



Confluence and Great Rivers Chapters Newsletter

Volume No. 02 Issue No. 04 Date: November, 2008

Committee Chairs and Project Directors Making Confluence More Effective

By President Jerry Lindhorst

While sometimes it seems like I have been a Confluence Chapter member for a number of years, the reality is I have only been a member for 10 months. In those months, however, I have watched a significant positive change in our chapter.

Today, Confluence is packed with many opportunities to help protect our state's resources, increase our scientific knowledge of the great outdoors and enjoy new friends, who share similar interests.

Why the change? Confluence's new Committee Chairs and Project Directors are really pro-active individuals making our organization more effective and fun. Most important to the success of any organization is the sharing of the workload which makes a good organization even better. We all owe a standing ovation to:

Joan Twillman, who provides a challenging list of advance education opportunities
Leslie Limberg, who offers many challenging and interesting service opportunities
Tom Holt and Ann Finklang, who have created the first draft of Confluence's Member Manual
Sandy Laurie and Valerie Geile, who head up all the recent fun activities where we all get a chance to learn more about and enjoy one another
Rick Gray, who has created our Chapter's first independent web site now under review by the Executive Committee
Sarah and Larry Berglund, who keep us informed with a calendar of all the opportunities available to members throughout the year which can be found on the web site
Ann Finklang, who faithfully sees we are kept informed by publishing Confluence's quarterly newsletter
Cliff Parmer, who started Confluence's Stream Team and is monitoring local streams
Connie McCormack and Jim Phillips, who have fought the many rains this year to hold together Indian Camp Creek Rain Garden and St. Charles Echo Park projects
Larry Berglund, who with his team keeps us updated on the snail survey
Ann Finklang, who is undertaking our Purple Martin Survey

I would also like to thank Confluence's Executive Committee, **Vice President Linda Kalicak**, **Secretary Holly Currier** and **Treasurer Leslie Limberg** for increasing their time and input into making Confluence an even more effective organization.

My personal thanks to our Confluence Advisors, Kevin McCarthy and Scott Killpack for attending our membership meetings after their hard work days and keeping us on the right paths.

Hawk Ridge Park Project By Cliff Parmer

The Confluence Chapter was asked to assist the City of Lake St. Louis in investigating the condition of a small stream that flows beside Hawk Ridge Park. The park has recently constructed a wonderful new playground with shelters and restrooms and Lorri Grueber, the horticulturist and arborist for the City, has plans to develop savannah and prairie areas along the stream. The potential to use the stream as a part of the restoration project and an education tool for the children at the park and their parents appears to be very positive.



On August 15, 2008, members of Stream Team 3612, Ann Finklang, Linda Kalicak, Leslie Limberg and Cliff Parmer performed a macroinvertebrate survey which revealed the presence of a surprising diversity of insects and a water quality rating of Good. Since the stream is bordered by a highway, condominium development and a strip center, these results were very encouraging. The Chapter, in conjunction with the City of Lake St. Louis, hopes to develop plans for improving the stream habitat.

Confluence Member Profiled in Missouri Prairie Journal

Be sure to check you're the Fall 2008 copy of *Missouri Prairie Journal* Member Profile Leslie Limberg to read about our own Confluence member <http://www.moprairie.org/documents/Vol29No3.pdf>
The article was written by Lee Phillion, also a Confluence member.



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Confluence Master Naturalist Picnic By Sandy Laurie

What a great time was had by all who attended the Confluence picnic at Leslie's beautiful country home!

Joan Twillman graciously offered us her "clubhouse" on the Mississippi River. But due to flooding the location was changed. Leslie and her husband, Leo, jumped right in to get set-up for a really fun time. Val provided her "all natural" bean bag game – where playing was a requirement before the brats could be eaten.



Many of us verified just how unskilled we were at bean bag tossing. But there were those who excelled and went on to the championship games!

Everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere to chat and laugh and enjoy each others company – to learn a bit more about the people who work side-by-side pulling honeysuckle, testing creeks, finding snails and all the other useful things we do. But there was no work (except for the cooking of the pot luck dishes) and lots of play. Even the mosquitoes hatched and came to check out how much fun we were having. But we didn't let the little suckers get in the way of our good times!



I was again impressed with the capable group that we have. Everyone does everything so well – including having fun! Thanks to all of you for a fun day in the sun

Master Naturalist Program Updates Submitted by Connie McCormick

Chapter officer and state advisory committee representative elections for 2009

Election of chapter officer positions for 2009 should be held at the last general membership meeting before the end of this calendar year. In addition to the positions each of your chapters have open we have five positions open on the state advisory committee. Election of these representatives should occur at the same time as the election of officers for the applicable chapters. The advisory committee consists of two representatives from five regions of the state. Each region has one position open. These representatives serve a two-year term starting in January 2009. Representatives must have achieved initial Master Naturalist certification to serve on the advisory committee

The purpose of the Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) is to advise the state coordinators in matters impacting chapter operations and to participate in program growth.

- Ensure consistency of participant experience across chapters
- Help ensure public perception of the program is accurate and positive
- Help coordinators articulate and communicate the appropriate standards of conduct (e.g. advocacy, use of title, etc.) to participants
- Represent the program needs of the regions or agencies they represent
- Communicate programmatic issues, and ideas from the participants to the program coordinators and sponsoring agencies, as well issues, ideas and policy decisions from the program coordinators and sponsoring agencies to the participants.

The advisory committee generally meets three times a year, one of which is in conjunction with the annual conference. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 31 in Jefferson City. Committee members earn service hours for their work on the committee. When possible, MDC reimburses mileage to attend meetings.

Editor's note: SE Region (Confluence/ Great Rivers Chapters) have one opening to be filled.

SE Region - currently held by John Vandover, Great Rivers Chapter



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Following your chapter elections please send me a contact list including mailing address, day time phone number and email for your 2009 slate of officers. I will provide updated officer manuals to the newly elected officers.

2008 Blue Heron certification pin availability

Volunteers working to earn the 2008 Blue Heron certification pin have until December 31, 2008 to complete their annual 40 hours of volunteer service and eight hours of advanced training. This is an awesome pin created specifically for the Master Naturalist program by famed MDC artist David Bessinger and it will be retired at the end of the calendar year.

Editor's note – Important Reminder

Please remember hours **do not** roll over from year to year to be applied to the annual certification pin. They **do** roll over to be applied to the milestone service pins awarded at 250, 500, 1,000 and 2,500 hours of service. Please encourage your volunteers to get their service and training hours tallied so that we can award all of the well deserving volunteers who have earned this recognition.

2009 annual conference

Save the date post cards have been sent out to all active volunteers reminding them of **the annual conference to be held in Kansas City May 15-17, 2009**. Members of the Osage Trails Chapter are putting together what promises to be a fun, interesting, and educational weekend. This is a great opportunity to earn advanced training hours and network with Master Naturalists across the state. Registration materials will be mailed out and posted on the state web site after the first of the year.

Confluence Chapter Website Progress Report

By Rick Gray

Development is continuing on the new chapter web site with a target rollout date of mid-November.

Initially, the site will include a calendar of chapter training and volunteer activities, a newsletter archive, a gallery of photos of chapter projects, and links to other web sites of interest.

A members-only section will feature pages for reporting service and training hours, updating member profile information, and a member directory.

Ultimately, we would like the web site to serve as a showcase for the Missouri Master Naturalist program and for Confluence Chapter activities and achievements.

Please bring your ideas and suggestions to the November 11th meeting for discussion.

Reptiles 101 a TALK BY SUZANNE WHITE

By Sandy Laurie



At the September 19th Confluence Chapter Membership meeting, Suzanne, a member of the Chapter, gave a fascinating talk about reptiles. Suzanne holds a bachelor's degree in Zoology and a Master's degree in Biology. Currently she is a Science Teacher at McCluer North High School in Florissant. She has also taught in schools in Arkansas. She is the past Reptile and Amphibian Curator and Education Coordinator, World Aquarium at City Museum (formerly known as the St. Louis Children's Aquarium). Suzanne has a wonderful sense of humor. An example is the names given to the Alligator Snapping Turtles – Fluffy and Precious. These snapping turtles can weigh up to 315 pounds!

Her extensive "hands-on" experience gave her explanations life and clarity. Her talk and beautifully prepared slide presentation made for an excellent learning experience. Thank you Suzanne!

Talk by Jim Hull, Department of Natural Resources

By Sandy Laurie

On September 8, 2008, Jim Hull gave an informative presentation about solid waste disposal. Mr. Hull has been with the MO Department of Natural Resources for 23 years serving in many capacities.

The definition of Solid Waste is anything discarded that's not regulated. Current landfills have composite liners (clay and plastic) to keep from leeching. They are not forever (most are planned with a 240 year life) but hopefully trash will be more stable.



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We learned about the "tire fund" that provides funding to reuse over 15 million tires. The tires are cleaned and chipped up. Some are used for fuel at the University of MO at Columbia. Other tires are used for rubber modified asphalt which lasts longer and is quieter.

The most important message: Reuse, Recycle, Repair!

CONFLUENCE CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY

December 9 (Tuesday) 6 – 9 pm

Amy Ludwig's home
825 N. Second Street
St. Charles, MO

What's in your Attic?? or basement??
or closet???

- Holiday presents never used
- used stuff that's never old...

Don't throw it away!
Don't sell it !

Donate it to our Silent Auction !!!!

At the Confluence Chapter's Holiday Party

Items may be brought to the November meeting.

??? Did You Know ???

A watershed is an area of land where the run off from rain or snow eventually drains to a particular stream, river, wetland, or other body of water.

There are 9 major watersheds in the St. Louis region that drain into the Missouri/Mississippi Waterway. They are:

1. Cuivre River
2. Peruque - Piasa Rivers
3. Lower Missouri River
4. Bourbeuse River
5. Meramec River
6. Big River
7. Cahokia - Joachim Rivers
8. Lower Kaskaskia River
9. Shoal Creek

Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

Volunteer Opportunities:

November 8 (Saturday) St. Charles County – Spring Bend Project – honeysuckle removal 8am – noon contact Leslie LLlimberg@aol.com

November 8 (Saturday) Greensfelder Park Work Day - repairing the trails Registration is required. Contact Kay or Sue. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Kay Hartzke 314-615-8822 khartzke@stlouisco.com
Sue Kuhnert 314-615-8865 skuhnert@stlouisco.com

November 8 (Saturday) Stream Team Monitoring Femme Osage Creek 9 am - Noon
contact Cliff Parmer cparmer@kai-db.com

November 12 (Wednesday) LaBarque Creek Snail Survey Contact Larry Berglund for details and sign up lberglund14@yahoo.com

November 15 (Saturday) Greenway Project Tree planting Peruque Creek at Wentzville & I-70
8:00 am Leslie llimberg@aol.com

November 15 (Saturday) Shaw Nature Reserve Ecological Restoration
Seed collection/brush removal/burning
9:00 am to 12 (or later) contact Helen
636-451-3512
Helen.McCallie@mobot.org

Advanced Training Opportunities:

November 9 (Sunday) Patagonia presents the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Columbia, MO.

This three hour event will feature award-winning short films about natural resources conservation, sustainable agriculture and more. The program will be capped by the beautiful documentary, "America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie." <http://www.moprairie.org/Events.html>

November 11 (Tuesday) Finding Balance between Floods, Flood Protection and River Navigation - Scientific panel of experts
Conference Center Rooms
/A. Busch Center, SLU 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Jean Jackson 314-977-2205 jjacks49@slu.edu
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November 12 (Wednesday)

Birds in the Mississippi Flyway
Led by an Audubon Society member
Riverland-Columbia Bottoms
9:00 am - Noon contact Valerie or Sandy

November 17 (Monday)

"Why do Rivers Keep Rising?"
Discussion w/ experts on floodplain issues.
Free/open to public/ Marvin Wool Ballroom, Busch
Student Center 7 pm contact Jean Jackson
314-977-2205 jjacks49@slu.edu
Barb Valentine 314-977-2207
bvalenti@slu.edu

November 18 (Tuesday)

Training Tour of the Resource Mgt. Recycling Plant
Earth City location 10:00 am
contact Marypat Ehlmann 314-645-4081
mtemann@sbcglobal.net

December 6 (Saturday)

LaBarque Creek Walk 'n Talk
"Geology" by Mary Clark of DNR
9:00 am - Noon contact Bob Coffing
robertcoffing@sbcglobal.net

December 9 (Tuesday) 6 – 9 pm Confluence Chapter Holiday Party

Chapter Meetings

November 11 (Tuesday)

Meeting Confluence Chapter meeting
Busch Conservation Area.
Speakers: Ron Oesch, Bob Coffing, Nels Holmberg:
Missouri Snails & LaBarque Survey 7 - 9 pm

November 18 (Tuesday)

Great Rivers Chapter meeting
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm