

# Mississippi Hills Chapter

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Master  
Naturalist  
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Photo by Dennis Foss

## Thompson Conservation Area Willow Planting Project

By Cynthia Vishy

**Travis Moore presented the Thompson Conservation Area Willow Planting project at the January Mississippi Hills Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist Program meeting. He described the need to stabilize a sandbar in this area to protect a historical mussel bed. Late in 2023 sand had been dredged from the river and was placed in the conservation area to provide community access to the shoreline.**

**The sand placement extended further south than was initially desired, which raised concerns that the sand could potentially wash down river and silt over the mussel bed.**

To prevent this devastation, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) developed a multi-staged plan that involves cutting willows, cottonwood and buttonbush from the Bay Island Conservation area and planting these cuttings at the Thompson Conservation area to stabilize the sandbar. Later in the spring native grass plantings will also be planted to further sustain the area.

When Travis asked the Chapter for volunteers that would be interested in this multi-stage project, I knew immediately it was a venture that would provide me with an opportunity to learn more about the community I now call home, and impact the local environment by preventing the disastrous destruction of a historic mussel bed inadvertently caused by human attempts to enhance community access to nature. While Travis could not provide an exact timeline for this project, he asked anyone interested to contact him and he would communicate the dates once the team identified an optimal time based on river levels in the Spring.

The following morning, I reached out to Travis to express my interest in this project. From that moment I felt like a part of the team. He responded immediately and kept everyone informed of the plans moving forward. On February 13<sup>th</sup> he sent an e-mail updating everyone on this project. MDC staff that had participated in a practice run of willow plantings had checked the status of their test site. Some blocks of shifting ice had knocked over some of the willow bundles which the team replanted. And, a young beaver had decided to snack on some of the willows.

Overall, the project looked sound and the MDC team was continuing their work identifying equipment needs and additional team members from the MDC, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps of Engineers. Dates had been set for March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with back up dates of March 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.



Cindy Vishy planting native grass.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> Travis confirmed the dates for March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> along with detailed information on each days' planned activities and instructions. March 4<sup>th</sup> we would be meet at J. Thad Ray and carpool to Bay Island to cut and bundle willows, cottonwood and buttonbush. On March 5<sup>th</sup> we would meet at the Lock and Dam 22 parking lot and enjoy a short "beachfront" walk to the planting site. He included information on clothing recommendations, food and drink provisions and information on toileting options. All important things to know ahead of arriving at the worksite.

**The sun was shining brightly the morning of March 4<sup>th</sup> as we met up with the team of MDC staff and Master Naturalists at J. Thad Ray. It was great to see so many welcoming MDC staff and familiar faces of Master Naturalists when we arrived.**

The MDC staff had trailers hitched up and loaded with UTVs and barrels with water for the willow bundles to be placed. Excitement and camaraderie were in the air while we waited for everyone to report to the meeting place. Once everyone arrived, Travis gave a quick overview of the work that would be done when we reached the site. Upon arriving at Bay Island, the group quickly divided into two teams and the willow cutting and bundling commenced. One team remained up front while a second team drove further back to cut willows. While some team members cut and dragged the willow branches up to the trailer area, other team members sorted the cuttings into willow bundles, cottonwood bundles and buttonbush bundles which were securely tied and placed in the barrels on the trailer. Periodically team members would change roles and/or move to a different location to gain further experience and interact with other team members.



The front work team had loaded up their barrels and were learning more from Travis regarding the impact of this project when the back team pulled around the corner with their load of tall willows overflowing the trailer. A beaver decided to grace us with his presence as the team completed an inspection of the trailer and contemplated the stability of transporting the willow cuttings back to J. Thad Ray. While the first team easily made it back to the MDC compound, the second truck was no where to be seen. The entire team was worried about the cause for the delay. Finally, Travis received a phone call that all was well, but assistance was needed. The MDC team immediately left to provide the required assistance.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive an e-mail later that afternoon from Travis with an update about the status of the second truck and the problem solving that was done to enable the project to move forward safely. Because of concern about crossing over highway 61, the decision was made to off load the UTV from the trailer and remove the bundles from the barrels and place them directly on the trailer. They were then driven directly to the Thompson Conservation Area where Travis and other team members met them with a boat. It took a few boat loads to transfer the bundles downriver where they were placed along the shoreline with their "butts" in the water and staked in place.

As sunny and warm as the previous day was, March 5<sup>th</sup> was a dreary, cloudy and wet morning that was much chillier than the previous day. As we waited for team members to arrive, donuts were offered, but the wind blew them off the trailer, saving us all from unnecessary sugar and calories. When everyone arrived Travis and Annie introduced the MDC team and the Master Naturalists introduced themselves. Travis gave a brief overview of the work planned for the day, equipment available and the team leads. Following the overview the teams split up and headed to their work areas. The team I worked with consisted of three MDC staff

members and myself. The team lead selected the site to start digging holes and planting the willow bundles. While two MDC staff began digging two feet deep holes in the sand, the lead and I gathered willow bundles from the river and placed them in the holes. We would quickly stabilize the plantings and move on to another set of holes and more willow bundles. Once all the bundles were delivered downriver, additional people began assisting with hole digging and I moved to planting individual cottonwoods in a row behind the willow plantings as an additional stabilizing plant.



When all the willow bundles, cottonwoods and buttonbushes were planted the team gathered and loaded all the equipment into the boat and posed for the typical team photo. It was a great day with a lot of great team work and conversations. As I'm finishing up this article draft, Travis has once again reached out with a communication. The date for the grass plantings at Thompson Conservation Area will be Friday, March 29th. I'm looking forward to working

with the team again on Friday, and am ready with my hand spade, planting gloves and knee pads.

Getting involved with this project, as with all the projects I have worked on since joining the Missouri Master Naturalist class last summer, has been extremely satisfying. I am meeting a great group of people who have similar interests, and participating in activities that stimulate the desire I have had since high school to conserve our environment. Life does not lack purpose after you retire and/or turn 60+ years old. I feel young and vital after working on this project, and empowered to make a difference, no matter how small, to preserve the environment and make the world a better place. How I wish I had known about the Missouri Master Naturalists sooner.



I look forward to more rewarding projects and developing more friendships as we engage in learning more about our impact on the environment and assist others in pursuing their love of nature.

*The Missouri Master Naturalist program is a community-based natural resource education and volunteer service program for adults, sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri Extension.*

*Its purpose is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the state of Missouri.*

*The Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Chapter is located in Hannibal, Missouri, and serves the surrounding counties. We are involved in citizen science, community projects, nature interpretation, and community nature education.*

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And on Facebook [@MississippiHills](https://www.facebook.com/MississippiHills)



# 4H Energize Regional Round-up

By Anne Coleman

When Theresa asked me to speak at the 4H Energize Regional Round-up about Eastern Bluebirds, my first reaction was—honestly—panic. I have never been good at public speaking, and I was pretty sure that hadn't changed. But what I do have is a love for bluebirds and a desire to share that with others—particularly children who I hope will also share the joy for bluebirds one day.

**Our chapter has a strong commitment to youth outreach, and one area where I believe we have excelled is in the hands-on-building of bluebird nest boxes.**

I certainly can't take the credit for that, but I can thank Phil and Beth Whelan and Ken and Deb Daniels and the many others that have taken on the work to make these events successful. From the securing of materials, the pre-build work, the packing and hauling of materials to the one-on-one interaction with each child who strives to build their own bluebird house. At this 4H event with Phil and Beth leading, Barry Casey, Randy Hills, Karen Bickel, Ann Humphreys, and Theresa Casey were there to make the day successful. ...our volunteers are awesome and deserve a big round of applause.

So, I want to help in whatever way that I can, and if my getting up in front of a group of children and their parents to talk about bluebirds; to share with them the role of this bird in the web of life and the importance of keeping bluebirds and their babies healthy by cleaning and maintaining the bluebird nest boxes, then that is what I will do. My obviously shaky voice telling them stories of my own bluebirds, who are just now building their first nest of the year in my bluebird nest box, was met with wonder and the excitement of having their own nest box and seeing their own bluebirds. Despite my anxiety, we had success. They were engaged and they wanted to learn more.

**Now, the real excitement happens at the bluebird house building station.**



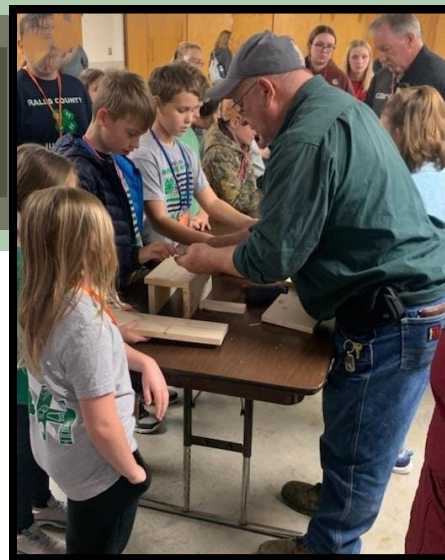
The crew is amazingly efficient, and we helped twenty kids build a nest box within about 40 minutes.

Many of the 4Hers came up and spoke with me while waiting their turn, and while I shared pictures and information posted on our Bluebird display board, they shared stories with me of their favorite birds (Bald Eagles was a top fav), where they have seen bluebirds before (grandparents' houses were number one) and some wanted to show me with pride their finished bluebird nest box. Each attendee received an excellent booklet from MDC's "Bluebirds in Missouri" to take home to read and share with their family so that they have the best chance of successfully seeing a family of bluebirds using their newly built nestbox. We also shared a booklet on native plants, "Native Plants for your Landscape" since the fruits of natives form a portion of the bluebird's diet of which insects is the most significant source of nutrition.

**The response to our efforts was pure Joy!**

That isn't to say that the entire event went smoothly, but there were so many happy faces and children hugging their bluebird boxes that their joy overcame whatever glitches had surfaced. I think we all learned a lot. I know I did!

I may never get better at public speaking, but the effort is worth the reward of seeing their curiosity as they learn a new fact about nature along with their smiles...always the smiles. I encourage everyone to consider ways to engage our kids and grandkids and to participate in our youth outreach programs. They are our future, and the future is in our hands.







# Nature Notes From Theresa

"Springtime in the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn." By Lewis Grizzard Lewis

Spring is my favorite time of the year – nature is awakening from a long winter’s nap and shaking off the gloom and grime leftover from the cold. The daffodils and pear trees are blooming in my yard. Redbud and wild plum tree’s buds are waiting to burst open in a week or so, right on time according to my calendar notes from last year. I started recording nature events last year, and it was interesting to see that this year coincided with my records from last year.



My motivation for recording nature events came from my participation in a citizen science program called Nature’s Notebook from US National Phenology Network. This is a national scale monitoring program which basically tracks “nature’s calendar” in a plants and animals (basically what stage in their lifecycle on the day you are recording).

I found it to be a simple program that you can complete on your own time and at your own pace. The program requires you to be observant of your natural environment, and you can choose the plants you have in your yard... it is not necessary to travel anywhere. Check it out if you are interested!

Our fellow Master Naturalist, Pam Whiston, drew me into the Winter Sowing Craze. I planted over 40 containers and have at least a 50% germination success rate so far. I planted several native prairie plants but also herbs and other annuals. As the temperatures warm up, I am seeing more seedlings popping through the soil. I went out to check my progress today and noticed the fragrance of the wild plums blooming.



Until next time, spend some of these warm spring days outside to see what will catch your eye.... or nose... there is always something new to see... or smell.

Theresa

## Sixth Core Training Underway for 2024

The diversity of the 25 members of the newest core training group is amazing. Differences in age, work and education background, and hobbies make it a true blend of different people with a common desire to support the natural landscape. Their enthusiasm of discovering a group of like-minded people is compounded by their desire to learn and the superb presenters lined up for this session.



Current members are encouraged to attend each Tuesday evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Boudreaux Center overlooking the Cannon Dam. Advanced training may be counted if you have not already participated in the specific presentation (let Anne Coleman know if you attend for AT). The schedule of content areas and speakers for each session and Saturday field trips is available on the website.



# MEET *Phil Whelan*

By Bella Erakko



It would be hard for Phil Whelan NOT to be a master naturalist, given his childhood. Youngest among eight siblings, the kids *lived* in nature from morning sunshine to evening dusk—just being kids. “I didn’t

realize how good it was at that time. We fished, hunted squirrel and rabbit, explored, played with pocket knives whittling away on tree limbs” (hopefully no siblings...). The family’s 120-acre farm bordered on Buck Creek and Salt River. “Dad was self-employed as a carpenter.” His mother stayed home, and the kids had chores taking care of the cattle.

Eventually Mark Twain Lake bought the property. The house is gone, and most of the acreage is underwater.

Phil married Beth Erdel, worked in a manufacturing factory, and 22 years ago struck out on his own. “I’m self-employed. General contractor/handyman.” He does it all—except heating and air conditioning, and roofs.

Not surprisingly, their two sons experienced an outdoor childhood. His youngest, Jeremy, would “fish rather than eat.” Phil gave up teaching him by the time he was seven. “He’d have a hook out of water more than in it. It proba-

bly drove the fish crazy and they’d jump out of the water out of sheer annoyance.” In other words, the kid got more fish than his older brother Payden or father combined. Once, fishing the same stream, Phil and Payden watched as they got nothing, and Jeremy kept catching. So they joined him. He explained exactly what he was doing. Then they began catching fish. Jeremy got tired of working the stream there and went down a bit. And Phil and Payden went back to getting absolutely nothing. Phil believes he could get fish out of a barren pond.

Phil’s introduction to the Master Naturalists came, not surprisingly, via Bob Kendrick. They had a deep long friendship that has its roots in a very frightening event. Phil and Beth’s oldest son, in a car accident, experienced brain trauma. He was pretty cut up around the head and face, in ICU for two weeks, and rehab for four. But he actually walked out ... on Mother’s Day.

Bob and Phil became good friends over the years. “We took stream team training together. Then this Master Naturalist thing came up and Bob said, “Let’s do it.” So they became participants in Mississippi Hills first class.

Today, Phil, along with other Master Naturalists, and enthusiastic support by Beth, makes bluebird houses by the dozens. Every child participating in the Shed event gets to take one home. And this year, the Extension Counsel Energizer event, encompassing seven counties, attracted over 140 kids. The birdhouses were precut and predrilled, but the kids ran the screw guns to put them together. Phil admitted, “I have really big hands, and I have to be really cautious because the little ones’ fingers are so tender.”

This past year, Phil helped band wood ducks at Ted Shanks in August. “It was phenomenal. Cannon nets were shot over the ducks. We pulled them out and put them in little boxes to stage them ... band and sex them, first-year hatch or adults.”

From childhood on, today Phil admits he enjoys everything outside: canoeing and kayaking between the two dams, hiking with Matt Harris, participating in burns and seeding, clearing bush honeysuckle. “But I don’t care for bats. I’m not a fan of the bats.”

And then, there’s Bob, always coming up with a new idea. “Last Saturday, our local church did cemetery cleanup. Someone suggested that the outside edge could be burned. Phil piped up, “I can get people here.” He called Bob, who immediately said, “Let’s do it.”

In fact, Bob had this magazine that said they were looking for cemeteries before 1890. Phil’s church dates back to 1833. No doubt the magazine will be hearing from Bob and Phil.

Always an active member, Phil says,

**“You know the best part about being a Master Naturalist?”**  
We might think it’s saving Planet Earth.  
Eradicating invasive species. Planting natives.  
But no ...  
**According to Phil, it’s the laughter.**  
**“That’s probably the best ... poking fun at each other.”**



## Eagle Days 2024

By Theresa Casey

Mississippi Hills Chapter of Master Naturalists provided assistance with Eagle Days at Clarksville, Missouri on January 27 & 28, 2024. Fifteen members were in attendance at this event on Saturday and 12 members on Sunday. Activities at this event included viewing scopes at the riverfront where 40 bald eagles were observed, a live eagle program courtesy of World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis, and several children’s activities.

The children in attendance were able to make eagle masks and nature stamp post cards, play ‘Land the Eagle in the Nest’ (corn hole), and an eagle matching game. Educational info and display on the Bald Eagle was available for adults and children to read and take home. A photo op with an eagle wingspan banner was available for all in attendance to pose and say, “Cheese” for the camera. There were 650 attendees on Saturday and 330 on Sunday.



On February 24, we brought the Eagle Day to Admiral Coontz Armory in Hannibal with many of the same activities. This was the first time for us to bring the event to our local area with hopes to make this an annual event in Hannibal. Even though this was only a one day event, there were 133 attendees, and we received a great response from those who were in attendance. Our chapter plans to bring the World Bird Sanctuary to the event by writing a grant to secure funds for the live eagle show. Many thanks to all the members who made these events successful and gave the public a memorable nature experience.



# Naturalists on the Go!

By Randy Hilger

## Port Aransas Surprise

My wife Mandy and I are NOT fans of northern Missouri February. We don't like those cold dreary days, so we try to escape each year to sun and warmth. This year's destination was Port Aransas, Texas. The lure of Port Aransas was miles of beaches and its reputation as the "Fishing Capital of Texas". However, what we found – but did not expect - may be of special interest to fellow naturalists.

The town of Port Aransas is on a coastal barrier island – Mustang Island – separating Corpus Cristi Bay from the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to Mustang Island, there are three other barrier islands nearby - Saint Jose Island, North Padre Island and South Padre Island. Together, these four islands are almost 120 miles long, providing beach lovers unlimited opportunities for beach activities.

Immediately adjacent to our RV campground was the Port Aransas Nature Center, which is composed of several contiguous facilities:

The **Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture** is 1,217 acres of tidal flat, marsh, wooded, and estuarine habitats that support diverse plant and animal life. Charlie's Pasture represents one of the few contiguous tracts of undeveloped land in any coastal plain that has been preserved for environmental, ecological, and historical purposes. Located within the city limits of Port Aransas, the Preserve is a "safe haven" for wildlife that has succumbed to the pressures of habitat loss and development. Migrating and resident shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds were a large driving force behind the conservation of this land and thus are valuable to the ecotourism economy of Port Aransas."



The **Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center** - this site offers a native pollinator garden and large trees in the front area, which leads to two boardwalks totaling 1,225 feet over the freshwater wetlands. The elevated boardwalks feature two shaded observation platforms, benches, and spotting scopes. The boardwalk parallels the shore and connects to a 1.25 mile trail through Charlie's Pasture. This trail winds through salt marsh and grassland prairie habitats. The trail walk includes another observation tower.

The **Joan and Scott Holt Paradise Pond** – this site has another boardwalk which takes you under some large trees and through a pollinator garden leading to a two acre freshwater pond. During the fall and spring migration, the trees are home to many species of neotropical migratory birds. Many of the large trees that once created a canopy over the pond died following Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Hundreds of native trees and shrubs have been replanted to help restore Paradise Pond.

While I am not a “birder” (*I should clarify... I like birds, but am not a bird fanatic or an experienced bird watcher*), this place was phenomenal! Mustang Island is on the “Central Flyway”, so millions and millions of birds drop in for an overnight rest each fall and spring as they migrate south and then back north. Other species come into these salt and freshwater marshes and become, like Mandy and me – “*Winter Texans*” – and do not migrate any further south.



In February we were between migrations so we did not get to see the “overnight visitors” which include Wrens, Warblers, Thrush, Phoebes, Shrikes, Orioles, Hummingbirds and the brightly colored Painted Buntings. But the thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl we saw were amazing - Virginia and Clapper Rails, several species of Sandpipers, Stilts, Avocets, Grebes, Bitterns, Herons, Egrets, Teals, Shovelers, Pintails, and on and on. Of special note were Roseate Spoonbills – the “official bird of Port Aransas” and a pair of Whopping Cranes which has made the Turnbull marsh its home ever since Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

In addition to the Port Aransas Nature Center, other public nature areas close to Port Aransas include the Padre Island National Seashore, Goose Island State Park and the Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary. We did not make it to Goose Island on this trip, but plan on visiting it next year, as there are reportedly more than 20 pairs of Whopping Cranes that call the park home.

Unfortunately I do not have great photos to share, as I foolishly left my camera and long lenses at home. However, I will be taking my camera and Audubon Society Bird Book to Port Aransas next January when we, once again, become “*Winter Texans*”. Maybe we’ll see you there...

## Great Backyard Bird Count 2024

- 7,920 species of birds identified
- 210 countries or subregions
- 384,416 eBird checklists
- 313,874 Merlin Bird IDs
- 164,740 photos, videos, and sounds added to Macaulay Library
- 642,003 estimated global participants
- 385 reported community events



For a more in-depth analysis and to review the final report, visit:

<https://www.birdcount.org/2024-final-results>

# OUR PRAIRIES

Seven Prairies Per Year For Seven Years  
By Bob Kendrick

## 30 Prairies in 4 years!

We are exceeding our goal!



Burn Crew at Miller Prairie!

<b>2020</b>				
1	Corps of Engineers	Indian Creek	North side of Paris area food plots	¼ acre
2	Corps of Engineers	Indian Creek	South side of Peach Orchard	¼ acre
3	Corps of Engineers	Indian Creek	East side of southwest thin field	½ acre
4	Corps of Engineers	Indian Creek	South side of Paris Food Plots	1/3 acre
5	Corps of Engineers	Indian Creek	RJs Prairie	2 acres
6	Corps of Engineers	Mark Twain Lake	Frank Russell Demonstration	2 acres
7	Private	Vanessa Laatsch	Lewis Co.	1 acres
<b>2021</b>				
1	State Park	Intersection 107 and Rt U	Mark Twain State Park	10 acres approx.
2	Private	Jan Golian	East of MT High School	1 acre
3	City of Hannibal	Mac Ellis Prairie	Hannibal Airport	2 acres
4	Private	Alan Miller	Peno Creek south of Frankford	3 acres
5	Private	Cliff Gander prairie	north of Monroe City	1 acre
6	Private	Ann Humphreys	East of Doyle Mfg. Palmyra	1/3 acre
7	Private	Lynn Gibson	New London	1 acre
<b>2022</b>				
1	Conservation Dept	Hunnewell Fish Hatchery	Hunnewell	6 acres
2	Private	Rich & Abigail Tumbleson	Hannibal	1/4 acre
3	Private	Carl Thompson	Monroe City	¾ acre
4	Private	Al Davis	Perry	1/3 acre
5	Indian Creek	Cemetery Wall	Indian Creek	½ acre
6	Corps of Engineers	Indian Creek	Field C11F10	3 acres
7	Private	Alan Miller	Peno Creek	2 acres
<b>2023</b>				
1	Private	George Wisdom	Macon	5+ acres
2	Hannibal Regional Hospital	Healthwise Trail	Hannibal	3+ acres
3	Private	Del Buckman	South of Monroe City	½ acre
4	Corps of Engineers	Indian Creek Access	CES3F03 C11F11 CES3F01	1.5 acres 1/3 acres 1.5 acres
5	Private	Ann Humphreys	Palmyra	1.5 acres
6	Private	Alan Miller	Peno Creek	3-4 acres
7	Private	Al Davis	Perry	1/3 acre
8	Private	Branden Noer	Paris	2.6 acres
9	Private	Dennis Holcomb	Ralls Co.	3+ acres
<b>Tentatively Slated for 2024</b>				
1	Private	Liz Grove	Monroe Co.	5+ acres
2	Hannibal Parks & Recreation	Riverview Park	Hannibal	
3	Private	Randy Hills	Ralls Co.	
4	Private	Scott & Kaye Bujnak	Stoutsville	
5	Private	Butch & Barb Holmer	Emden	
6	Shelby County	Shelby Co. Historical Society	Shelbina	
7	Private	Carolyn Waelder	Palmyra	
8	Private	Vanessa Laatsch	Lewis Co.	
9	Private	Andy & Bridget Cooper	Hannibal	



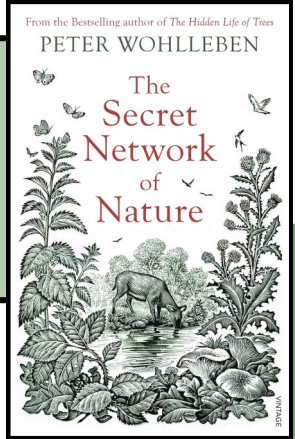


## Reader's Review

By Katie Johnson

# The Secret Network of Nature

By Peter Wohlleben



Did you know the eradication of wolves in Yellowstone caused the park's rivers to change course? Have you heard that salmon can help fertilize a forest? Could anyone have predicted how thousands of migrating cranes could sabotage the production of specialty ham? These relationships and more were discussed when fourteen naturalists gathered at the second meeting of the MHMN Book Club to reflect on **Peter Wohlleben's *The Secret Network of Nature: Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things***.

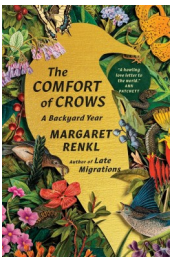
Wohlleben's book, the third in his Mysteries of Nature trilogy, is essentially a series of essays that discuss surprising and complex connections found in nature. Although each chapter explains a different aspect of the living world, Wohlleben's writing is bound by one common theme: everything is connected. Wohlleben says, "Nature is like the mechanism in an enormous clock. Everything is neatly arranged and interconnected. Every entity has its place and function.

All animals and plants are held in a delicate balance, and every entity has its purpose and role in its ecosystem." This book explores the intricacies of this "clock" and what happens when the smallest of cogs is even slightly moved.

Readers who appreciate a detailed and often dense text will take pleasure in Wohlleben's writing. Those who don't mind following the author on a detour of the mind while he explores tangential subjects will also enjoy this book. Readers who prefer a straightforward text that follows a linear line of thinking, however, may not be fond of Wohlleben's approach and might consider looking elsewhere for their next read. Despite a polarizing writing style, Wohlleben does express an awe of nature that all naturalists are likely to relate to when he says, "But nature is more complex than a clock, isn't it? In nature, not only does one cog connect with another; everything is also connected by a network so intricate that we will probably never grasp it in its entirety. And that's a good thing, because it means that plants and animals will always amaze us."

## MHMN BOOK CLUB

By Katie Johnson



MHMN Book Club will meet again on Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m. (location TBD) to discuss ***The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year* by Margaret Renkl.**

This book examines the plants and animals found in Renkl's own backyard in Tennessee over the course of one year. It has been called "a howling love letter to the world" and the story of what we've lost and what we can save and the abundance of nature in our own backyard."

**We would love to have you join us for our discussion!**

## Missouri Master Naturalist Conference

**20th Anniversary of the Missouri Master Naturalist Program**

Columbia, MO June 7-8, 2024

More information to come when it is available

Save the Date!

Missouri Master Naturalist



## ADVISOR'S CORNER

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
 Extension

By Nick Wesslak

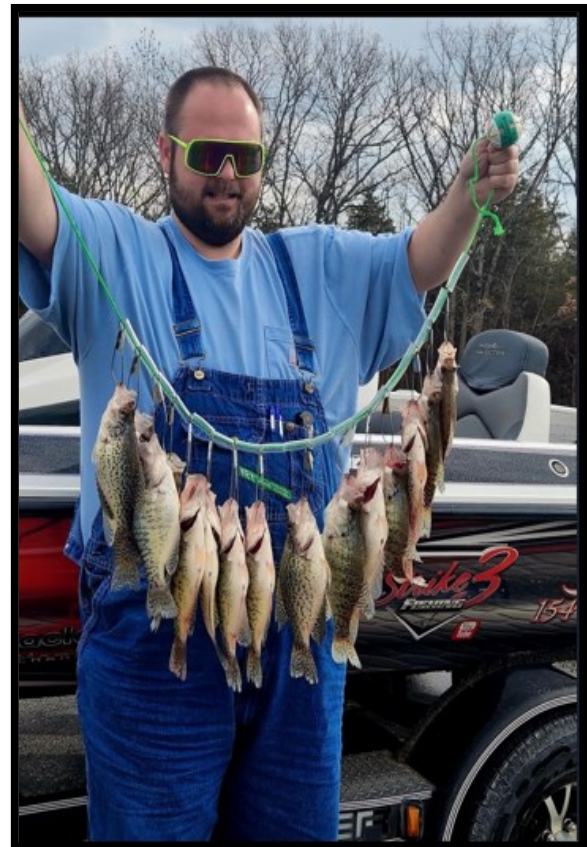
### Greetings and Introductions from Your New Advisor

Your new Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist (MHMN) chapter advisor (Nick Wesslak) wishes to extend a warm greeting to your organization. He is very excited to work with the MHMN. Nick enjoys the energy and drive possessed by the MHMN chapter and looks forward to collaborating with everyone on various conservation and nature-oriented projects. Nick works as an agronomist for the University of Missouri Extension, primarily focusing corn, soybeans, and wheat production.

His primary background is in row crop research and production, as well as forage production. Nick's livestock experience resides with dairy cattle and horses, but he has jumped in the squeeze shoot with a few beef cows before when help was needed. Nick is a Mizzou alumnus and enjoys working alongside many of his former professors. Nick serves on the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District Board as Secretary, as an advisor on the MU Pesticide Safety Education Programming Committee, as well as the Master Gardener Coordinator for Marion County.

Outside of agronomy work, Nick is an avid fan of the great outdoors, particularly hunting, fishing, and target shooting. His favorite fishing activity is crappie fishing, particularly on Mark Twain Lake. It is very fortunate for Northeast Missouri to have the Mark Twain Lake Reservoir in its region; Mark Twain Lake provides not only an excellent fishery, but a water source for many, and helps with flood control.

Nick grew up in the small town of Toney, Alabama, before attending High School and college in the state of Missouri. Following college, Nick's work travels and places of residence followed the Mighty Mississippi from Louisiana to Illinois. All his travels considered, Nick is happy to be back in the state of his birth, Missouri. Nick's office is located at 100 S Main Street, Suite 201, Palmyra, MO 63461. You can reach him on his cell phone at 573-470-3435 or at his office at 573-769-2177. His email address is [r.n.wesslak@missouri.edu](mailto:r.n.wesslak@missouri.edu).



### The Cicadas Are Coming!

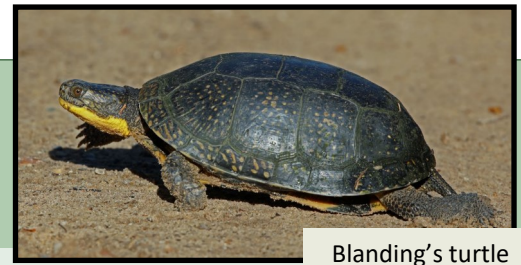
If you attended Mississippi Hills monthly meeting in March, you saw the video on the Periodic Cicada brood XIII and XIX hatches expected to emerge in late April to early May that was presented by Robert Hendrickson. There has been quite a bit of news surrounding this event, but if you've missed it or are interested in more information, here is a link that Robert shared that hopefully will satisfy your interest!

[Periodical Cicada Information](#)



# Spotlight on Species

## Yellow Mud and Blanding's Turtles



Blanding's turtle

**Members of the Mississippi Hills Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist Program helped with a Turtle Fence Project in December. The project ensured that the fence remained in place while US Fish and Wildlife conducts a spring survey that will tell them if the yellow mud turtle and the Blanding's turtle are eligible for the federal endangered species.**



yellow mud turtle

### Yellow Mud Turtle

The yellow mud turtle has a yellow throat and chin, but its shell is flat and olive brown with the outer plates outlined in a darker brown. Its limbs and upper head are dark olive. The tail ends in a clawlike, horny tip.

A close relative to the Mississippi mud turtle which is found in the Missouri bootheel, southeastern Missouri and along the Arkansas border. The small turtle, reaching a length of 4-6 inches, lives in the open, sandy ridges close to the wetlands in these areas. They emerge in early April and travel to aquatic habitats with muddy or sandy bottoms such as marshes, sloughs, and ponds.

Moving overland is common during the morning, evening, or night. The yellow mud turtle feeds on aquatic and terrestrial insects, snails, crayfish, tadpoles, and dead fish. It courts and nests from April to early July. The female digs a nest hole in sandy soil and lays 6-8 eggs over a period of two or three days. She may lay some of the eggs in another nest nearby to keep predators from getting all her eggs. Young turtles hatch in August to mid-September and remain in the nest until the following spring. During the hot days of July and August, they bury themselves in sandy substrate at a depth of 10 inches. Some turtles have been documented to live to 60 years.

### Blanding's Turtle

The Blanding's turtle is named after William Blanding, an early Pennsylvanian naturalist. It is approximately 5-7 inches long and can be spotted by its bright yellow chin and throat and lighter spots spread across the shell. It prefers the quiet waters of marshes and streams. The Blanding's turtle also abides in some places along the shallow portions of lakes from Nebraska to Nova Scotia. Ironically the turtle is now eradicated from Pennsylvania.

Its diet is mostly carnivorous, and it often feeds underwater on snails, insects, tadpoles, frogs, and crayfish.

To get to a nesting site the female Blanding's turtle often travels overland, which means crossing roads to find a site. While hatchling survival is low, survivors can live up to 70 or 80 years.

Road mortality for these turtles is high and is one of the main reasons for their reduction in numbers. Another reason is the destruction of their habitat. Numerous nature organizations have worked to alert the public to the plight of the Blanding's turtle with grassland conservation efforts in the western Midwest. Studies are underway to learn how far individual turtles travel during their active season from April to October. This knowledge will help determine which ponds and lands, and the corridors needed to reach them need protection.

**Native Americans are one of many cultures that revere the turtle. Many tribes use their shells to make rattles used in ceremonies. Turtles are featured in many ancient myths worldwide. The turtle symbolizes patience, longevity, wisdom, and perseverance; all traits needed for conservationists to protect the species.**

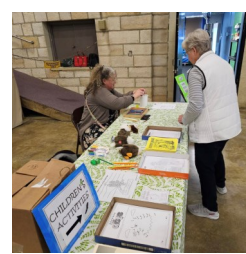
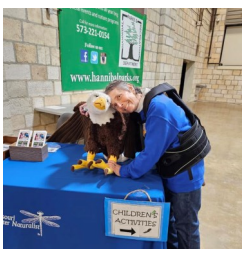


# Missouri Master Naturalists at Work



**Eagle Days**

In Clarksville and in Hannibal. It was cold, but FUN for all!



Burn and Seeding at Honkomp Prairie



George assisting the class in the art of Fly Tying and Learning about Herbs with Sylvia



Shed Hunt at Mark Twain Lake



Clean-up with the Stream Team



At the Caseys



At the Tumblesons

Callery Pear Tree Removal



Tree Identification and Hike with David Vance at Frank Russell



Bundle cutting Crew

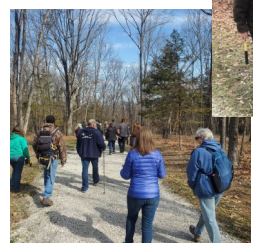
Thompson CA Willow Project



Native Grass Planting Crew



Willow Planting Crew



Burn at Indian Creek Cemetery





# Missouri Master Naturalists at Work—Continued



Burn at Miller's Prairie



Exploring Nature—Family Field Day



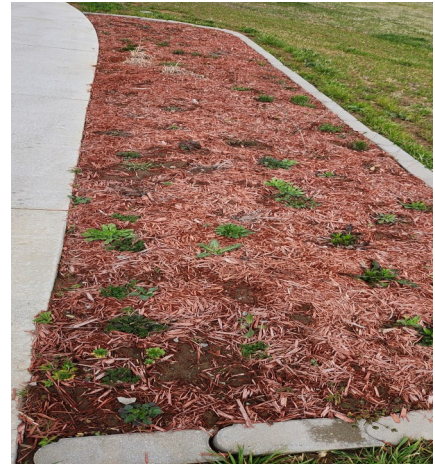
## HRH Healthy Way Fitness Trail UPDATE

Spring is here and this is the time of year when we are anxiously waiting to see if the native plants we planted last fall and/or over the winter have started pushing their way up through the mulch and leaves that have been protecting them. Our chapter's Core Training class capstone project last year was to plant two butterfly gardens, each 5 x 25' containing 18 different plant species selected so there would be blooms, nectar, and pollen from early spring to late fall for visitors to enjoy at Healthy Way Fitness Trail at Hannibal Regional Hospital.

Pam Whiston recently visited the Fitness Trail and has provided pictures of the native plants emerging. Some of the plants that were showing on March 14 were:



- rose verbena
- beard-tongue
- prairie coreopsis
- columbine
- slender mountain mint
- purple coneflower
- black-eyed susan
- hairy wild petunia



This is a fun project where you can track the progress of the newly planted natives while you walk the trail which is open to the public to use. Send us your pictures when you do so that everyone can see the progress.

Visit our website for more information on the Butterfly Garden layout used by our Pollinator Garden committee. If you have questions about specific plants used, please ask Pam Whiston or Ann Humphreys for more information.

[Butterfly Garden Layout](#)

## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

By YOU!

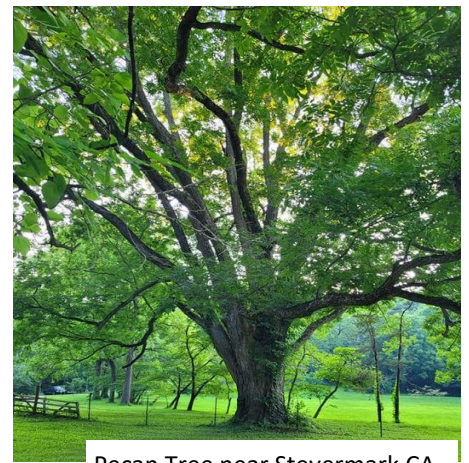
We need to hear about your heroes! Inspiration shared is multiplied many times over.

Please send us your stories!



“Other holidays repose upon the past;  
Arbor Day proposes for the future.”

–J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day



Pecan Tree near Steyermark CA

**National Arbor Day** is commemorated on the last Friday in April, but in Missouri, April 4th is designated as Missouri Arbor Day . This year, the city of Hannibal is also celebrating the designation of Tree City USA for 25 years, and in keeping with the recognition of Missouri Arbor Day, planted approximately 70 trees in several locations in Hannibal. The trees were planted with the help of fourth-graders from Stowell, St. John’s and Eugene Field schools , along with Tree Board members.

The trees were donated by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri’s mission is “to enrich communities by growing and planting trees through the power of people and partnerships. This effort supports our vision of a more resilient tree canopy in Missouri’s communities that supports healthy people, healthy habitats and a healthy planet.”

Hannibal-LaGrange University will also hold an Arbor Day celebration at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 19, near the Roland Library to honor alums Ruth Ihrig Foreman and Dorothy Sisson by the planting of two river birch trees on campus.

You can celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree in your own yard or neighborhood. The following native trees are recommended because of the biodiversity they support—



**HAPPY ARBOR DAY**

**Plant a Tree!**

- Oak Trees
- Willow Trees
- Birches
- Wild Cherry

## BY THE NUMBERS

(rounded to nearest whole hour as of March 31, 2024)

**2024**

### SERVICE PROJECTS

Volunteer Service Projects Total Hours = 1796

### ADVANCED TRAINING

Advanced Training Total Hours = 290

## Recognition for achieving Initial Certifications!

- ◆ Phil Noel
- ◆ Becca Romig
- ◆ Kathryn Bujnak
- ◆ Scott Bujnak
- ◆ Dale Roth
- ◆ Sr. Sue Walker



## Congratulations on 2024 Annual Certifications!

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| • Theresa Casey   | • Pamela Whiston |
| • Phil Noel       | • Sylvia Spencer |
| • Shannon Jenkins | • Bob Kendrick   |
| • Anne Coleman    | • Randy Hills    |



## Special Congratulations for achieving:

**Bronze Milestone** pins for *250* volunteer hours:

- ◆ Jan Golian
- ◆ Barry Casey

**Pewter Milestone** pins for *500* volunteer hours:

- ◆ Phil Whelan
- ◆ Al Davis



# UPCOMING EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## —Volunteer Opportunities—

*Watch for Emails and Check our Calendars for Updates and New Events*

### ◆ **April 20, 2024 1:00 pm-3:00 pm; Master Naturalist Group Hike; Steyermark Woods, Hannibal**

The Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Chapter will host an interpretive nature hike at Steyermark Woods Conservation Area in Hannibal on Saturday, April 20. The focus will be on Spring Wildflower identification. Participants will observe and learn about the conservation area, woodland habitat, flowering trees and ephemeral wildflowers in bloom.

### ◆ **April 20, 2024 2:00 pm-3:00 pm; Master Naturalist Group Hike; Steyermark Woods, Hannibal**

The Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Chapter will also host a second hike on April 20th at Steyermark Woods which will start an hour later than the wildflower hike. This hike will be at a faster pace and will not have the more in-depth discussions about wildflowers seen along the trail.

### ◆ **April 26, 2024 8:45 am - 11:00 am; Home School Hike, Sodalis Trail; Hannibal MO**

Home School group at Sodalis Nature Preserve--about 20 participants. (Similar to a night hike in terms of information and seasonal observations. Will include more interactive nature games.)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gale Rublee.

### ◆ **April 26, 2024 9:00 am - 2:00 pm; Earth Day at Frank Russell; Mark Twain Lake**

This will be for 150 area 3-6th grade students. They will be in organized groups with their teachers. They'd like assistance with a fishing program and turkey booth. We have a turkey display from MDC with a turkey fan, calls, beards, etc and brochures. Knowledge of turkeys/hunting would be a plus. Lunch is provided. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Theresa Casey.

### ◆ **April 27, 2024 7:45 am - 9:00 am Bird Hike, Sodalis Trail; Hannibal MO**

Bird Walk at Sodalis Nature Preserve. Bring binoculars and bird ID resources (books and/or smart phone with Merlin or other birding apps). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gale Rublee.

### ◆ **April 27 & 28, 2024 4:30 am - 2:30 pm; Turkey Hunt for Persons with Disabilities; Mark Twain Lake**

Army Corps of Engineers Turkey Hunt for Persons with Disabilities at Indian Creek. There may be a preparation meeting on April 26th. If you are interested in volunteering please call Bob Kendrick.

### ◆ **May 18, 2024 9am - noon; Master Naturalist Group Hike: Henry Lay Sculpture Park ; Louisiana MO**

Hike will be led by Rebecca Romig and Luke Greving at Henry Lay Sculpture Park.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/pwhd6ZLVr3fk84Ky7>

### ◆ **June 8, 2024 09:00 am - 12 noon; Kids Fishing Day at Frank Russell; Mark Twain Lake**

Volunteers requested to help children with fishing. This event is for ages 5-12 and will be for 30 children maximum. MDC will be providing fishing equipment. If you are interested in volunteering please call Bob Kendrick.

### ◆ **June 25, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Chapter Meeting; Pot Luck Dinner at Frank Russell; Mark Twain Lake**

Danny Hartwig will be our speaker. Our meeting will include a pot luck style dinner and our trainees will be joining us for the evening. More information to come and if you're interested in helping with planning, please reach out to Barb Holmer or any member of the Hospitality Committee.

## —Advanced Training Opportunities—

### —Speakers at meetings—

- ◆ **April:** Mary Lynn Richards (Hannibal Parks & Recreation), Gale Rublee, Kristy Trevathan—**Programs at Hannibal Parks**
- ◆ **May:** Allison Vaughn (DNR Resource Ecologist)—**Missouri Natural Areas Program**
- ◆ **June:** Danny Hartwig (MDC Regional Director)—**Northeast Region Updates**



# Volunteer Opportunity Calendar for April, May and June 2024

Event Date	Event Time	Event Title
4/20/2024	02:00 pm - 03:00 pm	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Master Naturalist Led Group Hikes :: Hike at Steyermark Woods (2-3pm)
4/20/2024	12:30 pm - 03:00 pm	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Master Naturalist Led Group Hikes :: Steyermark Wood--Wildflowers (1-3pm)
4/20/2024	08:00 am - 11:00 am	Natural Resource Stewardship :: Hannibal Spring Clean-up :: Earth Day
4/23/2024	07:00 pm - 08:00 pm	Program Support :: Chapter Meeting :: (04) April
4/26/2024	08:45 am - 11:00 am	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Hannibal Parks & Recreation :: Home School Hike Sodalis Trail
4/26/2024	09:00 am - 02:00 pm	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Mark Twain Lake :: Earth Day at Frank Russell
4/26/2024	01:00 pm - 06:30 pm	Conservation Group Partnership :: Army Corps of Engineers Special Hunts :: Turkey Hunt for Persons with Disabilities Prep
4/27/2024	07:45 am - 09:00 am	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Hannibal Parks & Recreation :: Bird Hike Sodalis Trail
4/27/2024	04:30 am - 02:30 pm	Conservation Group Partnership :: Army Corps of Engineers Special Hunts :: Turkey Hunt for Persons with Disabilities
4/28/2024	04:30 am - 02:30 pm	Conservation Group Partnership :: Army Corps of Engineers Special Hunts :: Turkey Hunt for Persons with Disabilities
5/4/2024	09:30 am - 12 noon	Program Support :: Stream Team Committee :: Committee Meeting :: Stream Team Board Meeting
5/14/2024	06:00 pm - 07:30 pm	Program Support :: Executive Board :: Board Meeting
5/18/2024	09:00 am - 12 noon	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Master Naturalist Led Group Hikes :: Henry Lay Sculpture Park
5/28/2024	07:00 pm - 08:00 pm	Program Support :: Chapter Meeting :: (05) May
6/8/2024	09:00 am - 12 noon	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Mark Twain Lake :: Kids Fishing Day at Frank Russell
6/15/2024	09:00 am - 12 noon	Chapter Education & Interpretation Projects :: Master Naturalist Led Group Hikes :: TBD
6/25/2024	07:00 pm - 08:00 pm	Program Support :: Chapter Meeting :: (06) June :: Pot Luck Dinner

Monthly Meetings  
Monthly Chapter Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month

Bi-monthly Board Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every other month

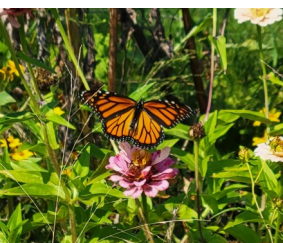


**Earth Day** is recognized annually on April 22 and was first held on April 22, 1970. The event which promotes environmental awareness now includes a wide range of activities and has 1 billion participants in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics."

**Local Activities include:** **Hannibal Spring Clean-up on April 20th**—Volunteers should meet anytime from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Y'Men's Pavilion, 105 Hill St.

**Earth Day event at Frank Russell with Army Corp of Engineers on April 26th**—Volunteers are needed 9am-2pm to assist with local grade school groups attending. Assistance needed with fishing activities (10 people) and to staff a turkey booth(2 people). Contact Theresa Casey if you can assist.

Missouri also has some statewide events. Check out the following website for more details. <https://dnr.mo.gov/earth-day>



**National Pollinator Week** is an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. It's a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. Resources are available to help you plan and promote your involvement for this year's event **June 17-23, 2024**. Additional information can be found using the link below. Do you have an idea for highlighting the importance of our pollinators? Please share your ideas with our Pollinator Garden Committee or at our next chapter meeting!

[www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week](http://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week)



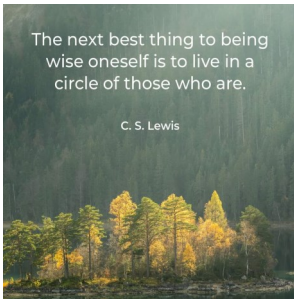
# Advanced Training Calendar for April, May and June 2024

Watch for new training that is added on the website or sent by Theresa in email.

If you find additional training not on the calendar, please send to Dennis Honkomp and Tracy Fuller so that it can be added.

If you aren't sure whether the new training qualifies please ask!  
**THANKS!!**

Event Date	Event Time	Event Title
4/19/2024	02:00 pm - 03:00 pm	Wildlife: Earth Week: Effects of Artificial Light on Wildlife
4/20/2024	01:00 pm - 03:00 pm	MHMN: Spring Wildflower identification at Steyermark Woods
4/20/2024	02:00 pm - 03:00 pm	Native Plants: Earth Week: Helper Plants Virtual Program
4/23/2024	06:00 pm - 07:00 pm	Chapter Meeting---Mary Lynn Richards, Gale Rublee and Kristy Trevathan
4/23/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (05) :: Insect Ecology and Identification Foraging
4/23/2024	01:30 pm - 02:30 pm	Illinois Extension: Managing Invasives: Eight Replacements for the Callery Pear
4/23/2024	03:00 pm - 04:00 pm	Wildlife: Missouri Mussels Virtual Program
4/24/2024	01:00 pm - 02:00 pm	MDC--Birds: Hummingbird Season (VIRTUAL)
4/24/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
4/25/2024	02:30 pm - 03:00 pm	MDC--Pond to Plate: Virtual Fish Cooking: Other Methods
4/26/2024	03:00 pm - 05:30 pm	MDC: Conservation Adults: Truman State University- Earth Week
4/27/2024	09:00 am - 12:30 pm	Core Training Class (06) :: Field Trip to Frank Russell--Wildlife Best management Practices & History of Mark Twain Lake (Time TBD)
4/27/2024	08:00 am - 09:00 am	Mississippi Hills Chapter: Bird Walk at Sodalis Nature Preserve
4/30/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (07) :: Invasive Species & Principals of Interpretation
4/30/2024	02:00 pm - 02:30 pm	MDC: Amphibians and Reptiles: Creature Feature: Alligator Snapping Turtle (V)
4/30/2024	11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Native Plants: Wonderful Wildflower ID Webinar
5/1/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
5/2/2024	06:30 pm - 08:00 pm	MDC: Pond to Plate: Virtual: Fish Cleaning 101
5/4/2024	02:30 pm - 03:15 pm	MDC: Insects: Virtual: Butterfly Surveys and Blooket Trivia
5/6/2024	02:00 pm - 03:00 pm	Home Grown Native Plants workshops: Dividing seedlings
5/7/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (08) :: Birds are Awesome! & Capstone Project Discussion
5/8/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
5/10/2024	07:00 pm - 08:30 pm	MDC: Amphibians and Reptiles: Virtual: Copperhead Study Findings Presentation
5/10/2024	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	MDC: Birds: Folklore of Birds
5/14/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (09) :: Soils
5/14/2024	01:30 pm - 02:30 pm	Illinois Extension: Exploring Natural Lawn Care
5/14/2024	02:00 pm - 02:30 pm	MDC: Amphibians and Reptiles: Creature Feature: Shiny Skinks (Virtual)
5/15/2024	06:00 pm - 08:00 pm	MDC--Outdoor Survival: Bushcraft Skills Series - Knife, Axe, and Saw



**Most training requires advanced registration. To sign up for a training session, please use the appropriate link below.**

FOR MDC: <https://mdc.mo.gov/events>    FOR MPF: <https://moprairie.org/events/>

**For other advanced training, follow the instructions in the email sent by Theresa.**

**If you aren't sure, please ask Dennis Honkomp or Tracy Fuller! Someone will be happy to help you get signed up.**



# Advanced Training Calendar Continued for April, May and June 2024



We're searching for articles for our next newsletter.

What would you like to read about or to learn more about?

Have you read a good book lately? Would you like to share an article?

Contact Janet Golian for more information, to share your ideas or to provide feedback for our newsletter.

The deadline for contributing to the next newsletter is June 30, 2024.



Event Date	Event Time	Event Title
5/15/2024	12 noon - 12:30 pm	MDC: Native Plants: Virtual: Where can I? Purchase Native Plants
5/15/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
5/21/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (10) :: Forest Ecology and Tree Identification & Nature Journaling
5/22/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
5/28/2024	06:00 pm - 07:00 pm	Chapter Meeting----Allison Vaughn
5/28/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (11) :: Wildlife Regulations as a Management Tool & Conservation K-9 Program
5/29/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MDC--Outdoor Survival: Bushcraft Skills Series - Knife, Axe, and Saw
5/29/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
5/31/2024	11:00 am - 12:30 pm	MDC--Amphibians and Reptiles: Snakes of Missouri Webinar
5/31/2024	03:00 pm - 04:00 pm	MDC--Invasive Species: VIRTUAL: Invasive Animals of Missouri
6/3/2024	02:00 pm - 03:00 pm	Home Grown Native Plants workshops: Planning your garden
6/4/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (12) :: Mark Twain Lake Fisheries Projects & Missouri's Big River Ecosystems and Historical Uses
6/5/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
6/7/2024	10:00 am - 04:00 pm	Missouri Master Naturalist Conference (Start/End time TBD)
6/8/2024	08:30 am - 11:30 am	MDC: Small Game Hunting: Learning to Hunt: Why We Hunt
6/8/2024	10:00 am - 04:00 pm	Missouri Master Naturalist Conference (Start/End time TBD)
6/11/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (13) :: Missouri Geology and the Lincoln Fold & Chapter Website Navigation and Time Keeping
6/12/2024	12 noon - 12:30 pm	MDC: Nature Rx: Virtual: Where can I? Float
6/12/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
6/17/2024	02:00 pm - 03:00 pm	Home Grown Native Plants workshops: Planting your garden
6/18/2024	06:30 pm - 08:30 pm	Book Club: The Comfort of Crows
6/18/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (14) :: Wetlands and Reptiles & Chapter bylaws and procedures
6/18/2024	01:00 pm - 02:00 pm	MDC: Amphibians and Reptiles: Creature Feature: Treefrogs (Virtual)
6/19/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
6/24/2024	01:00 pm - 02:00 pm	Extension Foundation: Interest in diversifying our Master Naturalis Volunteer Base
6/25/2024	06:00 pm - 07:00 pm	Chapter Meeting----Danny Hartwig
6/25/2024	05:30 pm - 09:00 pm	Core Training Class (15) :: Welcome and State of MDC, Effective volunteers and Graduation
6/26/2024	12 noon - 01:00 pm	MU: Garden Hour
6/29/2024	09:00 am - 12:30 pm	Core Training Class (16) :: Field Trip to Hunnewell Hatchery (Time TBD)

**Now is a great time to enter your hours!**

Please visit—<https://www.hills.missourimasternaturalist.org/>

Enter your hours for Advanced Training and Volunteer Service or send your Hours to Anne Coleman. Please let her know if you need assistance.