



Confluence Chapter  
St. Charles County, MO

*Our mission is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service.*

### Welcome New Members!



We are so glad to have you in Confluence! We look forward to years of service, education and fun with you all. Back row, L to R: **Larry Markley, Joe Adamo, Bill Berghoff, Peg Meyer, Cathy DeDecker, Carol Morgan** Front row, L to R: **Holly Rivet, Carol Cross, Dave Morgan**



Members of the **Confluence, Great Rivers and Miramiguoia** Chapters along with MDC naturalist photographer **Noppathong Paothong** on Feb. 18 during an advanced training session

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## Master Naturalists Break Tree Planting Record!

On March 19, **Missouri Master Naturalists** along with the St. Charles Master Gardeners, broke the group record of transplanting seedlings for Forest ReLeaf, [www.moreleaf.org](http://www.moreleaf.org). We repotted 2100 trees in less than 4 hours! Forest ReLeaf gives trees to public and non-profit organizations, such as schools, parks, and neighborhood common grounds. Mike Walsh, manager, told us, "If we didn't have the help of volunteers like the MO MNs, we would not be able to accomplish our tree planting efforts."



Above: Volunteers used 32 cubic yards of potting mix (no dirt)

above right: **Valerie Geile** and many others helped move 2100 pots

### What was potted:

- 700 Downy Serviceberry
- 300 Arrowwood Viburnum
- 250 Eastern Ninebark
- 250 Blackgum
- 300 Tuliptree

right: After the trees were potted, another crew used 300 lbs. of fertilizer and watered each pot

### Volunteers welcome!

Wednesday mornings  
contact: Mike Walsh,  
[mike@moreleaf.org](mailto:mike@moreleaf.org)





### MMN Leadership Academy

Four of our members, (L to R): **Leslie Limberg, Kay LaBanca, Rendon Hornung and Cliff Parmer** attended the Leadership Academy for Missouri MMN's on March 19. Ten chapters were represented where participants learned new strategies for volunteer retention, connecting with partners and ensuring chapter success.



### LaBarque Creek Restoration Continues

**Bob Coffing**, left, burns slash piles of cedar trees from the future Don Robinson Missouri State Park in northern Jefferson County. Due to the efforts of many master naturalists and other groups, original native wildflowers and grasses are opening up to the sun. Volunteers meet on Thursdays and Saturdays. Following the morning work and lunch, Bob leads a hike exploring the beauty of LaBarque Creek. Work is fun and rewarding and all levels of help are welcome. Please contact

**Bob Coffing**

[robertcoffing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robertcoffing@sbcglobal.net) for further information

## Bryophyte Survey Update

Since January 2010, Confluence Chapter members have been collecting specimens of non-vascular plants called “bryophytes” at Weldon Springs Conservation Area under the direction of noted bryophyte expert Nels Holmberg.

Starting in December 2010, the team began doing what we call “Bryoblitzes,” in which team members fan out in an area, grabbing any moss, liverwort or hornwort they find. The specimens are put into envelopes with the finder’s name, and then into a common bag that is marked with the location.



The goal is to survey four separate areas of Weldon Springs to find out if there are species differences between burned and unburned units and between the current natural area and an adjacent proposed natural area. The species lists will be used by the Natural Areas manager, MDC, and the Missouri Botanical Garden to observe changes in species over time.

So far the group has collected 76 species (12 liverworts and 64 mosses). Hornworts are pretty rare. We have scored 21 County Records. A county record specimen is the first one of the species found in a County, and the specimen along with the finder’s name is kept at the Missouri Botanical Garden’s herbarium. It’s sort of a cheap thrill to be able to look up your own name on the garden’s website. Your collection is there, right along with some of Darwin’s!

For the record, there are around 20,000 different species of bryophytes around the world, and they serve some important functions:

- Many are pioneer plants, growing on bare rock and contributing to soil development.
- In bogs and mountain forests they form a thick carpet, reducing erosion.
- In forest ecosystems they act like a sponge retaining and slowly releasing water
- They provide habitat for other plants and small animals as well as microorganisms like N2-fixing blue-green bacteria
- Lacking a cuticle and transport tissue they readily absorb whatever is around them and can serve as bioindicators of pollution and environmental degradation

If you’d like to participate in the next bryophyte survey, contact Lee Phillion [Leephillion@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Leephillion@sbcglobal.net).

### Did you know?

*This newsletter cannot publish all the wonderful photos that are taken during the year. So, many more are featured on the Confluence website:*

<http://www.mmnconfluence.org/Gallery.aspx>

### Take a tour today!

*Remember to forward your pictures to Ric Gray, our webmaster, along with the subject of your pictures: [rgray@seilerinst.com](mailto:rgray@seilerinst.com)*

# Spring Bend Park — Bluebird Trail



Confluence Chapter member **Claire Meyners** (left) shared her extensive knowledge of bluebirds, and nesting box design and maintenance with chapter volunteers, including **Mindy Batsch** (right). **Mindy** will be the lead for the bluebird trail at Spring Bend, which is being created by the Confluence Chapter.

**Claire and Mindy** look over an old, existing nesting box. Newer boxes are being created using Claire's design. On March 22, volunteers planted the poles upon which the new boxes will be installed.

Mindy and other volunteers will maintain the boxes and keep detailed records of nesting activity and fledgling

counts. Spring Bend will open soon as the newest St. Charles County Park.

Right: **Kay LaBanca and Jerry Lindhorst** install bluebird house poles and protective baffles



### **FOR SALE!...NEEDED!**

Beautiful Cocoa Beach, FL **Ocean Landings Resort** w/ beach access... 45 min. from Orlando, 30 min. from Kennedy Space Center

\*Week of July 11: Efficiency w/ microwave, 'frig, sleeps 4 \$250

\*Week of July 18: 1-bdr, sleeps 6, small kitchen \$500

Contact: Alberta McGilligan, [albertamcgilligan@yahoo.com](mailto:albertamcgilligan@yahoo.com)

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**Wanted to give away or trade:1950's Tiki Bar with 2 stools**

Rattan surround & chair seats, Black iron supports

Bar is in good condition, stool seats wobble a bit

Contact: Leslie Limberg, [LLimberg@aol.com](mailto:LLimberg@aol.com)

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**NEEDED:** Fun Committee seeking stainless steel forks and spoons.

They have enough knives. Clean out your drawers to help save the environment! Contact: Kay LaBanca at [heykay@charter.net](mailto:heykay@charter.net)



## Nature Explore Classroom

The Capstone project in new Towne Park in St. Charles County is under way! **Alberta McGilligan**, native plant restoration leader, organized the design for 350 flowers and shrubs for the paths. On the two days of planting, she had help from: **Carol Cross, Carol Morgan, Connie Campbell, Bob Lee, Bob Coffing, Ann Finklang, Leslie Limberg, Kay LaBanca, and Cathy Dedecker.** During the winter, **Sam Hodge, John Schwendeman, David Barylski and Cathy Stockglausner** made preparations for planting.



above: **Alberta, Ben Grossman and Joe Walker**, chair of the project, take a break from planting.

left: A portion of the trail and the native flowers planted by Confluence members

### Ponder the Spring

by Leslie Limberg

Can you hear the chorus frogs?  
 And the Spring Peepers?  
 Can you distinguish  
 The Pileated and the Red Bellied's rat-a-tat-tat?  
 And the Bush Honeysuckle VS the Privet in March?  
 The Naturalist can  
 His ears discern 360 like a Whitetail  
 Attentive to the turtle's creep and the nesting wren  
 His eyes pierce the day like a hawk  
 Cruising the breakfast landscape  
 His nose dog-like in the air  
 Hunting the faint Spicebush

Like Leopold, Muir & Carson  
 The Naturalist attunes his radar  
 To the theater of Earth's divinity  
 Breathing it ..deep within  
 Becoming it and it him

Close your eyes, deep breath...  
 Feel the Sycamore  
 Or is it an Oak?