



Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Chapter

2023 Annual Report

Upon completion of the Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist's Chapter year of 2023, here is the annual report. A Core Training was held in 2023 which resulted in 29 core graduates on August 29th 2023. This nearly doubled our membership roles.

Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist (MHMN) contributed **5895 Volunteer Service Hours**, and **893 Advanced Training Hours**.

The Chapter completed the year with 56 reporting members active.

Mississippi Hills Volunteer Activities, a Summary of 2023:

Please note that this is by no means an exhaustive list, but rather, a compilation of many of the activities which appealed to several members or to many public observers. Projects that involved a few members has been left off the list to keep this report manageable. For further volunteer activities, a full list can be found online at the MHMN Website.

January 2023:

- Capstone Project – Seeding a Prairie, Private land initiative. Humphries
- Prescribed Burn – Hannibal Regional Airport
- 7 New Prairies per Year Initiative – both Public and Private lands totaling 24 acres
- Clarksville Missouri Eagle Day – This was our 4th year participating in hosting this event. January 28 and 29th. Arranged by MHMN Theresa Casey, Committee Chair



Photo from 2023 Eagle Days



Booth Set up at a school education event

February 2023

- Feb 11th, Cutting out blue bird house kits for various youth activities Organized by MHMN Phil Whelan, Committee Chair
- Feb 18th was the first of monthly Group Hikes, a public education event. 2 2/1 miles Lick Creek Trail, Randy Hills, Committee Chair
- Feb. 18-20th Back yard bird count
- Feb. 25th, Ben Sapp 11th Annual Antler Shed Hunt – held at Mark Twain Lake Feb. 12th. A youth activity to encourage youth to experience the outdoors, searching for deer antlers much like an Easter Egg hunt. Bob Kendrick, Committee Chair
- Feb. 23rd, MDC Education and Interpretive Project – Louisiana Mo, High School, Vanessa Laatsch, Committee Chair
- Feb. 21st, Controlled Burn, Hwy 107 & U Bob Kendrick Committee Chair
- Allen Miller, MHMN member, awarded the Pike County Soil and Conservation District Wildlife Habitat Award



Making Blue bird house kits



Splitting wood for forest management **Allen Miller Receiving Conservation Award**



March 2023

- March 3, Building Fish Habitat for Mark Twain Lake – Assisting Missouri Department of Conservation
- March 2, Mark Twain Lake, Ray Behren's area – Tree Planting
- March 4, Hwy 107 & U – Prairie restoration/ seeding
- March 14, Private Land – Controlled burn (Wisdom)
- March 18, Buzzard's Roost- Group Hike Organized by MHMN Randy Hills

- March 18, Continued Fish Habitat construction and location, Mark Twain Lake MDC
- March 19, Prairie Project – Private Land (Miller)
- March 31, Conservation Partnership, Wild Turkey Federation, JAKE (youth Turkey Hunt) event, Youth registration, Vanessa Laatsch



Controlled Burn at Hwy 107 & U Wearing our donated Fire Jackets

April 2023

- April 1st, continued with assisting the Wild Turkey Federation Register JAKE hunters for the youth hunt
- April 1st, continued helping with Fish Habitat, launching and placing Fish Habitat in Mark Twain Lake Arranged by Army Corp of Engineers
- April 5th, Assisted Hannibal Tree Planting Board, planting trees on Main Street
- April 7th, Hannibal Parks and Recreation, MHMN provides guides for Hannibal Parks Educational Hikes. This was a Sodalis Park “Night Hike”
- April 15 and 16, Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Bethel MO :: MHMN had educational booth at Bethel Colony Spring Market
- April 19th, Dr. Coello, Quincy University and MHMN members hosted an educational hike in conjunction with Hannibal Parks and MDC. Birds and Spring Flowers were the focus.
- April 24th, Palmyra Schools Outdoor Day, Educating youth on Fur Barers, taught by MHMN Vanessa Laatsch
- April 28,29, 30th: Turkey Hunt for disabled persons, Mark Twain Lake. MHMN volunteers provided assistance, food and transport for participants. Bob Kendrick



Palmyra Schools, outdoor day, learning about Fur vs. Hair

Disabilities Turkey Hunt

May 2023

- May 10th, Education, A Day at Mark Twain State Park with 4th graders – Sylvia Spencer, Committee Chair
- May 12th, Night Hike, providing the Instructors for Hannibal Parks and Rec.
- May 12th, Field trip to Forest Keeling – Polinator Gardens, Pam Whiston
- May 17th, Oakwood Elementary School, Fishing Day, taught by MHMN George Wisdom
- May 20th, Group Hike, Hannibal Parks and Rec, and MHMN members
- May 20th, Invasive Control, Private Land, organized by Jan Golian

June 2023

- June 9th, Night Hike, Hannibal Parks and Rec, Staffed through MHMN
- June 10th, Youth Fishing Day, MDC, Army Corp of Engineers implemented by MHMN volunteers
- June 17th, Deer Ridge Group Hike, Education MHMN organized by Randy Hills

There are many more events for June that only had one or two volunteers. They can be found on our website ie. MDC Goose banding, Sodalis Bat counts, Farm Safety days, etc...

July 2023

- July 14th, Night Hike, MHMN provided for Hannibal Parks and Rec
- July 15th, MHMN led group hike to Cameron Cave, Randy Hills
- July 20th, Night Hike MHMN provided guides for Hannibal P&R
- July 29th, Fishing at Tom Sawyer Lake w/ Hannibal Parks and Rec



Education hike, In Cameron Cave, Hannibal



Trail Hike at Wyconda Park

August 2023

- August 5th, Wild and Wacky – Art meets Nature w. Hannibal Arts Council, Theresa Casey, Committee Chair
- August 5th, Fishing at Tom Sawyer Lake w/ Hannibal Parks and Rec
- August 11th, MHMN partnered w/ the Forest council, 3D Archery Shoot, Mark Twain Lake
- August 11th, MHMN for Hannibal Parks, Night Hike
- August 19th, Group Hike, Kayaking on the Salt River, Randy Hills, Committee Chair
- August 19th, Continued Fish Habitat Project
- August 31st, Capstone Project, Hannibal Regional Hospital walking trail, Native Gardens, Ann Humphries



Dennis Honkomp teaching kids about prehistoric fish that still live in our waterways. (Wild and Whacky)

September 2023

- September 8th. Night Hike w/Hannibal Parks and Rec, Kristy Travathan
- Sept 9th Fishing at Tom Sawyer Lake w/ Hannibal Parks and Rec, G. Wisdom
- Sept 15th, Farm Safety Days, Pike County, Keeping safe in Nature, T. Casey
- Sept 16th , Group Hike, Lick Creek Train, Randy Hills Committee Chair
- Sept 22nd , Continuing with the Native gardens at Hannibal Regional Hospital, Ann Humphries
- Sept 23rd , Trail maintenance, Lick Creek Trail, MHMN provided volunteers



Trail Clean up at Lick Creek Trail

October 2023

- Oct. 4th, 11th, 18th , Citizen Science, Sodalis Caves bat count, Quinton Heaton
- October 11th , Pollinator Garden, Private Landowner (Miller)
- October 21st , Group Hike Wakonda State Park MHMN, Randy Hills
- October 28-29, Continued work on Hannibal Regional Hospital Native Garden Trail, Ann Humphries, Committee Chair

November 2023

- Nov 11 & 12 Assisted manning CWD Stations in Missouri
- Nov. 18 & 19 Army Corp of Engineers and 10 MHMN – Mark Twain Lake Handicapped Hunt, Bob Kendrick, Committee Chair
- Nov. 18th Group Hike Bee Trace Trail, Matthew Harris
- Nov. 24-26 Mentored Deer hunt, Army Corp of Engineers and MHMN Volunteers



Two photos during our Mentored youth hunt



Advertisement for the November Trail Hike

December 2023

- Dec. 2, assisting Missouri Department of Transportation repairing Turtle Fencing, Dennis Honkomp, Committee Chair
- Dec. 16, Audubon 124th Christmas Bird Count
25 Volunteers logged 44 hours, and counted 2692 birds of 57 species. We expected a better turnout but it was a very rainy day.
- Dec. 30, Pollinator Garden, Private Land Owner, (Humphries)

ADVANCED TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Our members enjoyed advanced training which included information on native wildlife, wild flowers, Controlled Burn Trainings, Wild Edibles, Water ways and Geology. Two members completed Training through the NAI (National Association of Interpretation), and that has been added to new membership Core Training. Members learned to Identify a variety of birds and plant life. Bats are a nature focus in the Hannibal Area, and bat studies were taught to our members. Outdoor cooking, Archery, Fishing, Fly Tying, Kayaking, and Cave exploring were offered for our membership. A program introducing members to landowner's property,

including activities and programs that were put in place to improve those private lands has been provided. Hardwoods as a renewable resource were explored in advanced training classes. You name it, we taught it.

CERTIFICATION AND ACTIVE MEMBERS – click on icon below for certifications and recertifications

56 Reporting active members

Annual re-Certifications

Initial certifications



2023_MHMN Year
End Hours for Annual

PARTNER GROUPS

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake

Hannibal Parks & Recreation & Tree Board

Missouri Bat Census

MO State Parks

MDC

MoDOT

University MO Extension

Stream Team

Audubon

Wild Turkey Federation, Hannibal Chapter

USA National Phenology Network

Xerces Society – Bumble Bee Atlas volunteer service hours donated)

Forest Council (volunteer service hours donated)

Clarksville Eagle Days volunteer hours donated)

Pike County Schools (volunteer hours donated)

Shelby County Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison (volunteer hours donated)

2022 CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS President – Vanessa Laatsch, Vice President – Kristy Trevathan
 Secretary – Jan Golian, Treasurer – Theresa Casey,

Board Members at Large:

Bob Kendrick, Gale Rublee, Ann Humphries, Meagan Garey, Randy Hills, Phil Whelan

Committee Chairs:

Volunteer Service Projects – Dennis Honkomp, Meagan Garey,

Advanced Training – Kristy Trevathan,

Trail Hikes for education – Randy Hills

Bird house kit making for youth educ. – Phil Whelan

Native Planting – Ann Humphries

Hospitality – Barb Holmer,

Stream Team – Becca Romig

Website & Time keeper – Anne Coleman,

Chapter Advisors:

Kathi Moore – MDC

Daniel Mallory – MUE

Chapter & Year Established	Volunteers Completing Initial Training	Volunteer Service Hours	Advance Training Hours	Members	Certified/Re-Certified
Mississippi Hills 2018	29	5895	893	84	9/36

Click on the symbol below for full report summary



2023 Volunteer
Summary Report.xlsx