



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 (MDC) and the University of Missouri Extension (MUE). 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.

Missouri Master Naturalist volunteers support conservation efforts and natural resource education in their local communities. The Mississippi Hills Chapter serves Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Shelby, Pike and surrounding counties in Northeast Missouri.

The Mississippi Hills chapter has several projects in our area including prairie reconstructions, native garden plantings, Christmas Bird Count and nature hikes. We partner with other organizations such as MDC, Army Corps of Engineers, MO State Parks, Hannibal Parks & Recreation and the Hannibal Tree Board to promote conservation projects and provide educational opportunities.

Master Naturalist training for the Mississippi Hills Chapter is held on an annual basis. If you would like to be contacted when a future training session is being planned, use the **“Contact Us”** button on our Home Page to request more information about our chapter and any upcoming training.

To become a Certified Missouri Master Naturalist, participants...

- Receive a minimum of 40 hours of combined classroom and field experience in local ecosystems, including ecology and resource management and more. We provide experts in the fields to give you the best information possible. Weekly Tuesday evening classes are held in the summer or fall of most years. Participants must be able to attend all classes plus several Saturday field trips.
- Complete an 8 to 10 hour individual or group capstone project with one of our local partners. Give 40 or more hours of local natural resource-based volunteer service annually with local partners. Each year, members will complete 8 hours of additional advanced training and contribute 40 hours of volunteer service to maintain certification.

As a certified master naturalist it is expected that you will participate in volunteer community service projects that are usually conducted with a group of local partners that have been identified at the chapter level.

- Natural Resource Stewardship: these projects might include construction of interpretive trails; prairie restorations; stream management; invasive species removal; exotic species control; creating and maintaining naturoscaping demonstration areas; and much more.
- Education & Outreach: these projects include conducting natural resource programs for adult and youth audiences in the community; working with private landowners or community leaders in developing natural resource management plans; outdoor skills instruction; natural resource interpretation at nature and visitors centers; and much more.
- Citizen Science: these projects include collecting data for fish, wildlife and plant inventories such as Christmas Bird Count, MO Bumble Bee Atlas, MO Stream Team and more.
- Program Support: Attend meetings, manage advanced training and volunteer opportunities and more.

For additional information, please visit **MUE** for more about Missouri Master Naturalist program at: <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-master-naturalist>