



Missouri Master Naturalist
A summary of program impacts and achievements during 2021



A Partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation and
Missouri University Extension

“The mission of the Missouri Master Naturalist program is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of the state’s Natural resources through science-based education and community service.”

Introduction

The Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer program results from a partnership created in 2004 between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Missouri University Extension (MUE). These two organizations are the sponsors of the program at the state level. Within MUE, the Missouri Master Naturalist program has the distinction of being recognized as a named and branded educational program. The MU School of Natural Resources serves as the academic home for the program.

The program is jointly administered by state coordinators that represent MDC and MUE. The state program coordinators provide leadership in conducting the overall program. They also facilitate the coordination of training and chapter development with Chapter Advisors representing both organizations.

Partnerships created at the community level are an integral part of the Master Naturalist program and organization of a chapter. These partnerships serve to provide volunteers with learning experiences and opportunities for community service. Local partners may include a variety of entities such as municipal agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, schools, and others that value the educational and service objectives that are within the scope of the program.

Program Objectives

1. Improve public understanding of natural resource ecology and management by developing a pool of local knowledge that can be used to enhance and expand educational efforts within local communities
2. Enhance existing natural resources education and outreach activities by providing natural resources training at the local level, thereby developing a team of dedicated and informed volunteers
3. Develop a self-sufficient Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer network through the Chapter-based program.

An increasing number of communities and organizations across the state have relied on these skilled volunteers to implement natural resource educational programs for adults and youth audiences, for the expertise of these volunteers in implementing a variety of conservation projects, and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.



Master Naturalist volunteers significantly help increase pollinator habitat across the state through the installation and maintenance of plants and educational outreach efforts.

A Snapshot of Program Impacts for 2021

Due to the ongoing challenges and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary guidelines were carried over from 2020 that provided greater flexibility for volunteers to continue their involvement with the Master Naturalist program. The annual 40-hour volunteer service requirement was reduced by 25% to a 30-hour service commitment. The advanced training requirement of eight hours was maintained as volunteers were able to access in-person training and real-time virtual programming that allowed them to stay engaged.

- During 2021, **90 volunteers** participated in an initial core training course conducted by these Chapters: Miramigoua, Great Rivers, Confluence (St. Louis regional training), Osage Trails, and Mississippi Hills.
- Through December 2021, with combined efforts of 12 recognized Chapters, **2,734 volunteers** have been trained as Missouri Master Naturalists since the program was first organized in 2004.
- During 2021, volunteers provided **50,460 hours of volunteer service** to local communities.
- This volunteer activity is equivalent to over **32 FTEs of professional time** (as calculated by the IRS) and provides an important metric for measuring the impact of the Master Naturalist program.
<https://www.irs.gov/affordable-care-act/employers/identifying-full-time-employees>
- Since 2004 Master Naturalist volunteers have been provided **765,460 hours of service** to local communities.
- Master Naturalist volunteers participated in **11,332 hours of advanced training** during 2021.
- A total of **712 volunteers** became **Certified Missouri Master Naturalists**, maintained certification, or were active members during 2021.
- Approximately **135 organizations** have partnered with Master Naturalist chapters at the local level to accomplish natural resource education efforts and service projects within the community.
- The economic impact of Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer service during 2021 is valued at **\$1,440,128¹**.
- The cumulative economic impact of Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer service is valued at **\$21,846,228¹**.

¹ The value of volunteer service calculated using Independent Sector's \$28.54 per hour for 2021. The hourly value is based on the average hourly earnings for private nonagricultural workers as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This figure is increased by 15.7 percent to estimate fringe benefits. <http://www.independentsector.org>



Statewide Program Highlights

This was another challenging year for volunteer programs. Through nearly two years of operating during a pandemic with limited volunteer opportunities Master Naturalists continued to demonstrate their dedication to conservation by creatively adapting and continuing with volunteer service in their local communities. The state program sponsors, MDC and MUE, along with partner organizations offered a variety of real-time virtual learning programs for advance training which enabled volunteers to be engaged in ongoing learning. Members donned masks, practiced social distancing, and completed multiple volunteer service projects. There was a lot of invasive species removal, citizen science projects, and stewardship work. Chapter's utilized social media to stay in contact with members. Monthly chapter meetings were held outdoors, virtually, and through a combination of both. Members continued to engage the public through educational outreach on Chapter's Facebook pages, blogs, news articles, radio spots, and exhibits.

Seven Chapter's participated in MDC's Milkweeds for Monarch initiative helping to expand pollinator habitat by installing 1,150 milkweed plants. Thirty-five members volunteered to assist with the Department of Conservation's chronic waste disease mandatory sampling in November. Volunteers assisted with MDC's Resource Science Furbearers Survey by running routes in nine counties. This survey provides population trend information for Missouri's furbearer species. Data has been collected for over 40 years. Chapters are heavily involved in citizen science projects including MDC's Eagle Watch Program, Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, and the Great Backyard Bird Count. Several members completed training with the Missouri Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association. This training equips Master Naturalist volunteers to work with local community and business leaders to reduce the harmful effects of night light pollution.

Although the health concerns and restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly two years has impacted volunteer activity, as this report shows Missouri Master Naturalist volunteers continued to make significant contributions to conservation throughout 2021.

Missouri Master Naturalist Chapters

Chapters identify with a specific community as their home base however, they serve surrounding communities in a multi-county area.

Boone's Lick, Columbia
Chert Glades, Joplin
Confluence St. Charles
Great Rivers, St. Louis
Hi Lonesome, Cole Camp
Lake of the Ozarks, Camdenton

Loess Hills, St. Joseph
Meramec Hills, Rolla
Miramigoua, Washington
Mississippi Hills, Hannibal
Springfield Plateau, Springfield
Osage Trails, Kansas City

Missouri Master Naturalist State Program Coordinators

Syd Hime
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Missouri Department of Conservation

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University of Missouri

Chapter Volunteer Service Highlights

Boone's Lick Chapter, Columbia
booneslick.missourimasternaturalist.org

Highlights of selected activities:

- Invasive species control is a high priority for the Chapter with members logging 809 hours this year removing invasives at MDC's Prairie Fork Conservation Area (CA), Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Clark's Hill and Rock Bridge State Park (RBMSPP), and various other sites in the local area.
- Working with Chapter partner RBMSPP, members installed signs depicting the parks history, participated in a butterfly count at the park, and assisted with educational activities.
- With a lot of birders in the Chapter, this year members had 956 hours dedicated to bird conservation including MDC's eagle watch program, nest box monitoring at MDC's 'Prairie Fork CA, monitoring projects with Columbia Audubon, and numerous bird surveys including, the Christmas Bird Count, Global Big Day Bird Count, and the Great Backyard Bird Count.
- Several members helped with native seed collection at MDC's Prairie Fork CA, led educational programs for the Missouri River Bird Observatory's Birds and Bees Festival, and assisted Missouri River Relief with clean-up projects.
- Stream monitoring was conducted on Gans and Cedar Creeks.
- The Chapter continued to maintain native plant gardens at MDC's Eagle Bluff CA and this year they installed a bench so visitors can sit and relax while they enjoy the garden.
- An advance training field trip was conducted at the MU A.J. Gustin golf course where members were educated about the environmentally sustainable practices used on the course including the use of native plants and water conserving turf species.
- One Chapter member with a passion for wild edibles conducted an advance training class focused on finding, preparing, and eating both native and invasive wild edibles plants.



Boone's Lick members participated in butterfly monitoring, prairie seed collecting, park interpretation sign installations, and river clean-ups.

Highlights of selected activities:



- Through participation in MDC’s Milkweeds for Monarchs program, the Chapter continued its efforts to expand support for Monarchs and pollinators by enhancing and maintaining habitat gardens at Cunningham Park, MDCs Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center (CNC), and four entry gardens at Joplin parks.
- Work continued with the Chapters wetland and prairie restoration project at Webb City’s wastewater treatment plant. New nesting boxes added along the waterways successfully fledged nine Prothonotary Warblers. Through weekly monitoring 148 different bird species were identified on the property this year.
- The Webb City restoration project also benefitted from stream monitoring, snail surveys, milkweed plantings, and a USFWS bird count this year.
- Partnering with the Wildcat Glades friends’ group, the Chapter hosted a Shoal Creek Water Festival that was enjoyed by 1,000 attendees and Ghostly Glades Nighttime Nature Walks for 300 community members.
- The Redings Mill Bridge glade restoration project benefitted this year with Chapter members planting 386 forbs and 100 shrubs. Members also eradicated invasive plants on the property and regularly rotated the education displays on the kiosks.
- Chapter members assisted MDC at Shoal Creek CNC with a spring native plant sale and hosted educational booths at their Monarch Festival in September.
- In partnership with MDC, the Wildcat Glades friends’ group, Liberty Utilities, and the City of Joplin the Chapter hosted an Arbor Day/Earth Day event at Shoal Creek CNC. Members staffed multiple booths to educate attendees about bears, Monarch migrations, the benefits of planting natives, and glade restoration.
- There were 317 hours dedicated to citizen science projects this year including flora surveys on native prairies, water quality and invertebrate monitoring, and bird surveys.
- The Chapter’s website and Facebook page continued to attract new attention with frequent articles contributed by members and the promotion of local conservation related opportunities and events.
- Advance training and field sessions included hikes at multiple native prairies, waterfowl migration outings to Four Rivers and Schell Osage CA’s, glade hikes at Chute Ridge, and kayaking on Ozark streams.



Prairie hikes, education outreach, milkweed planting, and macroinvertebrate monitoring kept Chert Glades members busy in 2021.

Highlights of selected activities:

- Members worked with Chapter partner Forest ReLeaf to help manage their seedling nursery. Through these efforts over 25,000 native plants were distributed to non-profit organizations.
- The Chapter continued to support the use of native plants in the landscape by distributing plants at various educational events throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. Members also provided educational programs on the health and habitat benefits of native plants.
- Native plant education was expanded to local schools through members involvement with the nature garden and outdoor classroom at Frontier Middle School in Wentzville.
- Chapter members assisted the City of Wentzville with native gardens at Quail Ridge Park.
- The Chapter assisted MDC with educational programs at Rockwoods Reservation, Busch Wildlife Area, and Columbia Bottom. This assistance helps expand MDCs efforts to engage people with conservation and the outdoors.
- In partnership with St. Charles County Parks, Chapter members monitored bluebird nesting boxes at several county parks. This year their boxes fledged 98 bluebirds, 56 tree swallows, and seven chickadees.
- Several members worked on monitoring the health of reptiles and amphibians in a portion of the St. Charles watershed.
- The MDC Busch CA benefitted from the Chapter's efforts to help eradicate invasive bush honeysuckle from the area.



Bluebird box monitoring and tree planting were just a few of the many stewardship projects the Chapter completed this year.

Thank You Confluence!

We had the tree planting at Babler State Park (Dec 4) and the turnout was beyond my wildest dreams. I was hoping for at least 10 to plant 80 trees but had at least 20 who came to help. Sure made the job lighter for everyone.

A beautiful, satisfying day. The world got 80 more oak trees to help the climate. (Perhaps the deer will be appreciative also)

Thanks millions!
Alberta



Great Rivers Chapter, St. Louis

greatrivers.org

Highlights of selected activities:

- The Spanish Lakes neighborhood benefitted from Chapter members work on eradicating invasive bush honeysuckle and improving the health of the woodland habitat.
- Members helped the Green Center with their after-school programs, summer camp, and outdoor classroom projects. These programs engage youth in a variety of conservation education activities.
- The Chapter supported the Audubon Center at Riverlands by volunteering to help lead weekend raptor and Sunday eagle events for the public.
- A few of the citizen science projects members were involved with this year included Monarch tagging with Monarch Watch, and the Great Rivers Trumpeter Swan Watch which is a partnership project with the Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis Audubon Society, and Audubon Center at Riverlands.
- Several members worked with the Mississippi River Water Trail Association to engage 33 participants from the Gateway to the Great Outdoors Center and Kairos Academy Charter School in aquatic education programs.
- The Chapter supported efforts with the Kirkwood Park biodiversity initiative and Southampton naturescaping.
- The Chapter hosted several advance training programs including native bees, black bears, chronic waste disease, habitat restoration, storm water pollution control, and wild turkeys.

Chapter members counted 756 adults and 114 cygnets during the Great Rivers Trumpeter Swan Watch and the Spanish Lakes neighborhood benefitted from the Chapters habitat restoration efforts.



Hi Lonesome Chapter, Cole Camp

hilonesome.missourimasternaturalist.org

Highlights of selected activities:

- Chapter members dedicated a lot of their volunteer efforts to citizen science initiatives including the Great Backyard Bird Count, Global Big Bird Day Count, Christmas Bird Count, barn owl nesting box monitoring, bumble bee surveys, and Monarch monitoring.
- The Chapter's Stream Teams conducted water quality monitoring and clean-up projects at Kahrs-Boger Park in Bahner and MDC's Big Buffalo CA. Big Buffalo is one of MDC's priority geographies. This year the Chapter adopted another stream in northern Pettis County.
- Four members participated in Audubon's bird-a-thon and raised \$100 for the organization.
- Chapter members are actively involved in MDC's eagle watch program monitoring 36 nests in Benton, Henry, and Pettis Counties. This year 24 of the nests fledged 25 birds. An additional two active nests also successfully fledged eaglets.
- Several members assisted with a prescribed burn at the Turkey Foot Prairie Preserve in Johnson County.
- The Chapter hosted an education booth at Cole Camp's Bicentennial Celebration where they provided bluebird nesting boxes for the public to construct and take home.
- In partnership with Knob Noster State Park, members conducted prescribed burns, monitored deer check-in stations, and hosted a Dutch oven cooking demonstration at the park.
- Several Chapter members participated in MDC's Discover Nature Fishing volunteer training and assisted with family fishing programs at the Department's Lost Valley Hatchery.
- In partnership with MoDOT, the Chapter has adopted a portion of Highway 65 roadside near Cole Camp. They picked up trash and surveyed plant species along their section.



The Chapter helped local community members improve backyard wildlife habitat by providing bluebird boxes to attendees at Cole Camp's Bicentennial Celebration. Members also assisted with prescribed burns.



Lake of the Ozarks Chapter, Camdenton

lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com

Highlights of selected activities:

- The Chapter continued work with the Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy to clean-up the Goodwin Hollow Sinkhole in Laclede County. This important karst resource has been an illegal dump for 60 years. Members logged close to 200 hours in this year's efforts.
- Stewardship projects at Bennett Springs, Ha Ha Tonka, and Lake of the Ozarks state parks included invasive species removal, and trail development and maintenance.
- Pollinator habitat projects were enhanced at the Laurie fairgrounds park, the Osage Beach senior center, and MDCs Camdenton office.
- The Chapter is a strong supporter of MDCs eagle watch program, donating 213 hours of volunteer service monitoring eagle nests in more than four counties in the lake area this year.
- Members were engaged in citizen science activities including water quality monitoring, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and Cornell Universities FeederWatch.
- The Chapter co-sponsored the Lake of the Ozarks Eagle Days event. Even though this year the event had to be scaled-back members were still able to involve the public in educational activities and eagle viewing.
- In partnership with the Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance, members hosted kayak classes where they provided instruction to the public on paddling and helped them explore the lake's aquatic ecosystem.

Through the diligent efforts of Chapter members, the condition of Goodwin Sinkhole has been significantly improved. Members also monitored eagle nests and supported raptor education at the lake area Eagle Day's event.



5 years ago



Today



Highlights of selected activities:

- The Chapter continued to make progress on their 10-year 10,000 milkweeds project at the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) by planting 1,000 milkweed plants this year.
- In the spring members worked on cleaning up MDC boat access areas in the NW region and completed a spring clean-up of the educational prairie garden at the Loess Bluffs NWR.
- Working with the Biology Department at Missouri Western State University the Chapter helped establish the Dr. John Rustin Teaching and Research Prairie. Dr. Rustin has been a long-time supporter of the Master Naturalist program.
- The Chapter hosted an education booth for Prairie Day at the Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch, assisted with the Wings Over Weston public event, provided educational activities at the Loess Bluff NWR Eagle Days event, and led a hike at Pawnee Prairie as part of a Prairie Day event.
- Chapter members conducted monitoring for MDCs eagle watch program and the Missouri Bumble Bee Atlas. They participated in the Backyard Bird Count and Christmas Bird Count and assisted with MDCs furbearer survey.
- In September the Chapter proudly celebrated their 10th anniversary with an outing at MDCs Hartell CA.



With ongoing efforts to increase pollinator habitat in NW Missouri, Chapter members planted 1,000 milkweed plants at the Loess Bluff NWR. Citizen science projects included the Missouri Bumble Bee Atlas and assisting MDC with CWD sampling.

Highlights of selected activities:



- The Chapter conducted weekly workdays at MDCs Bray CA with a focus on stewardship projects. This year they replaced cedar fencing around the pond, removed invasives from the riparian area and replaced them with native shrubs, cleared trails, and removed woody growth that was encroaching on the meadow.
- Members assisted the City of St. James by planting 350 seedlings in the city's newly established tree nursery. Trees from the nursery will be used to replace dead and dying trees on city property.
- The Chapter shifted their family-oriented educational program Wonderbugs from live sessions to videos that included links to nature-based activities.
- Members continued their work establishing a large pollinator planting at MDCs Bray CA with the installation of 50 milkweed plants and 300 additional pollinator friendly native plants.
- Partnering with the Audubon Trails Nature Center, the Chapter hosted a native plant sale in September. This popular event resulted in 100's of native plants making their way to local yards.
- The Chapter hosted four family fishing nights at MDCs Bray CA where they taught people how to fish and provided them with a hands-on angling experience.
- Twelve members assisted with a spring clean-up at Camp Brimshire, a fully ADA accessible camp for mid-Missouri youth and families.
- The Chapter hosted a birding class for its members with expert birders leading sessions in different habitats, including a field session at the Audubon Center at Riverlands.
- In October, Chapter members put in a long day of cutting and stump-treating 15 trailer-loads of invasive autumn olive along the Big Piney River



MDC's Bray CA benefitted from members frequent work days and family fishing events. Wonderbugs engaged youth in conservation education, loads of invasive autumn olive were removed, and water quality monitoring provided important stream health data.

Highlights of selected activities:

- Members were involved in several citizen science projects including a phenology study at MDCs Myron and Sonya Glassberg Family CA in Jefferson County, lady slipper research at Meramec State Park, a tick research study, the Great Backyard Bird Count, the Christmas Bird Count, and the St. Louis wildlife project through iNaturalist.
- Chapter members led efforts in their local communities and neighborhoods to design beneficial wildlife habitats for homeowners through Audubon's Bring Nature Home Program.
- Members provided outreach education using MDCs mammal trunk at Robertsville State Park and they led educational cave hikes at Meramec State Park.
- Water quality activities including trash removal from the Meramec River and riparian restoration with tree plantings along Big Berger Creek.
- The Chapter organized and conducted ecological restoration and enhancement projects at MDCs Jay Henges Range, Glassberg CA, and Caldwell Education Area, Don Robinson State Park, The College Schools Labarque Creek Campus, City of Manchester parks, Larson and McKee parks in Webster Groves, and Zahorsky Woods.
- Members worked to support pollinators by distributing native plants through the St. Louis plant swap network, planting milkweed, and raising Monarchs.
- Several Chapter members have prescribed burn certification and helped with burns at Shaw Nature Preserve, state parks, and for private landowners.



Chapter members eradicated bush honeysuckle, planted natives, maintained trails at the Nature Conservancy's Zahorsky Woods, and learned orientation skills.



Mississippi Hills Chapter, Hannibal
mississippihills.missourimasternaturalist.org

Highlights of selected projects:

- Education is a high priority for the Chapter. This year they conducted programs for the 4-H camp, taught snake identification and outdoor safety at the Pike County Farm Safety Day, assisted MDC with a Discover Nature Fishing event for a group of Youth Empowerment Sports and Activities students, and led educational activities at the Swinkey kid's day event.
- This year the Chapter exceed their 2020 goal of establishing seven prairies in seven years by establishing eight prairies. These prairies compromise slightly over twenty acres on public and private land.
- The Chapter continued their work on the Environmental Trail and Prairie project at Mark Twain Lake by clearing land, planting trees, and establishing native plant and pollinator plantings.
- In partnership with Hannibal Parks and Recreation, Chapter members hosted a bat box building event for families to learn about bats and build a bat box to take home. They also helped with the Wild and Wacky Art event for families.
- During the summer the Chapter sponsored a booth at the Hannibal Farmer's Market where they conducted educational outreach on native plants, climate change, and Earth Day.
- One member assessed the trails at MDCs Deer Ridge CA and used GPS to map areas that needed improvements such as signage and trail markers.
- In March members undertook a large project to construct 84 habitat structures to improve fish habitat at Mark Twain Lake.
- The Chapter's Stream Team conducted water quality monitoring and area clean-ups at the MDC Ranacker CA and the Salt River.
- Members drove 363 miles and contributed 38 volunteer hours conducting the Audubon Christmas Bird Count which resulted in reporting 44 different species of birds.
- The Chapter continued bat monitoring at the Sodalis Nature Preserve. The data collected is used by MDC, USFS, and USFW.



The Mississippi Hills Chapter built fish habitat structures, conducted numerous youth education programs, and learned how to measure champion trees.



Highlights of selected activities:

- The Chapter is heavily invested in stewardship projects including invasive species eradication at George Owens Nature Park, Lakeside Nature Center, Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, and through partner projects with Kansas City Parks and Recreation, MPF, and Platte County Land Trust.
- Members helped maintain and enhance native plant and pollinator gardens at MDCs Burr Oak Woods Nature Center and Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, George Owens Nature Park, and Lakeside Nature Center.
- Members assisted with native plant educational events with MPF, Deep Roots Kansas City, and Kansas City Wildlands.
- Chapter members provided much needed assistance at MDCs Discover Nature Field Days at the James A. Reed Wildlife Area.
- Several Chapter members harvested seed from July through October at the Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch. With help from these volunteers 103 pounds of seed from 15 different species were collected with a total value of over \$13,000.
- Chapter members assisted with education programs for Kansas City Parks and Recreation, MU Extension, Powell Gardens, Deep Roots Kansas City, and Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary.
- The Chapter partnered with Bridging the Gap for litter clean-ups and recycling events, with the Heartland Tree Alliance to plant trees in the Kansas City metro area, and with the Kemper Outdoor Education Center to conduct a birdhouse building workshop.
- Partnering with Lakeside Nature Center, members worked diligently to revitalize Fox Hollow Trail clearing many of the natural limestone outcroppings of encroaching vegetation.
- Using skills acquired through the Heartland Tree Alliance Tree Keepers Program, members provided their tree pruning services to the Loess Bluffs NWR.
- Citizen Science projects included eagle nest monitoring for MDC, monarch larvae monitoring, Project Feeder Watch, Great Backyard Bird Count, Christmas Bird Count, North American Butterfly Association butterfly count, and a white oak acorn survey.
- The Chapter enthusiastically celebrated their 15th anniversary with a well-attended event in December.



Osage Trails members harvested prairie seed, learned the art of interpretation from MDCs Burr Oak Nature Center naturalists, and helped youth discover the wonders of birds and snakes.



Highlights of selected activities:

- The Chapter continued their efforts to support pollinators and increase Monarch habitat by participating in MDCs Milkweeds for Monarchs program and installing 200 common and swamp milkweed plants at Lake Springfield Park.
- Chapter members continued to provide multiple education classes and lead field sessions for students at the WOLF (Wonders of Outdoors Learning Facility) school. The school is a partnership between Bass Pro and Springfield Public Schools.
- Partnering with Springfield City Utilities (SPU), several members continued work on the native plant demonstration area at the City Utilities Solar Farm. With the ongoing success of this project SPU has expanded the use of native plants to several of their other locations.
- Several members assisted with MDCs state MoNASP tournament in Springfield by providing hands-on educational activities for the tournament competitors and their families.
- Chapter members contributed 400 hours of service to maintaining and enhancing native pollinator gardens at the Lake Springfield Park Boathouse. This included restructuring an area to correct erosion problems and reduce maintenance.
- Members assisted the Springfield-Greene Botanical Gardens and the Butterfly House with their educational programs with a focus on youth. This facility hosted nearly 38,000 visitors in 2021.
- The Chapter has taken on a new project this year to restore gardens at the recently established Bonniebrook Historical Site. This site is the homestead of Rose O’Neil, a famous cartoonist and creator of the Kewpie.
- Members participated in the Christmas Bird Count and Great Backyard Bird Count.
- The Chapter’s blog continues to inform followers about nature and conservation. The site boasted 268 followers and 4,832 page views this year.



Members led educational activities at MDCs state MoNASP tournament and the WOLF school and partnered with the City of Springfield on the installation of native plant demonstration gardens.



Training, Volunteer Service, and Active Members for 2021

Chapter & Year Established	Volunteers Completing Initial Training**	Volunteer Service Hours	Advance Training Hours	Active Members
Boone's Lick 2004	N/A	6,026	1,665	64
Chert Glades 2005	N/A	1,899	655	77
Meramec Hills 2005	N/A	3,832	1,000	59
Confluence* 2005	10	3,667	803	69
Great Rivers* 2007	20	9,220	2,072	124
Springfield Plateau 2006	N/A	6,671	1,006	81
Osage Trails 2006	30	7,191	1,511	55
Hi Lonesome 2008	N/A	1,605	249	18
Miramigoua* 2009	10	3,009	776	31
Lake of the Ozarks 2009	N/A	2,009	436	38
Loess Hills 2011	N/A	2,469	600	50
Mississippi Hills 2018	20	2,862	559	46
Total	90	50,460	11,332	712

Cumulative statewide volunteer service hours since 2004: 765,472

Cumulative statewide advanced training hours since 2004: 152,635

*Chapters within the St. Louis region conduct a joint regional initial training. Participants in the course affiliate with one of the three area Chapters: Confluence, Great Rivers, or Miramigoua.

**Chapter Advisors and Chapter leadership have the discretion to decide when they want to conduct an initial training course. Chapters are not required to host an initial training course on an annual basis.



Representing the declining suite of grassland birds, the Eastern Meadowlark was the 2021 annual certification pin.

Master Naturalist Chapter Partners

Developing partnerships with local organizations in the community is key to a successful Master Naturalist program and chapter. Local partner organizations provide the Chapter volunteers with training and service opportunities, and resources to support the program. In turn, they benefit from association with the Master Naturalist program and from local service projects the volunteers conduct. Organizations recognized as Master Naturalist Chapter Partners also share a mission for natural resource-related outcomes in the community.

Boone's Lick Chapter Partners

Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Clark Hill/Norton State Historic Site, City of Columbia, Columbia Audubon Society, Columbia Public Schools, Greenbelt Land Trust of Missouri, Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program, Native Plant Society, Wild Ones, Missouri River Bird Observatory, Missouri River Relief, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Prairie Garden Trust, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, MU Raptor Rehabilitation project

Chert Glades Chapter Partners

Wildcat Glades Friends Group, Prairie State Park, Neosho National Fish Hatchery, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Ozark Regional Land Trust, Ozark Gateway Audubon Society, Joplin Recycle Center, Missourians for Monarchs, MAKO Fly Fishers, Joplin Public Schools, Franklin Technical Center, Association of Missouri Interpreters, George Washington Carver National Monument, Cities of Joplin, Neosho, Webb City, Carterville, Carthage, Carl Junction, and Stella

Confluence Chapter Partners

Forest ReLeaf: St. Louis, St. Charles Park and Recreation, Missouri Botanical Garden, Frontier Middle School, Missouri Bluebird Society, St. Louis Audubon Society, Shaw Nature Reserve, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center

Great Rivers Chapter Partners

Forest ReLeaf: St. Louis, Lewis and Clark Boathouse, Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, Missouri Bluebird Society, Missouri River Relief, Native Plant Society, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Friends of LaBarque Creek, Greenway Network, St. Charles and St. Louis County Parks, St. Louis Audubon Society, Shaw Nature Reserve, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, Wentzville Parks and Recreation, World Bird Sanctuary, Don Danforth Plant Science Center, Wildlife Rescue Center, Missourians for Monarchs, Frontier Middle School

Hi Lonesome Chapter Partners

Audubon Society of Missouri, City of Cole Camp, Missouri, Prairie Foundation, Missouri River Bird Observatory, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Harry S. Truman and Knob Noster State Parks

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter Partners

Ameren Missouri, Lake Ozark Watershed Alliance, Camdenton R-III Schools, MODOT Adopt-A-Highway, Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau, West Side Chamber of Commerce, Camden County Farmers Market, City of Laurie, Osage Beach City Park, School of the Osage, Missouri Cave and Karst Society, Ha Ha Tonka, Bennett Springs, and Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Loess Hills Chapter Partners

Clay and Platte County Parks, MWSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Missouri Department of Transportation NW Region, Missouri Department of Waste Disposal NW Region, St. Joseph Parks and Recreation, Remington Nature Center, Grand River Grasslands and Dunn Ranch, Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Wings Over Weston, Burroughs, Midland, and Grand River Audubon Societies

Meramec Hills Chapter Partners

Audubon Trails Nature Reserve, Camp Brimshire, Bonebrake Center of Nature and History, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Newburgh Children's Museum, City of St. James, Prairie Star Restoration Farm, City of Rolla, MODOT Adopt-A-Highway

Miramigoua Chapter Partners

Shaw Nature Reserve, Missourians for Monarchs, Open Space Council, World Bird Sanctuary, Eastern Missouri Sierra Club, Ozark Trail Association, Meramec, Onondaga Cave and Don Robinson State Parks, Missouri Prairie Foundation, The College School

Mississippi Hills Chapter

Hannibal Parks and Recreation, Hannibal Tree Board, FORREST Council, Hannibal Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation, Monroe City Chapter of the Whitetails Unlimited, Mark Twain State Park and DNR/MDC Stream Team

Osage Trails Chapter Partners

Blue River Watershed Association, Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City, George Owens Nature Park, Heartland Tree Alliance, Heartland Conservation Alliance, Cave Springs, Kansas City WildLands, Kemper Outdoor Nature Center, Lakeside Nature Center, Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Missouri River Relief, Platte County Land Trust, Powell Gardens, The Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch, Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Missouri River Bird Observatory, Kansas City Seed Savers, Deep Roots Kansas City, Bridging the Gap

Springfield Plateau Chapter Partners

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Bennet Springs State Park, Branson for Monarchs, Friends of the Garden, Greater Ozarks Audubon Society, James River Basin Partnership, City of Springfield, LAD Fair, Interpreters Coalition of Springfield and SW Missouri, Springfield R-12 School District, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Safe Kids Coalition, Springfield Plateau Grotto, Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program, White Nose Syndrome Working Group/Missouri, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Missouri State University



Missouri Master Naturalist Chapter Advisors and Contacts

Missouri Master Naturalist Chapter Advisors and contacts, representing MU Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation, provide leadership and facilitate educational programs and activities to ensure the success of the Missouri Master Naturalist program and Chapters.

Boone's Lick Chapter:

Tish Johnson – MU Extension

Bob Pierce - MU Extension

Chert Glades Chapter:

Robert Balek – MU Extension

Jeff Cantrell – Missouri Department of Conservation

Confluence Chapter:

Justin Key – MU Extension

Great Rivers Chapter:

Justin Key – MU Extension

Hi Lonesome Chapter:

Gene Schmitz – MU Extension

Ginger Miller – Missouri Department of Conservation

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter:

Joni Ross – MU Extension

Jodi Moulder – Missouri Department of Conservation

Loess Hills Chapter:

Jim Humphrey – MU Extension

TJ Peacher – Missouri Department of Conservation

Meramec Hills Chapter:

Sarah Havens - MU Extension

Syd Hime – Missouri Department of Conservation

Miramiguo Chapter:

Matt Herring – MU Extension

Syd Hime – Missouri Department of Conservation

Mississippi Hills Chapter:

Daniel Mallory – MU Extension

Kathi Moore – Missouri Department of Conservation

Osage Trails Chapter:

Tamra Real – MU Extension

Wendy Parrett – Missouri Department of Conservation

Springfield Plateau Chapter:

Kelly McGowan – MU Extension

Jay Barber – Missouri Department of Conservation

Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs

The Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs was formed in 2006 to facilitate networking and resource development for Master Naturalist and similar programs. The Missouri Master Naturalist program was one of the founding members. Currently, about 25 states have adopted the Master Naturalist volunteer and education program model. The Missouri State Program Coordinators provide ongoing support to the Alliance through program membership

