom soon. Please welcome these new members at our meetings and make them feel welcome to our chapter.

Missouri Master Naturalist
2022 Certification Pin
Grass Pink,
Calopogon tuberosus



Finally, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve this chapter as your President. Please continue to support our new officers and I hope some of you will consider becoming a part of our leadership team in the future.

Alison

Alison Robbins
President, Confluence Chapter



*Let it Snow, Let it Snow,
Let it Snow!*



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



October News:

☞ Leslie Limberg presented Alison with a dragonfly pillow as a thanks for her hard work as president. We all appreciate what Alison has done. The chapter is especially thankful for her timely communications to keep us in the loop.

☞ Blue Bird Projects:

- Quail Ridge —A problem occurred with a "mysterious" predator, so bigger baffles and smaller gauge screening will be used in the future.
 - Bluebird Meadows, a new site at STCCCC, Dardenne Prairie campus, will receive new boxes in the spring.
- ☞ Gary Webster presented Jean Harmon with her annual pin.

Winter Weather Forecast



MN Steve McCarthy

"Whenever people talk to me about the weather, I always feel certain that they mean something else"—Oscar Wilde

The Farmer's almanac has been known for years for its wit, wisdom, and weather forecasts. And it has always come with a hole in the corner, if people wanted to hang it up in the kitchen, barn or outhouse for some in-depth reading.

The Almanac's winter forecast for our area: Colder than normal, on average, with the coldest periods in late November, early December, early to mid-January, and mid- to late February. Precipitation and snowfall will be above average. The snowiest periods will be in late November, early to mid-January and February.

The National Weather Service, on the other hand, predicts normal temperatures in the St. Louis area during the winter. Precipitation is predicted to be normal during the winter, while increasing in March.

But the Farmer's Almanac also gives you more additional, useful information than just your run-of-the-mill weather forecast.

For example:

"Cows are being potty trained to go in designated areas to control

ammonia waste." That would be one, big outhouse (from which you could hang your Farmer's Almanac)!

St. Patrick's day is thought to be a good day to plant potatoes. The Almanac also says that if you plant cabbage before dawn in your "night clothes", the cabbage will prosper. It's less certain if the planter will prosper if neighbors observe them planting, especially depending on the night clothes worn.

"19% of U. S. adults have made financial decisions based on horoscopes." No doubt they will be betting on a "Taurus" stock market from April 20 to May 20.

An ad for Human Growth Hormone extolled its virtues, including: controlling mood swings, heightening of the five senses, removing wrinkles, and reversing baldness. I guess that explains why the Cardinals' Mark McGwire has such a good head of hair!

Trending: canine vests with metal spikes and Kevlar to prevent dogs from being carried away by coyotes or eagles. That shows the state of society, when our pets have to wear kevlar vests when they leave the house.

79% of people want to work "elsewhere", not office or home. Florida or Hawaii might qualify as "elsewhere" for many people.

Naturalist Pliny the Elder believed that kissing the nostrils of a mule would cure hay fever. I'm not sure if substituting a mule-headed person would work. If so, many a spouse will get kissed on the nose well before the mistletoe is hung!

Ad for "Lucky Gamblers' Mojo Bags":

"All bags are packed with secret power and super strong mojo roots to give you fast luck when playing any numbers game—bingo, lottery, races or casinos. Free!! Extra strong 'Money Drawing' brand perfume. Triple strength mojo bag, \$50.00." That's a bargain at twice the price!

"53% of people don't know how much is in their bank account because they are afraid to check." So they'll never know if that Nigerian prince who's trying to give away a million dollars has deposited it in their bank account!

"People are talking about canine treats that modify oral bacteria and combat bad breath with a minty smell for hours." Now if we could only get them to be more discriminating about what they're eating when they are out in the yard!

At any rate, George Carlin's Hippy-Dippy Weatherman gave a prediction long ago that is still accurate today:

The weather forecast for tonight is "Dark"!





Grow Native! Garden of Excellence



The Main Street Garden in St. Charles, MO was recently recognized by the Missouri Prairie Foundation's Native Gardens of Excellence program.

Our garden is listed on the website through the MPF's Grow Native! Gardens of Excellence. We are very proud of this accomplishment.

The garden is on a 4,000 sq foot lot in the heart of Historic St. Charles at 524 S. Main Street. Owners of the property contacted MDC in 2018 requesting assistance in transforming this empty lot into a native garden.

MDC contacted our MN Confluence Chapter, and work began on the garden in April 2018. A design plan, created by chapter member Tom Nagle, included a rain garden as well as paths that led throughout the gardens. Native plants were provided by the George O. White State Nursery.

The garden has become a partnership with St. Charles County Master Gardeners. A team of volunteers from both organizations conduct weekly workdays throughout the gardening season. Dedicated weekly volunteers include chapter members Frank Dvorak, Jean Harmon, and the project Leader Martha Hessler. In the fall members get together to create "Mother Nature".



This garden provides benefits not only to our local ecosystem and wildlife, but to the many visitors who

frequent the area. It is open to the public, inviting visitors with an arbor at the entrance, a free library cabinet and garden benches throughout.

Created in 2021, the Grow Native! Native Gardens of Excellence program features plantings of native plants in designed, well-maintained gardens and in other native landscape plantings in the lower Midwest. The gardens and landscape plantings selected and showcased in this program are not limited by size, scope, or professional involvement. Some have been designed by landscape architects or designers while others are informal, seeded landscapes, and some are professionally maintained while others are maintained by volunteers. The Grow Native! Native Gardens of Excellence are located in a variety of settings ranging from multi-acre plantings associated with commercial properties; formal, urban gardens; and even small community plots.

Visit the garden's page at:
[Main Street Garden - St. Charles, MO - Grow Native!](#)



Mother Nature





Climate Change



By MN Jerry Lindhorst

This article is the third in a series of articles about how our climate is dangerously changing. The explanation of why we must immediately act to stop the on-going devastation caused by our Earth warming and changing our climate is taken from collaborative research provided by scientists all over the world.

One beautiful Fall day while gardening recently in Babler State Park, I asked another Confluence member if she had read this series on our changing climate. "Yes," she quickly replied. When I asked what she thought about the first two articles, she replied seriously, "They scared me."

The following day I received an Associated Press article covering COP27, the United Nations Annual Climate Conference. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, warned world leaders to "cooperate or perish" singling out the two biggest polluting countries, *China and the United States*.

"The world is on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator," Guterres said.

In spite of this dire warning, the Earth continues to warm because we humans continue to burn fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas) to create energy, scientists have found [among other very important things].

It's difficult to stay positive about saving Mother Earth from continuing to warm at a faster rate than scientist initially predicted. However, if we do not do whatever we can, who else will step forward to protect what can be saved of our precious Earth?

Scientists point out that only 1% of the water on Earth is fresh water. Over the past 100 years, the world's continually increasing population is using and wasting more water. Increasing amounts of water are lost to evaporation from the pipes, rivers, and dams supplying homes and businesses.

Saving water is one way we can help!

Cautiously using the amount of water we need will help save the energy to collect, treat, and pump it. Not using as much water as many of us are used to can also help cut the amount of carbon dioxide released, which will help fight global warming. Together, we can make a difference by watching how much water we use.

Household waste:

Household appliances use hundreds of gallons of water each month--washing machine (22 gallons of water per load), dishwasher (11 gallons of water per load), bath (18 gallons per bath) and toilet (2 gallons per flush).

Suggestions on how we can save water daily:

Use short toilet flushes whenever possible.

Turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth or wiping your face.

Make sure the dishwasher is full before washing. You could also wash the dishes by hand once in a while.

Take a quick shower instead of a long bath.

Persimmon Seeds And Winter Weather Predictions

MN Connie Campbell

Have you heard the folklore about persimmon seeds predicting the winter weather? According to the story, when you crack open the seeds inside the small, soft fruit, you might see one of three shapes. If you see a knife, the winter is supposed to be cold with winds that cut like a knife. If you see a spoon, you will be shoveling a lot of snow during the coming winter. Lastly, if you spy a fork, you can look forward to a mild winter with possible powdery snow.

How accurate is this folklore? According to the internet, the Jefferson County, Missouri, Extension Office has studied this method for nearly two decades, checking local seeds in the fall and comparing the shapes with the winter that follows. The seeds have been accurate **more than 75%** of the time. Hmm...that is more accurate than the groundhog. The Missouri Department of Conservation calls the folklore fun, but **not necessarily accurate**.

After the fruit gets a bit soft, almost mushy, find the seed inside, carefully cut it open, and look at the shape of the kernel inside. Getting the seed out is not an easy task and takes persistence. **Pliers** were used at our house. The shape inside is actually the baby leaf that would become the first leaf of the tree if it were to be planted.





*Mary, Mary,
Quite Contrary
Oh, Yes! My Garden!*

MN Mary Meinhardt

As you can imagine, most of the garden has gone to sleep of its own accord and I have done very little, except to observe. We're heaping the fall-leaves in the many garden beds, and starting a little composting pile, which I understand you can actually work during the winter months by making your pile larger, up to six foot high, by using pumpkins and by making it in the sun and putting a black tarp over it!
<https://oldworldgardenfarms.com/2022/11/10/winter-composting/>

I'll do very little until Spring, but it will be difficult to stay out of the garden once green things start to pop up next spring. If you watch "Natives at Noon" you may have realized that a few natives will stay green all winter long.

Everything in my garden is dormant or going dormant. The only thing "blooming" now are the "Frost Flowers" grown from seed this past year from Leslie Limberg. Their official name is White Crownbeard (*Verbesina virginica*). Their cousins, Yellow Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) will also form such ice-flowers, and despite their dramatic stem splitting, they will be back next year.



Now that it's very cold, it's time to pull out the heated dog dishes to see if they still work. Add just a few bricks and you have a year-round bird bath that your feathered friends will love.

Now that everything is dormant, it is a great time to evaluate and plan for next year!

So here goes:

Situation: I was delighted with the native thistles, but both the tall thistles and the field thistles "fell over" before or while blooming. They were both in a little corner, and were no doubt seeking the sun. **Solution:** Next year, I will start a few in sunny places and see if that helps, or perhaps I'll cut the thistles early in May and see if they will still bloom, but not fall over.

Situation: The star coreopsis bloomed from spring until frost so I've got a lot more ordered and will try to put their bright yellow color all over the yard in both sun and shade.



Situation: The Plains Coreopsis and the Mexican Hat also bloomed all summer and I'm hoping they come back next year.

Situation: I didn't water the natives much but usually gave them a nice soaking after weeks without rain. Unfortunately, I underestimated the needs of the Jewel Weed, and an entire patch was decimated before the hummingbirds left. A few individual plants survived and I'm hoping that my patch has been adequately self-seeded. **Solution:** I'll be more alert next year and will try to water a bit more consistently, perhaps concentrating on developing an easier watering system so I don't have to pack hoses all over the place.

Situation: The Rose Verbena did well on the well draining hot hillside but the one with

landscape material died during the severe drought. **Solution:** I'll be ripping out the landscape material AND including the area in my "to be watered more" plan.

Situation: This year I completely forgot about the wonderful annuals that bring in the nectar loving butterflies. **Solution:** Starting in about February, I'll be starting a large variety of annuals—zinnias, tithonia, tall verbena, and probably Sweet William to keep the pollinators a little happier all through the season, and to add a bit of color to the yard. I've also added more native spring ephemerals and we won't be anxious to cut our dandelion, violet and clover pathways to allow the bees and bugs a nice early buffet.

Situation: I'm satisfied with my lantana patch that survived the first frost of the season and provided extra nectar for the additional two to three weeks until frosts became a nightly occurrence. **Solution:** I've dug up two of the annual lantana, and will try to over-winter them, but I often find it easier to just buy a few lantana plants in May.

Situation: I'm happy with the Poke-Weed Plants scattered throughout the yard. They provided flowers and fruit all season long and the birds still found fruit after the hard frost. **Solution:** I'll let the five or six Poke plants grow again next year, but will probably pull any additional seedlings or will transplant them to an area that hardly grows anything to see if it will grow there.

Situation: I retrieved about 15 passion fruit in my backyard. (Last year, I had 30 fruit) and now need to decide what to do with them. **Solution:** Last year I cut them in fourths and boiled them in a pan of water for about 1/2 hour before running the entire thing through a blender and then de-seeding. This year, I am considering discarding the outer shell before proceeding. The fruit is really tart, but a bit of Truvia fixes that. (I'll probably freeze the juice in ice cubes trays and use in my alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks.)

Situation: I chopped off the tall cup plant early in the year to decrease its height and to scatter out the two week bloom time. Just for "insurance sake", I left some uncut plants up against a wall. **Solution:** The plan worked well and I had shorter and later blooming cup plants staggered in front of taller plants in the back. I'll be sure to do that again!

Situation: I also chopped some first year Sneezeweed and left only two plants uncropped. I was so disappointed to find that none of the cut plants even developed a bud. I didn't record the exact date of my chopping (which matters a lot) so I'm not sure if it was too late in the season, or if the extreme drought and heat affected their non-growth. I did notice that the plants came out with new growth as soon as the temperatures dropped into the 80 degree level.

Solution: I'll still plan to cut some of the Sneezeweed, but will be sure to cut only once and to cut before Mother's Day, and only about 1/2 of the plants. I'll try to water more—but I really think that the high temperatures also affected the blooms. (Note: The Natives at Noon people also noted similar results with their first year plants.)

Situation: I'm really pleased with all the fruiting shrubs I have in the yard and the birds have benefited tremendously. After their spring and summer buffet of gooseberries, service berries, mulberries, then elderberries and hackberries, they have now progressed through chokeberries, chokecherries and beauty berries to crabapples. Winterberry, holly and deciduous holly still await. Unfortunately, my three dogwood trees do not usually bear enough fruit to satisfy anybody. **Solution:** I hope to supplement my meager few Smooth Sumac with a planting of 10 saplings in the spring (from MDC), along with Aromatic Sumac, BlackHaw and more

Deciduous Holly, most of which are dioecious, needing both male and female plants for fruit. My two Northern Bayberry plants turned out to be male, so now I am hoping to nurture a very young female plant to eventually produce berries for the birds. As it turns out, both of my Prairie Willows are male and won't be producing fruit either until I can secure a female or two. I added also to my Spicebush collection because it, too, was male. (You can be sure that I will be making a trip to Forrest Keeling about the time the Willows bloom!)



Perhaps you will also soon be in the mood to evaluate your own yard and garden? If so, here are some questions to ask yourself:

- ☞ Which plants did well, and deserve more of a presence in your garden?
- ☞ Which plants did poorly and might need to be moved to a better place?
- ☞ Which plants provide wonderful shelter, food, or nesting areas?
- ☞ Do you have a continuous bird and pollinator source of food throughout the spring, summer, fall and winter?
- ☞ Do you have an accessible source of water all through the year, for our birds and bees and other creatures?
- ☞ Do you have evergreen trees, woodpiles or brush piles that would protect birds and animals during the cold and windy parts of the coming winter?
- ☞ Do you leave the leaves and stumps and old branches?
- ☞ What else could you do to appeal to and support wildlife?

Work,
through the summer golden,
And through the autumn's glow,
Till the months lay down their burden
In the full garden's guerdon,
And earth, once more enfolden,
Sleeps warm beneath the snow.



~Frederick Frye Rockwell,
"Invitation,"
Around the Year in the Garden, 1913





Seedling Planting Project

Confluence MMN volunteers, led by Alberta McGilligan potted approximately 800 seedlings started by Diane Donovan that will be available for schools, projects and perhaps plant sales. This was done in 2 separate days.



November At the Nature Explore Classroom

The five Confluence members who agreed in mid-September to lead a group at a November 9 field trip had no idea in what the weather would be on November 9. It turned out to be a beautiful autumn morning with the temperature nearing 80 degrees before we left. We were even able to view red eared sliders basking on the logs in the pond! That is always a highlight for young children when visiting the Nature Explore Classroom.

Beth Zona and Alison Robbins directed the second graders from a Wentzville School through an Alphabet Scavenger Hunt. Jeanice Kaiser can always amaze the students with stories behind the rocks that she brings. Also, as one student told me, Jeanice had on a great shirt!

Alberta McGilligan led her group of children around the nature area looking for signs of autumn while enriching and reinforcing what they knew about how plants and animals get ready for cold weather.

Connie Campbell tried to remember and share what our reptile expert, Steve Tesson, told us about snakes and turtles. Connie was able to get an exclamation of surprise, disgust, or approval from the children when she explained the turtles' brumation!

Thank you to all volunteers for sharing your love and knowledge of nature with these 8 year olds! We are looking forward to more field trips to



the NEC in the Spring of 2023. Think about joining us!





CWD Sampling Weekend

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Sampling is Mandatory in specific counties where or near to where the disease has previously been detected. Although no infections have been detected in Chariton County, MO, it has been noted in the nearby counties of Linn and Macon.

Since MN Mary Meinhardt grew up in the area, she stayed with her sister and volunteered to help during the 13 and 1/2 hour days of the sampling through the Missouri Department of Conservation on November 12 and 13—Opening Weekend of gun hunting season.

These photos were taken at the MO DOT (Missouri Department of Transportation) facility in Keytesville, MO. Both days were cold, but Saturday, November 12 included a brutal arctic wind that chilled volunteers and hunters alike.



A Proud Hunter



Mary Meinhardt bundled up against the cold.

MN Mary bundled up against the cold.



Sampling Lanes where the lymph nodes are removed

Genius, Insanity, or RP to PP You Decide

(1)

FOX 2 News reports that an agency charged with conserving groundwater in arid western Kansas plans to truck thousands of gallons of water from the Missouri River nearly 400 miles almost to the Colorado border.

Half of the 6,000 gallons drawn from the river will be poured onto a property in Wichita County. The other half will be taken into Colorado.

Groundwater Management District 3, in southwestern Kansas, received a permit from state water authorities for the project, which is expected to cost the district \$7,000.

There are several different opinions about this matter. Read the entire article at [Officials plan to truck 6,000 gallons of water from Missouri River across Kansas | FOX 2 \(fox2now.com\)](https://www.fox2now.com).

(2)



Moving Water Where it's Needed in the Mississippi River Valley

ARS (USDA) is pioneering a way to potentially transfer water from the Mississippi River Basin into aquifers, through a technology known as Managed Aquifer Recharge. Watch the video to learn more at [Tellus | | USDA-ARS](https://www.tellus.usda.gov)

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in U.S. agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.

(3)

RP to PP

As you read the articles or watch the video you will probably form your own opinion.

Two things come to (my) mind:

(1)—What happened to conservation?



(2)—I (Carmen) believe this is, among other things, RP to PP ("Robbing Paul to Pay Peter"; or is it "Robbing Peter to pay Paul", I forget.)





From Our Members



MN Sandy Oilfield found this Copperhead on the hiking path at Quail Ridge while looking for turtles sunbathing in the lake.

Eastern Copperhead *Agkistrodon contortrix*

The eastern copperhead is the most common venomous snake in Missouri. Its color varies from grayish brown to pinkish tan, with distinctive hourglass-shaped crossbands.

The eastern copperhead has distinctive, dark brown, hourglass-shaped markings, overlaid on a light reddish brown or brown/gray background. The body type is heavy, rather than slender. Neonates are born with

green or yellow tail tips, which progress to a darker brown or black within one year. Adults grow to a typical length (including tail) of 50–95 cm (20–37 in).

In most of North America, it favors deciduous forest and mixed woodlands. It may occupy rock outcroppings and ledges, but is also found in low-lying, swampy regions. During the winter, it hibernates in dens or limestone crevices, often together with timber rattlesnakes and black rat snakes. The eastern copperhead is known to feed on a wide variety of prey, including invertebrates (primarily arthropods) and vertebrates.

Like most pit vipers, the eastern copperhead is generally an ambush predator; it takes up a promising position and waits for suitable prey to arrive.

As a common species within its range, it may be encountered by humans. Unlike other viperids, it often "freezes" instead of slithering away, due to its habit of relying on excellent camouflage, rather than fleeing. Bites occur due to people unknowingly stepping on or near them.

This species is classified as least concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (v3.1, 2001). This means that relative to many other species, it is not at risk of extinction in the

near future. The population trend was stable when assessed in 2007.

Although venomous, eastern copperheads are generally not aggressive and bites are rarely fatal. Copperhead venom has an estimated lethal dose around 100 mg, and tests on mice show its potency is among the lowest of all pit vipers, and slightly weaker than that of its close relative, the cottonmouth. Copperheads often employ a "warning bite" when stepped on or agitated and inject a relatively small amount of venom, if any at all. "Dry bites" involving no venom are particularly common with the copperhead, though all pit vipers are capable of a dry bite. Pit vipers that are dead are still dangerous and capable of producing venom in amounts that necessitate the use of antivenom.

Bite symptoms include extreme pain, tingling, throbbing, swelling, and severe nausea. Damage can occur to muscle and bone tissue, especially when the bite occurs in the outer extremities such as the hands and feet, areas in which a large muscle mass is not available to absorb the venom. A bite from any venomous snake should be taken very seriously and immediate medical attention sought, as an allergic reaction and secondary infection are always possible.

The venom of the southern copperhead has been found to hold a protein called "contortrostatin" that halts the growth of cancer cells in mice and also stops the migration of the tumors to other sites. However, this is an animal model, and further testing is required to verify safety and efficacy in humans.

References:
Eastern copperhead : Wikipedia ; MDC



O'Fallon Rain and Wildflowers Garden Project
Painted Ladies on Iron Weed

Photos by
MN Elaine Browning





Master Naturalists in Action

Stream Team

MN Joanne Keay

At Bonhomme Creek the team did a portion of the biological monitoring of the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) task. After collecting macroinvertebrates from the stream by using a kick net, we place the net on the rack and use tweezers to gently pick up the different macroinvertebrates and put them into ice cube trays filled with water. This makes it possible to identify and count them. The macroinvertebrates have different point values, depending on what they are, and how sensitive they are to pollution. Macros that only live in cleaner water have a higher point value than the macros that are more tolerant to pollution. The rating system helps you determine how healthy the stream is. After counting and recording what you have found the information is sent to the office of Stream Team Coordinator/Water Protection Program, at the DNR. They collect this information from Stream Teams from all over the state to determine the health of Missouri Streams.



"Reptiles and Amphibians"

Presentation at the Tri-Chapter Field Day.
By MN Steve Tesson, Confluence Chapter



Great presentation with several different reptiles and amphibians!
Thank you, Steve!





Bringing History to Life

The Historic Boone Home is nestled upon the rolling hills of wine country and overlooks the Femme Osage Valley. This beautiful setting represents life in the early 1800s and brings the legacy of Daniel Boone to life. Within the thick limestone walls, stories of a daring man offer a glimpse into family matters, risky adventures and hard-fought battles.

Volunteer MMN assisted this year, with Holiday decorations for the Historic Daniel Boone Village.



Jo Ann Shew, Jean Harmon, Martha Hessler.



With fall here, how can we not look at our world of trees and sense it's life.

Some humans may talk to trees, some may be tree huggers. This poem may give us an opportunity to try.

Thus, the poem, *Breath* by J. Daniel Beaudry.

MN Jo Ann Shew

Breath

*Tree, gather up my thoughts
like the clouds in your branches.*

*Draw up my soul
like the waters in your root.*

*In the arteries of your trunk
bring me together.*

*Through your leaves
breathe out the sky.*

J. Daniel Beaudry



J. Daniel Beaudry received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York. While there, his studies focused, respectively, on medieval literature and the then-newly emerging field of eco-poetics.

Daniel's poetry has been published in *Frogpond*, *Acorn*, *Nature in Legend and Story*, and world-renowned canopy biologist Dr. Nalini Nadkarni's book, *Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees*. Recently, he was honored to be inducted as a trustee of The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society and to facilitate their workshop for new and emerging poets at Steepletop in Austerlitz, N.Y. In the summer of 2009, Daniel also took up a deeper exploration of one of the paradigms he encountered while doing research in eco-poetics by beginning the process of becoming a Buddhist priest at the Tendai Buddhist Institute in Canaan, N.Y.-the only temple outside of Japan authorized to ordain new Tendai priests.

He is New York State certified as a high school English educator and is currently a lecturer in the English Department at The College of Saint Rose. E-mail: beaudryjd@mac.com





Master Naturalists in Action

MN Frank Dvorak took many photos at Forest ReLeaf today of the crew moving trees to winter storage in the hoop house. A good example of real action taking place. Thank you, Frank!



TREES
MAKE
THE BEST
NEIGHBORS





Thank You!



- ⌘ Thanks go out to our Chapter officers and project leaders who gave us another successful year, supporting and advancing our chapter mission of engaging Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service.
- ⌘ Thanks to all our members carrying out this mission by volunteering their time, creativity, wisdom and energy to our many and diverse projects.
- ⌘ Thanks to those generous folks who brought much appreciated snacks to our monthly meetings!
- ⌘ Thanks to the Advanced Training Committee for all the wonderful speakers and programs you gave us throughout the year.
- ⌘ Thanks to all the contributors to the Newsletter who wrote informative articles, shared thoughts, opinions, ideas, photographs, and reported on our Chapter's events



*So many friendly things are done
In this good world
'twixt sun and sun
That, do our kindest day by day,
We cannot half our debt repay.*

~Oliver Marble Gale (1876-1943)

Something that has always puzzled me all my life is why, when I am in special need of help, the good deed is usually done by somebody on whom I have no claim.

William Feather, *The Business of Life*, 1949
William A. Feather was an American publisher and writer.

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, Leslie Limberg, Elaine Browning, and Mary Meinhardt



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 Seeding—Phil Rahn—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 Tesson
- 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/>