



From
Our President

My heart lifts with joy as I see and hear of the participation and accomplishments in activities by our Chapter Naturalists. There are so many opportunities that are offered and all efforts are rewarding.

With each opportunity that I participate in, the more I see and learn. I enjoy interacting with others at events. I also like the occasional solitude for reflection while participating in other events.

I participated in planting trees at the Lincoln Shields Recreation Area. I was one of two volunteers working alongside several Corp of Engineer biologists planting over 100 indigenous trees. They now know me as I them (the biologists).



While working, a small flock of white pelicans circled above checking out what we were doing (thank goodness that they didn't leave arial presents). Do you know why this planting was significant? In a hundred years after I'm gone and forgotten, my naturalist legacy lives on. Animals will utilize those trees through food and shelter. People will picnic in the trees' shade and all it cost me was a few hours of my time and some fuel to get me there and back.

We Naturalists are making differences.

I'm sharing these words because sometimes in my active life, I wonder if it is worth it. The obvious, reflective conclusion is yes.

Enjoy reading the other parts of this newsletter and I'll see you at the June social meeting at Broemmlesiek Park.

Stephen

Stephen Baldwin
President, Confluence Chapter

It is difficult to realize how great a part of all that is cheerful and delightful in the recollections of our life is associated with trees.

They are allied with the songs of morn, with the quiet of noonday, with social gatherings under the evening sky, and with the beauty and attractiveness of every season. Nowhere does nature look more lovely, or the sounds from birds and insects affect us more deeply, than under their benevolent shade.

Never does the blue sky look more serene than when its dappled azure glimmers through their green trembling leaves. Their recesses... are still the favorite resorts of the studious... and the very sanctuary of peaceful seclusion for the contemplative and sorrowful.



Wilson Flagg, "Relations of Trees to Poetry and Fable," The Woods and By-Ways of New England, 1872

2023 MN Certification Pin

American
Burying Beetle





UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Chapter's Picnic is June 13, 2023 at Brommelsieck Park's visitors center.

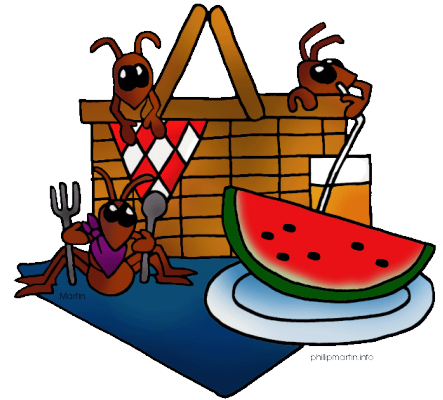
If you are coming, please let Alison (pjmom60@gmail.com) know by Sunday, June 11, 2023.

The chapter is asking everyone to bring something to the potluck dinner, but it's not a requirement to come. We will also have some water and tea, but if you want another

choice of beverage, you will need to bring that. Alcohol is allowed.

If you aren't sure where Brommelsieck Park is, it is off Highway DD in St. Charles County. Once you have entered the park off Highway DD, there is a right turn that will take you up to the visitor's center. We should have plenty of seating available, some of which will be in the air conditioning!!!!

MN Alison Robbins
pjmom60@gmail.com)



A Sunny Spring Sunday it was for us

all— traipsing through the Oak-Hickory woods at Matson Hill - Hays in Defiance.

Who/What is Hays? Daniel Boone's grandson? They built the house together.

We monitored the four vernal pools our chapter constructed in 2007-8 in the same woods of Missouri champion Walnuts and Burr Oaks.

We hiked through Winter-burned woods freshly sprouted with magical flowers like Hairy Petunia, 4-leaved Milkweed, and Golden Alexander. Stunning!

We were WILD, as Steve (Teson) brought his wild child daughter to monitor salamanders alongside Jean & Leslie.

No less than 20 native flowers & trees were identified. It was a lush Garden of Eden.

Finally we found vernal pool #2 dodging Spring overgrowth like wild rose thorns and Vining Honeysuckle. Yikes!



Not a lot was found that day.

*If there is magic on this planet,
it is contained in water.*

~Loren Eiseley

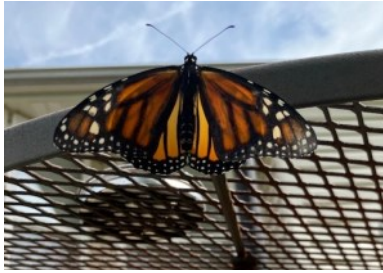




A few small treasures and wonders found in my small yard:

Chrysalis for Blue Swallowtail, also called Spice Bush Swallowtail, Praying Mantis Case, and Monarch Butterfly

MN Joann Shew



A spring Monarch I raised from larvae. I did not want the aphids on my milk weed to eat the tiny caterpillar, so I put the larvae in an enclosed area and released it after coming out of its chrysalis in May.

This Mantis Egg Sac was found in my yard early April on a Fir bush. Originally I thought it was a glob of dirt or part of a small mushroom but realized it was a sac



The two most common species found in the area are the Chinese mantis (*Tenodera aridifolia sinensis*) and the Carolina mantis (*Stagmomantis carolina*).

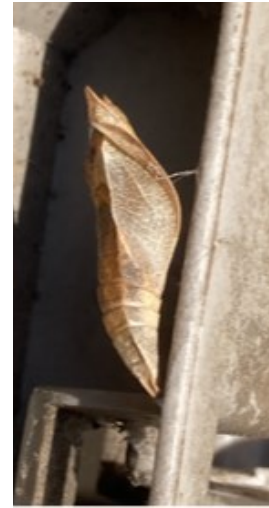
Chinese mantises are larger than the Carolina mantis, growing up to 5 inches in length. They are normally tan to pale brown, with some green or yellow striping.

Carolina mantises come in a variety of colors (green, grey, and brown) and patterns, growing up to 2½ inches.

I found this next Chrysalis for Blue Swallow tail, also called Spice Bush Swallowtail on the lid of my outdoor garden tool box.

The chrysalides may be brown or green, but overwintering chrysalides are always brown. Several generations occur each year. Spicebush swallowtail caterpillars resemble tiny green snakes or tree frog

The Chrysalis has two anterior horns and is suspended from a twig or object by a narrow silk band.



Hours Old Backyard Birth

MN Leslie Limberg



Update:

Mother & baby have moved on from my backyard. The baby slept for a week in the backyard brush (good advertisement for a more informal "nature-oriented" space!).. Lots of hiding places for a fawn and for rabbits as well ...

Much of the lawn is not mowed and has been returned to wild flowers, stump garden & water retention.



You must not know too much, or be too precise or scientific about birds and trees and flowers and water-craft; a certain free margin, and even vagueness—perhaps ignorance, credulity—helps your enjoyment of these things, and of the sentiment of feather'd, wooded, river, or marine Nature generally.



~Walt Whitman, "Birds—And a Caution,"
Specimen Days





Down at the Creek



By MN Steve McCarthy

“The edge of the sea is a strange and beautiful place.”

Rachel Carson

Living in a landlocked locale, I've always loved going down to the creek. Even as a child, I often gravitated to it as a fascinating place out of our parents' gaze. It was mysterious, and a little scary after a strong rain. My mother usually knew I had been down there, though, because I often developed a good case of poison ivy after a couple of days.

I had read about Stream Teams in the Missouri Conservationist. I decided that I would try to start getting involved in Stream Team when I neared retirement and had more time.

In early 2014 I signed up for the initial Stream Team class and got my wife, Jane, to also sign up. We went down to Jackson, MO near Cape Girardeau for the class, since we were going out of town when the classes in the St. Louis area were scheduled.

What I remember most about the class was the large number of insect larvae that could be present in a stream, and that we would have to learn to recognize them. Black flies are shaped like bowling pins. Caddis flies lie in a "C" configuration. Stoneflies have hairy armpits.

After we got through the class, I wasn't sure what to do next, to get some practical experience. Fortunately the Confluence chapter had a Stream Team for Femme Osage creek, led by the incomparable Cliff Parmer. Cliff gave me and other neophytes experience in measuring stream flow, where and how to set nets in the stream to catch larvae, and how to identify them.

After having started my own Stream Team, we met at one of my sites on Creve Coeur Creek, which feeds Creve Coeur Lake, in St. Louis County's most visited park.

The group included my wife Jane, as well as Master Naturalists/

Stream Teamers Ann Early, Bob Siemer and Bob Virag. I had done the site several times before, so I knew what bugs would normally be found there. When we checked the creek, though, there were essentially no bugs there. Also, there was usually lots of algae on the stream bed, but this time there was none. And the pH was higher than normal.

Searching for an explanation, after some checking we determined that Missouri American Water, which has a treatment plant nearby, was running what was essentially "tap" water into the creek through an open hydrant. And it was gushing into the creek at a very fast rate. After several phone calls were made to Missouri American, the hydrant was closed.

The tap water had killed the bugs and algae at the site. It also raised the pH, a telltale sign Tap water has a high pH, around 10.0, while natural water at the site was usually around 8.0. But in this instance, the pH was 8.4, a level which I had never before found at that site. I later read that tap water incursion into streams is a common cause of fish kills.

I've met some interesting people while doing Stream Team. One of my sites is at the end of Creve Coeur Lake. A train trestle crosses just downstream of the site. One time a man came there because he "followed the train", which came by around 3 PM every day. He gave me a complete rundown of where the train originated, its destination, what it carried, and who owned the track. Amtrak could use a guy like that!

On another occasion at the same site, two teenage boys came down and wanted to suspend hammocks from the wooden supports of the train trestle, several feet in the air. I mentioned to them that it wasn't a very wise idea, but they continued unabated.

I anticipated a chorus of "Okay, Boomer!" if I persisted. Fortunately, a park ranger came by and made them get down.

I recently found a still intact, very old coke bottle washed up on the streambank at that same site. Its patent number indicated that it was made between 1938—1951! That was back when things were made to last. On another occasion, at another site below a highway overpass, I found a heavy duty block and tackle, still in good condition!

People who are walking, fishing or kayaking nearby always want to know what you're doing. Sometimes I say, "panning for gold", or "looking for

pearls inside the mussels". No, I don't really say that, but have often thought about it.

When I explain that I am doing some tests for water quality, it is reassuring to know that people are almost always supportive of the idea. Many of them say thanks for checking the water quality.

Well, not everyone is supportive. Once, after pulling some samples from Deer Creek, Stacy Arnold of MOBOT and I returned to our cars to find the police waiting for us. One of the people living along the street had spotted our cars and reported that they looked "suspicious". I must admit that I look suspicious by nature, although Stacy is the opposite of "suspicious looking." On average, the two of us are only mildly suspicious-looking together!

The second question I get from people at Stream Team sites is usually, "How's the water quality?" I usually say it's fair for a suburban stream, considering all the fertilizer, pesticides, pets doing what comes naturally, and winter road salt going into the ground water.

So if you don't mind getting your hands dirty and your feet wet, or if you want to pan for gold, look for pearls in mussels, or find 70 year old coke bottles, get down to the creek.



There you can experience a "strange and beautiful place".





Competition for ???

Who has the messiest or most loaded car for a Missouri Naturalist—Leslie Limberg or Mary Meinhardt?

Mary thinks she is the winner.



What Say You?

Native Plant Seedling Project Report

In August of last year Diane Donovan, an honorary member of our chapter, started seedlings of many native plants for our use on projects.

In late September a group of about 15 chapter members met at my house to pot the seedlings into 3" pots to winter over for use in our projects at spring planting time. I kept them at my house and tried to fight off the chipmunks who were delighted to have so many new places to dig.

Tom Nagle and his crew were busy constructing the greenhouses at the St Charles Extension Center that we planned to use to winter the plants over to spring. By late fall we were able to caravan about 600 seedlings in pots to the greenhouse. Several members took on the task of watching over and watering them during the winter. This was a lot of work because the water had to be carried in watering cans.

Jane Porter became my hero by checking/watering them each weekend with backups as needed from a couple of others. When wind damaged the greenhouses in the early spring Jane took all the pots of plants to her yard and continued to mother them. A few weeks ago we decided they were big enough to find new homes. We

had some loss both at my house to chipmunks and some that did not come out of dormancy in the spring but ended up with several hundred plants to distribute. Some went to Frank Dvorak's project in O'Fallon, some to Martha Hessler's St Charles Main Street Garden, some to my Babbler project and a couple to Nancy Newcomer's Rockwood project.

Amanda Templer has been working on a Beyond Housing project. She took all the remaining plants for that project. Beyond Housing Forestry Division is working on a project to improve the aesthetics of their maintenance facility and showcase for the community the importance and benefits of native plants. This will help create buy-in for the restoration project of vacant lots in the Normandy School District."

So all in all a good beneficial project. Many thanks to all who made it possible.

MN Alberta McGilligan
Project Lead



24:1 COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

MN Amanda Templer



Amanda

A huge thank you from Beyond Housing's Forestry and Community Conservation Department to all of those who donated plants for our project to improve the aesthetics of

our maintenance facility. This project will showcase for the community the importance and benefits of native plants in the environment. This will also help us create buy-in for our restoration project of vacant lots in the Normandy School District.

Together, the team planted, mulched and watered in 117 plants (black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, blue star, rattlesnake master, primrose, and goldenrod to name a few) in the 2505 Kienlen Avenue island strips.

We are excited to watch the grow-in process and will be able to use it as an educational tool for our new native techni-

cians and for plant identification as well. Thanks to your generous donations, we have enough plants to utilize in a second project at one of the 24:1 Community cemeteries. For more information, visit www.beyondhousing.org or www.our241.com/trees

(Photo credit, Amanda Templer. From back to front - Doug Seely, Director of Forestry & Community Conservation, Joe Oelke, Native Stewardship Lead, and Jack McDonnell, Assistant Forester.)



Bluebird Production In Full Swing This Spring

MN Amanda Templer

Our bluebird friends have been hard at work this spring. On the 13th of April, Broemmelsiek Park had seven of their 17 boxes claimed - five bluebird nests with five eggs each and one bluebird nest with an amazing seven eggs!

MN monitors, Amanda, Nicole, Leslie and Kelly are truly excited, as many have never seen six eggs in one nest, let alone seven. This is also a remarkable discovery due to timing. Our first bluebird egg was discovered on March 30. These birds are about 5 days earlier than last year, and almost two weeks earlier than the 2021 season. The seventh box was claimed by a black-capped chickadee nest with five eggs. We are having a very productive year with about 40 bluebird fledges already three weeks into May.

(Photo credit, MN Kelly Smith)





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

MN Mary Meinhardt

*What a busy time for Gardeners!
Even if you garden for the birds,
there's lots to do!*

- Plant natives that you ordered last year!

Yes—I pre-ordered “plugs” in October for delivery in mid-May—probably close to 200 plants: spider, common, and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*, *A. syriaca*, *A. incarnate*) for the butterflies, star tickseed (“*Coreopsis pubescens*” and lance-leaf coreopsis (“*Coreopsis lanceolata*”) for a summer-long pop of color in sun and shade; orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) for an adaptable bit of fall color with Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*) and Wild Ageratum or Mist Flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) for a bit of blue.

I’ve also had occasion to look at keystone plants—those 14 % of natives that do 95% of the work in supporting insects which support the birds. Cliff Goldenrod (*Solidago drummondii*) and Curly Top Ironweed (*Vernonia arkansana*) are fall bloomers that support lots and lots of insects and that will be added to my already full gardens.

- Edit the Plants that have gone crazy.

Even though goldenrod is a super keystone plant, it doesn’t take much for the tall Canadian Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) to get out of hand. It’s everywhere, so you can bet many will get pulled during late spring clean up if they have not stayed in their designated area.

And who knew the delicate little Canadian Anemone (*Anemonastrum canadense*)

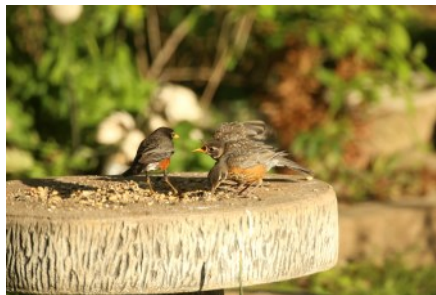


could also “take over”. **WARN-**

ING: If including this little delight in your garden , set firm boundaries for it first. A curb or steel border will likely stop it since it spreads by underground stolons.

- And above all watch the birds and monitor the bird migration.

The hummingbirds must have run into storms or cold weather or obstacles in finding their way to my St. Peters’ backyard. Finally on May 9, we saw a hummer at the back door and on May 11, two females seemed to be defending the roses—not for the nectar, but for the spider webs or insects. Every spring I wonder where they are, but my guess is that they’re finding nectar in early blooming trees and plants, and don’t really need to depend on my feeders.



We’ve had a variety of spring migrants and I always hope they’ll make their home with us for the summer. Lately we’ve seen the Rose- Breasted Grosbeak family and the Orchard Oriole family. The Indigo Bunting and the Eastern Towhee have also visited, but I have not been able to capture their photos. We’ve seen the female Northern Oriole but did not get a photo of her brightly colored mate.

- And What About All those “babies in the yard?”

We were thoroughly entertained for two days while the fledgling baby robins learned to pick up food from the ground.

Shortly after that, Saturday, May 6, was FLEDGE DAY for the baby blue birds. We knew early on that it would be the day since both parents cleared the entire area of woodpecker, blue jays and squirrels. The second clue was that the babies popped up and down , try-

ing to look out the hole.

We didn’t get a photo of #1 baby fledging at 10:19 a.m. He flew to safety high in the Sweet Gum tree. Fledgling #2 got poked



from behind because he was taking more than seven minutes to take the big leap. He fluttered to the ground in front of the bird house. Fledgling #3, who did the poking, popped out of the house exactly two minutes later at 12:43 p.m. and landed on the trunk of the Sweet Gum, finding its way eventually to a sturdy branch. I was a bit concerned that fledgling #4 had no sibling to stand on, so I straightened the house up just a little so the bird could more easily get to the window. It fledged without incident at 1:41 pm.

The parents have been busy feeding our mealworms to the new babies. We typically don’t get to see the little ones for a few weeks until they again appear in our yard for an introduction to water and how to use the feeders.”

Brood #2 will start soon. Mama blue bird checked on the house on Thursday, May 11 at 9:20 a.m. ... just five days after FLEDGE DAY. When she does begin sitting, in another week or two, Papa will be in charge of Brood #1.





ON BEES



This is the face of a female *Anthidium maculifrons* bee. It is known to occur on every continent except Australia and the Indo-Malayan tropical region.

Whether you like them or not ARS scientists need your help in monitoring and protecting our important pollinators.

Check out the [Exotic Bee ID website](#) to help you identify that bee in your garden. USDA

MORE:

The **Exotic Bee ID Website:** Delivering Spectacular Portraits and Details of Some of the World's Bees

The Exotic Bee ID website, designed and developed as a screening aid to support identification of non-native bees, offers spectacular views of some of our most important and not so important pollinators with stunning clarity. [Watch our video](#) to learn more about this new tool. USDA



Melissodes communis is a solitary bee known as the common long-horned bee. The genus *Melissodes* consists of five species, with *Melissodes communis* being the most widely distributed species of the genus. This bee is found across North and Central America and can be identified by its extending long antennae (**Figure**). The common long-horned bee is a frequent pollinator of wildflowers throughout the United States.

[Melissodes communis \(ufl.edu\)](#)

Book Review

MN Mary Meinhardt

A Different Perspective:

WE are the ARK

Mary Reynolds, Timber Press
Portland, Oregon, 2022

Returning Our Gardens to Their True Nature Through Acts of Restorative Kindness

Let's Start at the END with the Conclusion: Living in Harmony ,Page 253

"We have been living under a spell of our own making. Our imagination, thoughts, emotions, and focus make up our vision, and our vision creates our future lives. Right now the only visions of the future we are presented with through the media are dystopian images of a dead or dying planet. It's time to imagine or build a beautiful, gentle future . A new vision that allows us to have a future. A sense of com-

munity, abundance, and peace. A future where we all strive together to support the earth and her life forms to live in health, so that we may continue to live here among them." (p. 256)

"Positive imaginings with strong feelings of joy and gratitude attached to them are much more powerful than those heart breaking visions of a future of extinction and broken dreams .

A gentle approach to life is needed. One where everything is slower, where life has meaning and richness again. Where our neighbors are our support, our communities are our strength, and a simple life becomes one worth living. Where locally grown organic, regenerative and resilient food systems allow us to step out of a system based on terrible cruelty toward sentient beings and let us give vast amounts of land back to nature so she can restore her health and grant us a future". (p. 257)

"We are weaving ourselves an ARK.

An Act of Restorative Kindness to the earth". (p. 257)

[We Are the ARK: Returning Our Gardens to Their True Nature Through Acts of Restorative Kindness: Reynolds, Mary, Evans, Ruth: 9781643261782: Amazon.com: Books](#)

"Reynolds gives us a much-needed reason for hope. The gardener, the conservationist, the city planner, and the nature lover will all be inspired for this wonderful book shows how thousands of even small wildlife friendly gardens can provide habitat for embattled wildlife around the world." —Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace



WHEN THE WINDS OF CHANGE BLOW,
SOME PEOPLE BUILD WALLS AND OTHERS BUILD WINDMILLS.

~CHINESE PROVERB





First State Capitol Children's Festival

MN Leslie Limberg



Well, at last count we planted seeds with over 400 kids at First State Capitol's Children's Festival.

Doting parents hovered and were pleased as punch, watching toddlers and school kids learn from Master Naturalists. We talked about seeds, germination, sun, rain, soil, and growing food from window sills to backyard gardens. Our own grade school teacher Connie Campbell recruited MMNs Martha, Emily, Lloyd, Leslie and Sue to show kids the A-Z of growing green beans & flowers for take home... a wild time in perfect spring friendly weather!

Amongst us were baby farm animals, home died yarns, weaving to make extraordinary clothes, beekeepers and ancient Missouri rocks. And lots of old fashion wood working & fire burned crafts.



What a clean day with down-home honest country folks. We naturalists fit right in.

NATURE EXPLORE CLASSROOM

By MN Connie Campbell

We have had a very busy spring at the Nature Explore Classroom at Towne Park and have helped 890 children and about 120 adult chaperones learn more about nature.

Many of our Confluence members built the classroom in 2011 and 2012, with the help of the St. Charles County (SCC) Parks. A person at the SCC Parks department, who is the liaison between schools and us, sets up all the field trips during the year. He capped the number of the Spring field trips at 15, and I expect all the program leaders are happy with that.

We had those 15 groups come to Towne Park during the mornings from April 17 to May 23. We have led sessions about pollinators, water "bugs", MO mammals, fishing, turtle activity and lives, plants, geology, and birds.

Extra kudos go to Jeanice Kaiser, Leslie Limberg, and Amanda Templar for volunteering so many mornings! Other fantastic volunteers include Donna Bourisaw, Beth Zona, Aina Ferris, Alison Robbins, Glenn Bish, Sandy Oldfield, Alberta McGilligan, Gary Schneider, Tom Holt, and me. What a great group of knowledgeable and friendly volunteers!

One of the missions of the Master Naturalists is to help the public be more aware of nature and to immerse themselves in nature. These mornings at the Nature Explore Classroom have accomplished exactly that in an interesting and fun way for the children. We can always use more help. Think about joining this group of fun-loving volunteers!



Nature Explore Classroom Needs Help!

You can help the children and volunteers at the NEC in an easy way! In the past Paul Crombie, Leslie Limberg, and others have collected and gathered items for us to show during our sessions with the children. We have been given turtle shells, snake skins, feathers, bird nests and eggs, dead insects, unique seeds and plants, animal bones and skulls, rocks, fossils, and even fur pelts.

The children have so enjoyed seeing and hearing about all these items. Most of the volunteers have collected their own show and tell items. Over the years, these items have broken, disintegrated, been lost, or otherwise become less valuable to us.

Could you make a mental note to collect "show and tell" items for us when you are out in nature this summer? Bring them to the monthly chapter meetings or contact Connie Campbell for a meet-up place and time. Thank you!





From Our Members

Coral Honeysuckle-
just in time for
Hummers ...
MN Karen Sue
Stevens



Meramec
Valley
Bluebells!
MN Nancy
Anderson



He is back!!! The owl
at MN Sandy Olfield
sister's home in St
Louis City loves vis-
iting. Other birds
are never happy
when he arrives.
Sleeps several hours
during the day &
leaves around dusk.

Robin
perched on
top of the
pillar on the
front porch



MN Elaine
Browning

Master Naturalists in Action

MN Stephen Baldwin

The two Missouri Master Naturalists' greenhouses had extensive damage from two different 50+ mph wind storms. On Tuesday, April 12, a MN team effected stabilization to one of them and will rebuild the south greenhouse in the near future.

Photo of Lloyd Alinder and Tom Nagle. Not pictured are Gary Waters and Stephen Baldwin.



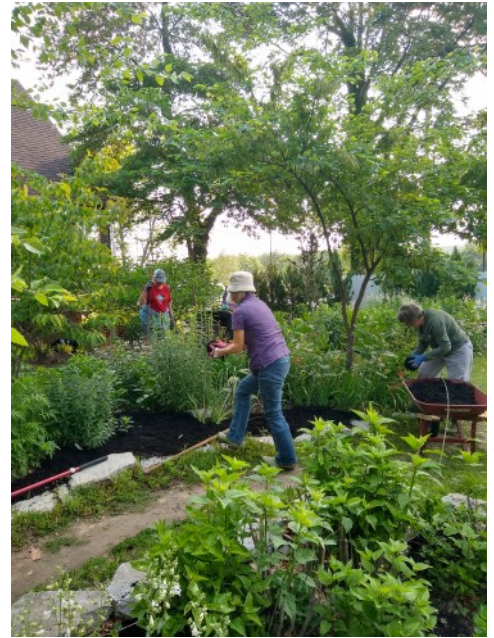


THE GARDENS

Main Street Garden of Excellence



MN Martha Hessler



We had 5 cubic yards of mulch donated to the main Street garden. With a great group of master naturalists we managed to distribute the mulch throughout the garden in a matter of hours. St Louis composting generously donated the mulch. Confluence team rocked in the garden that morning!

There is a new flagstone entrance path at the Main Street Garden in St. Charles. It looks terrific and will provide a smoother, more durable path entering the garden and guide visitors to the spot where the 'new and improved' little library bookcase will be installed.



Quail Ridge Park Prairie Demo Garden

Dvorak for more details on our Wednesday "sight-seeing garden volunteering."

Wild Blue Indigo AND Yellow Indigo in full bloom!

We are on 7th Heaven this year with a new technique of using weeds as mulch and early Spring watering. It's prime time on top of this farmer's land donation (Quail Ridge) to St Charles County Parks. And we met 2 new recently adopted rescue dogs to be regular walkers through our garden.

All is well in this native garden! Contact Frank

"Without fun & entertainment, volunteering is missing the point." MN Leslie Limberg



MN Leslie Limberg





Thank You!

- ☞ To Scott Barnes for his generous donation of books from his private collection to our chapter.
- ☞ To our new Chapter's Librarian Amanda Templer for volunteering to catalog and maintain our chapter's library.
- ☞ To all who contribute to this newsletter—you are an inspiration!

*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)



i thank You God
for most this
amazing day:
for the leaping
greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;
and for everything
which is natural
which is infinite
which is yes ...



~E.E. Cummings
(1894-1962)

...And this prayer I make,
Knowing that Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her;
'tis her privilege,
Through all the years of this our life,
to lead
From joy to joy: for she can so inform
The mind that is within us, so impress
With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thoughts,

that neither evil tongues,
Rash judgments, nor the sneers
of selfish men,
Nor greetings where no kindness is,
nor all
The dreary intercourse of daily life,
Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith that all which
we behold
Is full of blessings...

~William Wordsworth,
lines written a few
miles above Tintern
Abbey, on revisiting
the banks of the Wye
during a tour, 1798
July 13th



Our Leadership

- President—Stephen Baldwin
- Vice President—Martha Hessler
- Secretary—
- Treasurer—Beth Zona
- Advanced Training—Deborah Moulton
- Volunteer Coordinator—Alberta McGilligan
- Membership Services— Tom Holt
- Chapter Librarian—Amanda Templer
- 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—Leslie Limberg and Frank Dvorak
- Bluebird Monitoring—Connie Campbell and Leslie Limberg
- Nature Explore Classroom Education—Connie Campbell
- O'Fallon Public Works Project—Frank Dvorak
- 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 Teson
- 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
Alison Robbins

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/>