

Missouri
Master Naturalist



2024

ANNUAL
REPORT



Extension
University of Missouri



MISSOURI MASTER NATURALIST CHAPTERS

Extension
University of Missouri

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
(Phelps County)

Miramigoua
(Franklin County)

Mississippi Hills
(Hannibal)

Osage Trails
(Kansas City)

Springfield Plateau
(Springfield)

INTRODUCTION

The Missouri Master Naturalist Program results from a partnership created in 2004 between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and University of Missouri Extension (MU Extension). These two organizations are the sponsors of the Program at the state level. Within MU Extension, 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 MU Extension. 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 MISSION & OBJECTIVES

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.

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.

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SNAPSHOT OF 2024 PROGRAM IMPACTS

During 2024, the Missouri Master Naturalist Program celebrated its 20th year of programming. The Boone's Lick Chapter hosted a Statewide Conference in the Columbia, Missouri area, which was a great success. In addition, 11 of the 12 Master Naturalist Chapters hosted Core Training, which was another milestone of significance. Over 230 new volunteers were trained and there were record numbers of hours by the volunteers that were dedicated to volunteer service and to Advanced Training.

Here are a few highlights:

During 2024, **231 volunteers** participated in the Core Training Course conducted by these 11 Chapters: Miramiguoa, Great Rivers, Confluence (St. Louis regional training), Osage Trails, Mississippi Hills, Boone's Lick, Hi Lonesome, Chert Glades, Springfield Plateau, Meramec Hills and Loess Hills. The St. Louis region hosted both a spring and fall training for the third year in a row.

Through December 2024, with combined efforts of 12 recognized Chapters, **3,346 volunteers** have been trained as Missouri Master Naturalists since the program was first organized in 2004.

During 2024, volunteers provided **over 75,000 hours of volunteer service** to local communities. This volunteer activity is equivalent to over **36 FTEs* of professional time** and provides an important metric for measuring the impact of the Master Naturalist Program.

Since 2004 Master Naturalist volunteers have been provided **over 965,000 hours of service** to local communities.

Master Naturalist volunteers participated in **over 14,000 hours of advanced training** during 2024.

Over **880 volunteers** became Certified Missouri Master Naturalists, maintained certification, or were active members during 2024.

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 2024 is valued at **\$2,930,815**.

The cumulative economic impact of Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer service is valued at **\$29,364,112***.

*The number of FTEs was calculated by dividing the total number of volunteer service hours by 2,080 hours (260 workdays) per year. The value of volunteer service calculated using Independent Sector's \$33.49 per hour for 2024. 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. <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-vol-unteer-time/>



STATEWIDE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



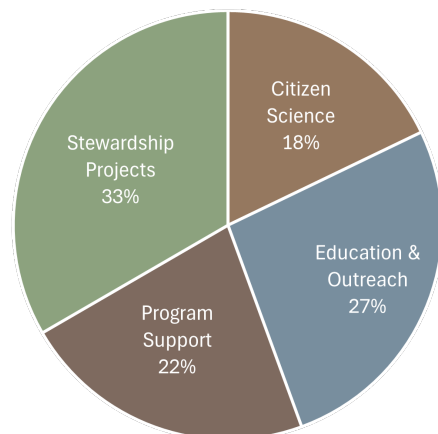
The year 2024 marked the program's 20th anniversary. During its inaugural year, State Coordinators Ginny Wallace and Robert Pierce organized and formed the first two Missouri Master Naturalist chapters in Columbia and West Plains. The initial mission of the program - to engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service - lives on today through an impressive twelve chapters throughout the state with over 800 active members in 2024. The success of the program in achieving this mission is reflected in our Program data. An impressive 3,346 Missourians have completed the Program's Core Training course, and members have donated 969,387 hours of community service towards this mission during these 20 years.

One of the Program's first chapters continues to thrive twenty years into the Program. That chapter is the Boone's Lick Chapter in Columbia. It's fitting that for the 20th anniversary of the Program, the Boone's Lick Chapter hosted the Missouri Master Naturalist State Conference. One hundred thirty-five members from across the state gathered in Columbia in June of 2024 to reconnect and celebrate twenty years of successes. The conference also marked the first state conference held since the pandemic which also made the conference a celebration of the resiliency of Missouri Master Naturalist Program and its members.

This held true during 2024 with members providing 75,638 hours of service to the mission. Members enhanced fish, forest, and wildlife management on public and private lands by dedicating 33% of this community service to natural resource stewardship projects.

Twenty-seven percent of this community service was dedicated educating other Missourians outside of the Program, expanding the reach of Missouri Department of Conservation's and the University of Missouri's conservation educational services.

Members spent 22% of their service time supporting their chapters through fundraising, facilitating chapter meetings, organizing Core Training, and other administrative activities. Eighteen percent of service time was dedicated to citizen science projects for Missouri Department of Conservation and non-profit partners.



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

BOONE'S LICK CHAPTER (COLUMBIA)

In 2024, Boone's Lick Chapter volunteers conducted 6,694 hours of volunteer service and participated in 1,590 hours of Advanced Training. Ten volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 75 active volunteers (68 Certified) in the Chapter and 28 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Boone's Lick conducted seven monthly meetings that were hybrid (in person and Zoom), 3 were Zoom only and 2 were in person only. They had speakers for Advanced Training at 8 meetings. The June meeting was a picnic and the December meeting was a dinner and silent auction. Average attendance was 42 members.

Core Training was held between March and May with a graduating class of 10 volunteers. Classroom sessions were by Zoom and were combined with the core training of the Hi Lone-some chapter. The field trips were held separately. Several different capstone projects were available.

Boone's Lick Chapter hosted the statewide Missouri Master Naturalist Conference on June 7 and 8. In addition to time for socializing, there were opportunities for advanced training at the conference center and in the field.

Boone's Lick Chapter is partnering with The Nature Conservancy as they develop their new property - the Missouri River Center. Chapter members helped with surveys of the existing flora and planting over 1,400 native trees and shrubs.



Attendees of the Missouri Master Naturalist Annual Conference, which was hosted by Boone's Lick Chapter this year on June 7 and 8.



Becky Bohlmeyer leading a butterfly survey at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

CHERT GLADES CHAPTER (JOPLIN)

In 2024, Chert Glades volunteers conducted 4,904 hours of volunteer service and participated in 582 hours of Advanced Training. Twenty-five volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 20 active volunteers (19 Certified) in the Chapter and 8 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Chert Glade's monthly Chapter meetings were held in person with an average of 18 Chapter members attending each meeting. Each of these meetings covered Chapter business and provided an hour of advanced training from local experts.

Core Training for Chert Glades Chapter was in person on Tuesday evenings from August through November, with a graduating class of 25 new interns. They had three Saturday field trips at Roaring River State Park, Prairie State Park, and George Washington National Monument that the new class especially enjoyed.

Chert Glade Chapter continues its involvement with the Cardinal Valley wetland restoration project. Chapter members conducted bio-blitz events, bird and birdhouse monitoring, stream quality monitoring, milkweed planting, and trash pickup. The Chapter has also been helping Ludwig Productions make a documentary about the project which will be released in Fall 2025.

This year, the Chapter participated in the National Seed Swap Day event hosted by Joplin Empire Market for the first year. Members distributed 3,802 packets of native plant seeds that they collected and processed as a chapter. This was a great opportunity for outreach and education about the wildlife benefits of native plant landscaping.



Several new volunteers being mentored in stream sampling by Cynthia Naff, Bonnie Hinman, and chapter advisor Jeff Cantrell.



Jill Franks, a veteran member, seen working on a fire line at Prairie State Park.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

CONFLUENCE CHAPTER (ST. CHARLES)

In 2024, Confluence Chapter volunteers conducted 4,461 hours of volunteer service and participated in 960 hours of Advanced Training. Fourteen volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 77 active volunteers (42 Certified) in the Chapter and 17 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Confluence Chapter monthly meetings are held in person at Weldon Springs Interpretive Center. Monthly advanced training featuring a variety of speakers follows an opening social/fellowship time.

Confluence Chapter joins with Miramiguoa and Great Rivers chapters to sponsor core training sessions. This program includes both virtual as well as in-person training, with sessions held in the spring and fall.

Confluence continues to partner with Miramiguoa and Great Rivers Chapters to host Tri-Chapter Field Days in the fall and spring. These include advanced training sessions, volunteer opportunities, and nature experiences. All sessions filled quickly and feedback is very positive.

In its 2nd year, the Confluence Chapter's renovation of the native gardens at Rockwoods Reservation continues through expansion of the old garden footprint using only deer-resistant native plants. The garden is an educational site for the public, and Missouri Department of Conservation has hosted several nature classes around the garden's features.



The above photo is of Alison Robins potting swamp/marsh milkweed at Forest ReLeaf annual Potting Day.



The above photo shows Sandy Oldfield and Chapter members staffing an information booth at the Weldon Springs annual Monarch Madness Educational Pollinator Festival.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

GREAT RIVERS CHAPTER (ST. LOUIS)

In 2024, Great Rivers Chapter volunteers conducted 14,558 hours of volunteer service and participated in 2,762 hours of Advanced Training. Fifty-seven volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 163 active volunteers (116 Certified) in the Chapter and 31 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Monthly meetings for the Great Rivers Chapter were held in a hybrid format at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center with an average of 130 participants per meeting. Advanced training speakers included topics from Indigenous Peoples of Missouri, Keeping Interpretation Real, and Edible Insects. Chapter members presented on the following topics: the 30x30 Initiative, Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum, and a tour of the prairie at the National Museum of Transportation.

Core Training for Great Rivers Chapter was held with Confluence and Miramiguoa Chapters. Classes were held online and in person, with several field trips. The tri-chapter training held both spring and fall classes.

The Chapter's newly formed mentorship program was very successful in helping their newest members. Great Rivers Chapter is excited about continuing work with River City Outdoors, Big Muddy Adventures, and Belle Fontaine Cemetery.



Pam Wilcox educating a family about the outdoors at the Green Center in St. Louis.



The Core Training Class on their tour of Fisher Cave at Meramec State Park.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

HI LONESOME CHAPTER (COLE CAMP)

In 2024, Hi Lonesome Chapter volunteers conducted 1,540 hours of volunteer service and participated in 254 hours of Advanced Training. Three volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 19 active volunteers (12 Certified) in the Chapter and 6 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Hi Lonesome Chapter offers a virtual option with their in-person monthly meetings. They offer advanced training at their meetings when possible. Their members sometimes provide advanced training for the chapter while honing their interpretive skills.

The Hi Lonesome Chapter partnered with the Boone's Lick Chapter to conduct the Core-Training during the year.

The 16th year of Hi Lonesome Chapter hosting a circle for the Christmas Bird Count was a success with 15 guest birders joining 1/3 of the chapter membership in spotting 70-75 species.

Hi Lonesome was very happy to have been able to have a core training class this year. Although there were some challenges along the way, they now have 3 new members of whom they are very proud.



Featured above at Eagle Day, JoAnne Gitchell and Ruth Schlomer teaching visitors all about macroinvertebrates with Paul Landkamer offering samples of his edible insects.



New members Jerricho Jonker and Jacob Mace learning the protocol for monitoring Barn Owl nesting boxes from senior volunteers with the Chapter and landowner Susan Lorde Marker.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

LAKE OF THE OZARKS CHAPTER

In 2024, Lake of the Ozarks Chapter volunteers conducted 2,404 hours of volunteer service and participated in 551 hours of Advanced Training. The Chapter did not conduct a Core Training during 2024. There are 40 active volunteers (33 Certified) in the Chapter and 20 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter monthly meetings were held following Advanced Training presentations with an average attendance of 20 participants. The meeting took place after we enjoyed the snacks/meals that were provided by members.

To avoid possible missed opportunities for Advanced Training due to weather or illness of the presenter, this year we recruited Chapter Members to prepare presentations with a theme of State Symbols. Members were asked to have presentations ready with minimal advanced notice. To date, presented topics were The Eastern Bluebird and Crayfish.

Our Fundraising Committee has been working to help the Chapter raise money for scholarships. This year, there was an online popcorn sale and a silent auction. They also started working on a pancake breakfast for the next Dogwood Festival.



Members teach 4H students how to build bird feeders.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

LOESS HILLS CHAPTER (ST. JOSEPH)

In 2024, Loess Hills Chapter volunteers conducted 2,897 hours of volunteer service and participated in 508 hours of Advanced Training. Eleven volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 32 active volunteers (39 Certified) in the Chapter and 11 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Loess Hills Chapter meetings were held monthly in-person with a hybrid option and an average of 30 participants attended each meeting. Their meetings followed the same format as in years past by beginning with a social hour potluck, followed by advanced training presentations on topics that included water quality, fish biology, and edible native plants. The chapter's business meeting rounded out the member meetings each month.

Core Training was conducted for Loess Hills Chapter in 2024, and the chapter is especially excited to welcome several new younger-than-average members and look forward to their fresh attitudes and ideas. All classes were held in person, providing a bonding and enjoyable atmosphere.

Fifteen Loess Hills members spent a fun-filled weekend in December volunteering as tour guides and more at the 45th Annual Eagle Days at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, near Mound City, Missouri. Collectively, our master naturalists donated approximately 330 hours of their time. The popular event drew 3,754 people; 580 students participated in the school day.

The Chapter continued its flagship project to plant 10,000 milkweeds in 10 years. This year members planted 602 milkweeds on Friday, June 7, and 410 plants on Monday, June 10 for a total of 1,012 plants of four *Asclepias* species.



Christian Holderby helping a new angler with a fresh catch during a school-age kids' nature day at Smithville Lake's Kelsey Short Day Camp in July.



Members helped plant 1,012 milkweed plants over a two-day period in June of 2024 as part of the Chapter's 10,000 milkweed in 10 years project.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

MERAMEC HILLS CHAPTER (PHELPS COUNTY)

In 2024, Meramec Hills Chapter volunteers conducted 5,956 hours of volunteer service and participated in 1,093 hours of Advanced Training. Twenty-three volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 85 active volunteers (58 Certified) in the Chapter and 18 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Monthly meetings for the Meramec Hills Chapter are held in-person at Rolla Technical Institute for 7 of the 10 months they are able to meet. Their November meeting has been the annual Show & Tell where members can share a favorite tool, resource, or experience with other members.

In 2024, the Meramec Hills Chapter held their 12th Core Training. In May, 23 participants completed the training and, of those, 11 have already completed their initial certification. The 2024 core training class held a Bioblitz at Audubon Trails Nature Center on May 18 and 19 for their Capstone Project.

The Chapter held their first post-COVID Evening with Nature at Rolla Middle School. This triannual event brings together over 30 different organizations. The Fall Nature Festival & Native Plant Sale was a success as well with over 30 Meramec Hills Chapter members logging more than 180 hours of volunteer service. Approximately 400 visitors came to the festival.

Over 15 years ago, Chapter members installed 20 bluebird nest boxes at Little Prairie Conservation Area and in 2024, 13 Chapter members throughout the breeding season, participated in a nest box observation program. Over 150 black-capped chickadee, eastern bluebird, and tree swallow eggs were tallied and 113 birds fledged from the nest boxes.



Hundreds of visitors packed the Rolla Middle School gym for the Evening with Nature to learn about and explore hands-on exhibits from dozens of nature-related organizations.



Chapter members participating in a prescribed burn at Audubon Trails Nature Center and are seen at the pre-fire briefing here.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

MIRAMIGUOA CHAPTER (FRANKLIN COUNTY)

In 2024, Miramiguo Chapter volunteers conducted 6,825 hours of volunteer service and participated in 1,555 hours of Advanced Training. Seventeen volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 76 active volunteers (66 Certified) in the Chapter and 14 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Monthly meetings for Miramiguo Chapter were held in-person with 2 field trip meetings, with an average of 36.5 participants per meeting. Chapter meetings involve an hour of social time with a meal, one hour of Advanced Training, and one hour of Chapter business such as updates on projects, new business, and new ideas. Speakers provided one hour of Advanced Training for eleven meetings from January through November during 2024.

Miramiguo Chapter participated in a Tri-Chapter Core Training Curriculum presented by three St. Louis chapters (Miramiguo, Confluence, and Great Rivers). A Spring and Fall Core Training class were offered, and the participants were selected from a waiting list. A total of 17 participants who completed the courses joined the Miramiguo Chapter. These 17 interns are doing a great job presenting their capstone projects at our monthly meetings.

The Chapter's annual Bunker Hill Retreat took place from May 17th through May 19th.

The Chapter's Herp Project at Don Robinson State Park consisted of 35 members on 4 teams completing 21 surveys from February 2nd through November 10th. In the two years of the project members have documented 230 encounters with 28 total species. This project made up many of the 1,208 hours of data collecting and 272 hours of data recording logged during 2024.



Tom Gent hacking some honeysuckle at Caldwell Conservation Area in March.



Jeanne taking to children about Missouri's mammals at Shaw Nature Reserve's Fall Festival.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

MISSISSIPPI HILLS CHAPTER (HANNIBAL)

In 2024, Mississippi Hills Chapter volunteers conducted 6,948 hours of volunteer service and participated in 1,011 hours of Advanced Training. Twenty-one volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 101 active volunteers (66 Certified) in the Chapter and 33 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

The Mississippi Hills Master Naturalists meetings were all in-person except for the January meeting which was held virtually due to winter weather. The chapter averaged 40 members at each meeting, and trainings varied from: Beekeeping, Cicada Armageddon, Forest ReLeaf, Raising Monarch Butterflies, Safe Use of Pesticides, Soils Conservation/Health, Special Use Permits/MDC, Missouri Stream Team, and an Update from North East Regional MDC.

The Mississippi Hills Chapter held all core training sessions weekly and in-person with 3 field trip training sessions. This year's class had 25 students and was held from April through June with 21 interns graduating. The capstone project was restoring a remnant native prairie at Highway 36 and Route J in Monroe County, and involved removing invasive species, collecting seeds, and burning the area.

The Chapter's involvement with the 4th year of the annual Clarksville Eagle Days was a success with over 700 visitors on Saturday and over 300 on Sunday.

Mississippi Hills' members hosted an Eagle Day in Hannibal as well this year. The Chapter was pleased with the response from the public and successfully wrote a grant to fund the eagle show from World Bird Sanctuary at the event in February 2025.



Chapter members participating in the annual August Float Trip on the Salt River.



The burn crew at Alan Miller's prairie burn this year.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

OSAGE TRAILS CHAPTER (KANSAS CITY)

In 2024, Osage Trails Chapter volunteers conducted 11,768 hours of volunteer service and participated in 2,617 hours of Advanced Training. Twenty-four volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 141 active volunteers (76 Certified) in the Chapter and 25 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

Osage Trails Chapter holds meetings virtually with Zoom during the darker and colder months for both safety and flexibility. During other times, Chapter members prefer in person meetings. In-person sessions are also preferred for most Advanced Trainings. The May Picnic Social and the December Holiday Social are held in-person to enjoy personal interactions. The chapters use of the MUE Zoom account has been an excellent tool and asset.

The Chapter held a 2024 Core Training which was led by the Training Committee. The course ran from August to November. The class started with 30 trainees and 24 were able to complete the class work and field days. Course work is focused on the Kansas City area fauna and flora. The focus reading for the class was Doug Tallamy's book, Home Grown National Parks, "Natures Best Hope".

The Chapter held several Advanced Training sessions: Doug Tallamy - Co-founder of Home-Grown National Parks, Adam McLane - the Missouri Director for The Nature Conservancy, Mark Glenshaw- Forest Park owls, Joanna and Eric Rueter- Geology for the Ozark Naturalists, Larry Rizzo- KC Rocky Point Glade hike.

This year the Chapter worked with MDC and MU Extension to get approval to use pre-recorded materials under certain restrictions for advance training credit. This opens the door to many alternate training materials if they are current and available through our partners and other recognized experts. The Chapter's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee has a scholarship fund for the training program and issued 3 scholarships to trainees during 2024.



Intern Chapter members having a dinner and mingling with Osage Trail's partners during their annual October Partner Night at Lakeside Nature Center.



Chapter members at Lake Lodge in Swope Park for advanced training on Soil Carbon Management from Sara Bier.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

SPRINGFIELD PLATEAU CHAPTER

In 2024, Springfield Plateau Chapter volunteers conducted 6,683 hours of volunteer service and participated in 1,015 hours of Advanced Training. Twenty-six volunteers completed the initial Core Training during the year. There are 51 active volunteers (41 Certified) in the Chapter and 27 local partners that provide opportunities for volunteer service.

At each of Springfield Plateau's monthly general membership meetings, a speaker is featured, and the presentation can be considered for advanced training. The Chapter had a wide variety of excellent programs again in 2024, including topics such as Tardigrades, Fungi, Lizards of Missouri, and Invasive Plants of Missouri.

Springfield Plateau's Core Training graduated 26 participants, and many have become active members, several taking leadership roles already. Field work combined with class presentations from experts in the field of expertise rounded out a productive training.

This past year the Chapter invested in a new retractable display, several new "trunks", new table top display boards, and a new tri-fold color brochure. The chapter continues to have a presence on social media and with their website, featuring a very popular blog. For example, All Time Visits have reached 1,583,525 with over 8,000 this past November and just under 10,000 for December.

Springfield Plateau is pleased to add the Missouri Institute of Natural Science to their listing of partnering organizations. The Institute includes the pre-historic Rivercut Cave and a small but growing museum and visitors center. Working with Great River Engineering and Missouri Department of Conservation, volunteers from the chapter will be providing hands-on assistance in the implementation of a phased-in master plan for the landscaping of a tract of land over 50 acres.



Above is the Chapter's Miller Park Native Landscaping Project.

CHAPTER PARTNERS

Boone's Lick

Boone County History and Culture Center
Boone County Nature School
City of Columbia
Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site
Columbia Audubon Society
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
Columbia Community Garden Coalition
Columbia Public Schools
Forest Releaf of Missouri
Lincoln University Native Demonstration Garden
Missouri Conservation Corps
Missouri Department of Transportation - Adopt a Highway
Missouri Native Plant Society
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri River Bird Observatory
Missouri River Relief
Missouri Stream Team
Missourians for Monarchs
Mizzou Botanic Garden
MU Raptor Rehabilitation Project
Ozark Trail Association
Prairie Fork Conservation Area
Prairie Garden Trust
Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Big Muddy National Refuge
University of Missouri - Jefferson Farms and Gardens
Wild Ones

Chert Glades

Audubon Society
Cardinal Valley
Joplin Empire Market
Joplin Parks
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri Stream Team
Prairie State Park
Wildcat Glades

Confluence

Frontier Middle School
Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
Missouri Bluebird Society
Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri State Parks
Missouri Stream Team
Shaw Nature Reserve
St. Charles Parks and Recreation
St. Louis Audubon Society
St. Louis County Parks and Recreation
Weldon Spring Interpretive Center
Wentzville City Parks
World Bird Sanctuary
Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
Open Space Council

Great Rivers

Audubon Center at Riverlands
Biodiverse City STL
Brightside STL
City of Chesterfield Parks and Recreation
City of Ellisville Parks and Recreation
City of Kirkwood Parks and Recreation
City of Webster Groves Parks and Recreation
Deer Creek Alliance
Endangered Wolf Center
Forest Park Forever
Forest Releaf of Missouri
Great Rivers Greenway
Greenway Network
Little Creek Nature Area
Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
Mississippi River Water Trail Association
Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri Stream Team
National Museum of Transportation
Open Space Council
River des Peres Watershed Coalition
Shaw Nature Reserve
Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House
St. Louis Audubon Society
St. Louis City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry
St. Louis County Parks and Recreation
Stewards of Grand Glaize
World Bird Sanctuary

Hi Lonesome

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

Lake Ozark

4-H
Association of Missouri Interpreters
Dickerson Park Zoo
Great Backyard Bird Count
Hurricane Deck Elementary School
Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake Area Visitor and Convention Bureau
Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance
Lost Valley Fish Hatchery
Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Master Gardeners
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri River Bird Observatory
Missouri State Parks
Monach Network

CHAPTER PARTNERS

Loess Hills

Dunn Ranch Prairie
Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge
Midland and Burroughs Audubon Societies
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri Stream Team
Otoe Trail & John Rushin Prairie
Remington Nature Center
Smithville Lake
Weston Bend State Park

Meramec Hills

Bonebrake Center for Nature & History
Camp Brim Shire
Cave Research Foundation
City of Owensville
City of Rolla
City of Salem
City of Steeleville
Common Grounds Community Garden
Meramec Springs Park
Missouri Department of Transportation - Keeping America Beautiful
Missouri Science & Technology - Child Development Center
Missouri State Parks
Missouri Stream Team
Newburg Children's Museum
Ozark Rivers Audubon Chapter
Ozark Trail Association
Rolla Outdoor Collaborative School
Rolla Public Schools

Miramiquoa

Caldwell Memorial Wildlife Area
Don Robinson State Park
Eastern Missouri Sierra Club
Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
Jay Henges Shooting Range
Meramec State Park
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missourians For Monarchs
Onondaga Cave State Park
Open Space Council
Ozark Trail Association
Shaw Nature Reserve
World Bird Sanctuary

Mississippi Hills

Audubon Society
City of Clarksville
Forest Council
Forest Keepers
Hannibal Arts Council
Hannibal LaGrange University
Hannibal Parks and Recreation
Hannibal Regional Airport
Hannibal Regional Hospital
Hannibal Tree Board
Heartland Seeds
Marion County
Marion County Schools
Mark Twain State Park
Missouri Bat Census
Missouri Bluebird Society
Missouri Department of Transportation
Missouri Prairie Foundation
National Deer Association
National Phenology Network
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Pike County Schools

Pike County Young Farmers and Ranchers
Ralls County Schools
Regional 4-H Council
Shelby County
Stream Team United
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
United States Geological Survey - Wild Bee Lab
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Turkey Federation - Hannibal Chapter
Xerces Society - Bumble Bee Atlas

Osage Trails

Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center
Blue River Watershed Association
Bridging the Gap
Burr Oak Woods
Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City
Deep Roots
Dunn Ranch Prairie
George Owens Nature Park
Heartland Conservation Alliance
Heartland Tree Alliance
Jackson County Parks and Recreation
Kansas City Parks and Recreation
Kansas City WildLands
Lincoln University Extension
Little Blue River Property
Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge
Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri River Bird Observatory
Missouri River Relief
Missouri Stream Team
Platte County Land Trust
Powell Gardens
Wild Souls

Springfield Plateau

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World
Bat Conservation International Organization
Bennett Spring State Park
Branson for Monarchs
Bull Shoals Field Station
City of Republic – Parks Department
City of Springfield
Friends of the Garden
Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
Interpreters Coalition of Springfield and Southwest Missouri
James River Basin Partnership
Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program
Leave No Trace
Missouri Institute of Natural Science
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri State University – Bat Studies
National Speleological Society
Safe Kids Coalition
Springfield Plateau Grotto
Springfield Public Schools
Springfield-Greene County Park Board
The Watershed Center
White Nose Syndrome Working Group of Missouri

CHAPTER ADVISORS

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
Cara Coates - Missouri Department of Conservation

Chert Glades Chapter

Sarah Havens - MU Extension
Jeff Cantrell - Missouri Department of Conservation

Confluence Chapter

Elihu Isele - MU Extension
Brian Waldrop - Missouri Department of Conservation

Great Rivers Chapter

Elihu Isele - MU Extension
Brian Waldrop - Missouri Department of Conservation

Hi Lonesome Chapter

Joni Ross Harper - MU Extension
Ginger Miller - Missouri Department of Conservation

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter

Joni Ross Harper - MU Extension
Cara Coates - Missouri Department of Conservation

Loess Hills Chapter

Todd Higgins - MU Extension
TJ Preacher - Missouri Department of Conservation

Meramec Hills Chapter

Sarah Higgins - MU Extension
Jeff Cantrell - Missouri Department of Conservation

Miramiguo Chapter

Matt Herring - MU Extension
Brian Waldrop - Missouri Department of Conservation

Mississippi Hills Chapter

Nick Wesslak - MU Extension
Kathi Moore, Ryan Kelly, Chris Williamson - Missouri Department of Conservation

Osage Trails Chapter

Tamra Reall - MU Extension
Courtney Green - Missouri Department of Conservation

Springfield Plateau Chapter

Kelly McGowan - MU Extension
Lyle Whittaker - Missouri Department of Conservation

2024 CHAPTER STATISTICS

Chapter & Year Established	Completed Core Training	Volunteer Service Hours	Advanced Training Hours	Active Members
Boone's Lick (2004)	10	6,694	1,590	75
Chert Glades (2005)	25	4,904	582	20
Confluence* (2005)	14	4,461	960	77
Great Rivers* (2007)	57	14,558	2,762	163
Hi Lonesome (2008)	3	1,540	254	19
Lake of the Ozarks (2009)	N/A	2,404	551	40
Loess Hills (2011)	11	2,897	508	32
Meramec Hills (2005)	23	5,956	1,093	85
Miramiguo* (2009)	17	6,825	1,555	76
Mississippi Hills (2018)	21	6,948	1,011	101
Osage Trails (2006)	24	11,768	2,617	141
Springfield Plateau (2006)	26	6,683	1,015	51
Total	231	75,638	14,498	880

Cumulative statewide volunteer service hours since 2004: **965,040**

Cumulative statewide advanced training hours since 2004: **246,867**

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

Chapter Advisors and Chapter leadership have the discretion to decide when the core training course is conducted. Chapters are not required to host a core training course on an annual basis.

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.

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Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240