



Confluence Chapter Newsletter

Volume No. 01 Issue No. 01 Date: February, 2007

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Missouri Master Naturalist Confluence Chapter Newsletter!

This newsletter is designed to talk about the various and exciting projects our chapter has undertaken. The newsletter will list upcoming Confluence Chapter events as well as, events from other Chapters as available.

A section titled 'Do you know?' by Leslie Limberg will feature tidbits of useful information into our natural world.

What else would you like to see in our newsletter? Contact us with your thoughts or comments. The contact information is on the last page of the newsletter.

From our Confluence Chapter President

Fellow Master Naturalists:

It's Monday and there is snow on the ground so getting myself outside will be just a bit harder today than those warm spring days that are still ahead of us but I will go outside regardless. Outside keeps me breathing and thinking clear.

We as a group have lots of things - in the form of training and volunteer hours to do that will keep us outside and it is all happening now. Michael and Ann are working together to get our website filled out with an e-newsletter where we can go and voice our thoughts and opinions.

There are movements all over the place to get people, especially children outside doing things - that is how I grew up - outside doing things. I have 4 young people in my life that aren't growing up in the way I did and while they are outside I can see the value in reconnecting (especially) the children with the outdoors. If I were to say I have a passion for something. I would say it was conservation - conservation of the outdoors and our children.

As a Master Naturalist I am working on my passion and having the time of my life - even on this cold and cloudy Monday I am ready to go outside.

Enjoy,

Connie McCormack

Lewis & Clark Boathouse and Nature Center St. Charles, Mo.

The Walk of Discovery is a new public garden in St. Charles, created by the Missouri Master Naturalists in 2006. Installed on an Army Corps Flood plain flood, this former 30 X 90 construction waste site is now an educational habitat, designed to inspire St. Charles residents and tourists of all ages.



Garden Visitors

The walk itself is purple trap rock and it is surrounded by over 80 species of native Missouri wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees. Take a stroll through the asters, prairie dropseed, joe-pye weed, and button bush, past the handmade split rail fence -in any season, they can spur your imagination.

You are invited to visit the Habitat! It's right on Riverside Drive below South Main St. Located on the River Front, South end of Frontier Park (just down the hill from Trailhead Bar) and enjoys the Walk of Discovery



Garden in September



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Leslie is looking for volunteers to help at the Boathouse and Nature Center for the following activities:

- Planting perennials from Missouri Wildflower Nursery.
- Spring clean-up of the Walk of Discovery in **March**, which includes replacing stones, which have fallen off the path; clearing away litter; and cutting back plant 'die back.'

Workdays and times are flexible and can be scheduled as weather permits. The best days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday in the morning hours. To sign up for volunteering, call or email Leslie llimberg@aol.com / 636-398-8809 with your available days and times.

Volunteer opportunities:

April 18 - Earth Day at Caldwell (Jennifer 573-468-3335)

May 18-20 - 2nd Annual Convention in Columbia

June 26-29 Outdoor Classroom Adventures -if you would like to volunteer for this email nancy.snider@mdc.mo.gov or call Nancy at 636-300-1953x245

Check our website for other Missouri Master Naturalists scheduled volunteer opportunities.

Native Plant School with Scott Woodbury and guests - dates:

Feb 8 - Controlling Invasive Woody Plants

Mar 8 - Native Plant Propagation from Seed

April 12 - Birdscaping with Native Plants

April 26 - Spring Flowering trees and shrubs

May 17 - Native Container Gardening

June 14 - Rain Gardening and Storm Water Runoff

July 12 - Gardening in Dry sun and Shade

Aug 9 - Prairie Reconstruction: Site Prep/Seed Collection

Sept 6 - Prairie Reconstruction: Seeding and Maintenance

Something to think about

May 4-12 Missouri River Relief

A "River Camp" is scheduled to be held at Pelican Island ramp near Florissant, MO. MDC will be setting up camp for a week, doing a large-scale education event on May 4, a large clean-up (St. Charles) on May 12 and several smaller clean ups, education events and pow-wows throughout the week. The week will be filled with programs targeted to other environmental, corporate and school groups focused on-the-river activities.

Some of the places our chapter might be able to help with:

- Habitat enhancement - probably at the Confluence or one of the municipal parks along the river.
- The May 4 learning festival - we could be involved along with MDC and others.

- We can also think of ways to implement some of these ideas and come up with ideas of our own

Historical Fact

Prairie once covered more than 60 percent of the City of St. Louis as well as more than a quarter of a million acres in the

St. Louis metropolitan region of Missouri.

Unfortunately, only a few acres of original prairie have survived the last 250 years in the region. You can still see prairie remnants at Cuivre River State Park in St. Charles County and Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis County.

FYI

The February, 2007 issue of the Missouri Conservationist has a great article *Humanity for Habitat* - Master Naturalist volunteers ensure the future of Missouri's natural resources by Ginny Wallace and Bob Pierce.

??? Did you know ???

All woodpeckers have especially strong zygodactyl feet (2 toes forward and 2 toes backwards), designed to grip branches and tree trunks.

Kingfishers have small syndactyl feet (2 toes partially joined)

Most birds have 4 toes with one that points backwards and 3 pointing forward (anisodactyl)

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