Missouri Master Naturalist

A summary of program impacts and achievements during 2015

Robert A. Pierce II
Extension Associate Professor
and State Wildlife Specialist
University of Missouri

Syd Hime
Volunteer and Interpretive Programs Coordinator
Missouri Department of Conservation
The mission of the Missouri Master Naturalist program is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of the state’s natural resources through science-based education and community service.

Introduction

The Missouri Master Naturalist program results from a partnership created in 2004 between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and University of Missouri 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 the MDC and MU Extension. The state program coordinators provide leadership in conducting the overall program and facilitate the development of training and chapter development with Chapter Advisors representing both organizations as interest is generated within a local community.

Partnerships created at the community level are an integral part in the development of a Missouri 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 state, federal and municipal government agencies; businesses; private, nonprofit organizations; and others that value the educational and service objectives that are within the scope of the program.

Program Objectives

1. Improve public understanding of natural resource ecology and management by developing a pool of local knowledge that can be used to enhance and expand educational efforts within local communities.

2. Enhance existing natural resources education and outreach activities by providing natural resources training at the local level, thereby developing a team of dedicated and informed volunteers.

3. Develop a self-sufficient Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer network through the Chapter-based program.

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

Missouri Master Naturalists are actively involved in conducting conservation and education projects throughout the state.
Missouri Master Naturalist Chapters

Boone’s Lick: http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/columbia/index.html
Chert Glades: http://www.chertglades.org
Confluence: http://mmnconfluence.org
Great Rivers: http://greatrivers.org
Hi Lonesome: http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/colecamp
Lake of the Ozarks: http://lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com
Loess Hills: http://loesshills.wordpress.com
Meramec Hills: http://meramechills.org
Miramiguoa: http://www.miramiguoa.org
Osage Trails: http://osagetrails.com
Ozarks: To be developed
Springfield Plateau: http://springfieldmasternaturalist.com
Highlights of Chapter Volunteer Service Projects

Boone’s Lick Chapter, Columbia
http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/masternaturalist.aspx

Partners: MU Bradford Research Center, Care for Creation Community Garden, City of Columbia - Tree Keepers and Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project, Columbia Audubon Society, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, Columbia office - US Fish & Wildlife Service, Community Collaborative Rain Hail & Snow Network, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/MDC – Stream Team, Greenbelt Land Trust of Missouri, Missouri River Relief, North Village Arts District, Project Feeder Watch, MU Raptor Rehab Project, Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Friends of Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Wild Ones Native Plant Gardens, Missourians for Monarchs

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects

- Developed a Columbia Earth Day education booth.
- Conducted prairie restoration and native plant seed collection projects at the MDC’s Prairie Fork Conservation Area.
- Developed butterfly and pollinator exhibits at University of Missouri South Farm Showcase.
- Participated in raptor rehabilitation projects at the University of Missouri.
- Conducted bird monitoring surveys and counts.
- Participated in Help Save Pallid Sturgeon programs, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Participated in DNR/MDC Missouri Stream Team projects.
- Conducted “Band With Nature” programs at Columbia Public Schools (second graders).

The Chapter participated in the MU South Farm Showcase. This family-oriented event showcased the farm’s 1,452 acres, laboratories and ongoing research. The Chapter set up an informative display on Monarch butterflies and pollinators. Live butterflies raised by one of the members were a very popular attraction with participants.

Volunteers participated in numerous Missouri River conservation events. The Chapter also conducted educational projects with youth at the MDC’s Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, at the MU South Farm Showcase and with Columbia Schools.
Chert Glades Chapter, Joplin
http://www.chertglades.org

Partners
Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center
Prairie State Park
Neosho National Fish Hatchery
Missouri Prairie Foundation
George Washington Carver National Monument
Ozark Regional Land Trust (ORLT)
Ozark Gateway Audubon Chapter
Cities of Joplin, Neosho, Webb City, Carthage, Stella
MAKO Fly Fishers
Joplin Parks and Recreation Department
Association of Missouri Interpreters

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects
• Habitat management activities conducted at MDC conservation areas.
• Conducted tree planting in Joplin.
• Educational projects conducted at Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Nature Center, George Washington Carver National Historic Site, Roaring River and Prairie State Parks.
• Developed butterfly garden at Cunningham Park.
• Participated in native seed mixing day at the Nature Conservancy Wah’Kon-Tah Prairie.
• Harvested wildflower seeds at local prairies.
• Naturescaping and rain garden demonstrations were conducted.
• Kellogg Lake Kid’s Fishing Day, Carthage.
• Restoration project at Reddings Mill Bridge.
• Numerous stream clean-up projects were conducted.
• Participated in DNR/MDC Stream Team # 3714 water quality monitoring.
• Monarch butterfly educational projects were conducted in which over 400 packets of native milkweed seeds collected by volunteers were distributed.
• Developed an educational booth at the George Washington Carver Days program highlighted wildlife conservation.
• Eagle Days at Stella is a signature outreach program for the Chapter. Over 2000 people attended the event. Chapter members assisted with eagle viewing and educational activities.
Confluence Chapter, St. Charles
http://mmnconfluence.org

Partners
Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Nature Center, Litzsinger Ecology Center
Missouri Botanical Garden, Missouri Bluebird Society, Missouri Forest Keepers, Missouri River
Relief, Missouri Native Plant Society, North American Butterfly Association, Friends of LaBarque
Creek, Greenway Network, St. Charles County Parks, St. Louis Audubon Society, Shaw Nature
Reserve, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, Wentzville Parks, World
Bird Sanctuary

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects
• Secured an MDC Community Stewardship Grant to conduct phase two of the Matson Hill project,
which is the future St. Charles Park. Plant surveys, oak regeneration and removal of invasive plants
were conducted as well as the establishment of three vernal ponds. Amphibian surveys were conducted.
• The Chapter organized a statewide effort to provide a program called Missourians for Monarchs,
an educational effort that combines Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners and Garden Clubs to promote milkweed
plantings and pollinator habitat. Over 3000 plants were distributed across the state and seeds collected for
propagation during 2016.
• Town Park, constructed by the Chapter, continues to be a popular location for conducting
outreach and education. Over 800 youth participated in programs conducted by the Chapter during 2015.

A variety of educational events and projects were conducted that highlighted the importance of habitats for monarchs and pollinators.

Service and outreach educational activities involve milkweed propagation and organization of “Missourians for Monarchs”; seed collections and
native plant restoration; landscaping at state parks, including Mattson Hill; Stream Team activities and numerous volunteer workdays throughout the
year.
Great Rivers Chapter, St. Louis
http://masternaturalist.saint-louis.mo.us

Great Rivers Chapter projects have included tree planting, native prairie restoration, milkweed propagation, numerous workdays and invasive species removal with various partners.

Partners
Audubon Center at Riverlands, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, Biodiverse City in St. Louis, GeesePeace of St. Louis, Little Creek Nature Area, Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, River des Peres Watershed Coalition, Brightside, Deer Creek Watershed Alliance, The Open Space Council, Shaw Nature Reserve, St. Charles and St. Louis County Parks, St. Louis Audubon Society, Stewards of Grand Glaize Stream Team, The Green Center, World Bird Sanctuary, Forest Park Forever, St. Louis Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects

• Provided Habitat Advisors for the St. Louis Audubon’s Bring Conservation Home program.
• Water quality monitoring and Stream Team events were conducted in the Grand Glaize Creek and River Des Peres Watersheds.
• Wildlife management projects were conducted through GeesePeace St. Louis.
• Conducted both fauna and flora surveys at Hidden Creek Savanna and Seibert Park.
• Conducted tree planting, potting, and distribution for Forest ReLeaf.
• Continued to monitor an adult pair of Great horned owls at Forest Park.
• Mist net mending for the World Bird Sanctuary.
• Invasive species removal, habitat building, and stream bank stabilization at multiple municipal, county and state parks and on other public and nonprofit properties, including but not limited to:
  o Claire Gempp Davidson Memorial Conservation Area
  o Seibert Park, in the City of Manchester
  o Bayless Elementary School
  o McDonald, Queeny, and Creve Coeur Parks – St. Louis County Parks and Recreation
  o Forest Park’s Hidden Creek Savanna
  o Shaw Nature Reserve
  o Southampton Green Spaces
Hi Lonesome Chapter, Cole Camp  
http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/colecamp

Partners  
Audubon Society of Missouri, City of Warsaw, Cole Camp Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Missouri River Bird Observatory, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Harry S. Truman State Park

**Highlights of selected community service projects**

- Conducted Christmas bird count activities and conducted bird surveys with the Missouri River Bird Observatory on area prairies.
- Provided outreach and education activities at Prairie Day, in conjunction with the city of Cole Camp.
- Constructed and placed barn owl nesting boxes out on lands in cooperation with partners.
- Participated in the Eagle Days program in Warsaw.
- Hosted an advanced training nature photography workshop open to all Master Naturalists in conjunction with Prairie Days.

---

**Outreach and education activities were conducted at the annual Prairie Days Festival in Cole Camp. Numerous educational activities are conducted that focused on prairie restoration and conservation.**

---

**Barn owl nesting boxes were constructed and placed within the community in cooperation with partners.**

---

**Our outstanding graduating class of 2015 and on a field trip at MDC’s Big Buffalo Conservation Area.**
Lake of the Ozarks Chapter, Camdenton
http://lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com

Partners: Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Ameren UE, Lake Ozark Watershed Alliance (LOWA), Camdenton R-III Schools, Missouri Department of Transportation - Central District, MU Allen and Education Farm, Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau, West Side Chamber of Commerce, Camden County Farmers Market

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects
- Continued the Conservation Kids Club with the Camdenton R-III School District.
- Chapter members serve on the planning committee, coordinate most of the volunteers, host informational booths, greet and direct visitors, provide viewing scopes, and bring material for building a model of an eagle’s nest during the Eagle Days program at Lake of the Ozarks, with over 3700 people participating in various events.
- Developed a Big Niangua River “Water Trail” which covers 13.3 miles with community partners.
- Conducted water testing activities with the Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring.
- Conducted furbearer and mast surveys.

One of the educational focus areas during the year was to develop projects that encourage youth to get outside and enjoy nature while learning about the environment and wildlife species in the area. The Conservation Kids Club, developed in partnership with Camdenton R-III Schools After-School Program, helps third and fourth grade students, and their parents, discover the wonders of nature.

Graduating class of 2015. Chapter members are involved in a variety of conservation education projects that are conducted in the community, including the development of a water trail on the Big Niangua River.

Educational display at Eagle Days.

The Conservation Kids Club provides youth at the Camdenton R-III School with hands-on educational activities, including developing a monarch way station and opportunities for learning important ecological concepts.
Loess Hills Chapter, St. Joseph
http://loesshills.wordpress.com

Partners:
Burroughs, Midland and Grand River Audubon; Clay and Platte County Parks; Missouri Prairie Foundation; Missouri River Relief; DNR/MDC Stream Team; Missouri Western State University and Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society; Missouri Native Plant Society; Missouri Department of Transportation NW District; City of St. Joseph Parks and Recreation; Remington Nature Center; Friends of Squaw Creek NWR; Swan Lake NWR; Mount Mora Cemetery, The Nature Conservancy-Grand River Grasslands and Dunn Ranch; Pershing, Crowder and Big Lake State Parks

The graduating class of 2015.        Educational booth at Squaw Creek NWR Family Day.

Highlight of selected volunteer service projects

• Volunteers conducted educational activities at the 10th Wings over Weston program with over 4000 participants learning about bluebirds, hummingbirds and wildlife conservation.
• Participated in Eagle Days at the Smithville Lake and Squaw Creek NWR.
• Chapter members participated in the first year of a five-year fawn study in northwest Missouri conducted by MU.
• Helped conduct the first annual Prairie Days at the Nature Conservancy’s Dunn Ranch and the MDC’s Pawnee Prairie. A few of the festivities included birding and native plant hikes, small mammal trapping and release, bison and prairie chicken viewings, and video presentations.
• Continue the three-year project with the Missouri Department of Transportation to plant native shrubs and trees along Highway 36 from St. Joseph to Hannibal.
• Conducted an “Insectorama” for youth in cooperation with the Department of Conservation.

Chapter activities leading a youth Envirothon educational activity and conducting fawn surveys with local partners.
Meramec Hills Chapter, Rolla
http://meramechills.org

Partners:
Audubon Trails Nature Reserve, Camp Brimshire, Bonebrake Center of Nature and History, DNR/MDC Stream Team, Newburgh Children’s Museum, Truman Elementary School

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects

- Organized an "Evening with Nature" event for the local community at the Rolla Middle School. The event featured 30 booths with nature-related displays and activities.
- A nature series, conducted at the MDC Bray Conservation Area, offered a series of free nature workshops, developed and presented by Chapter members. A “Night Skies & Nature” program involved participants in a citizen science initiative to measure light pollution.
- Expanded outreach efforts in Pulaski County by initiating a "Sew Native" program. Each month's class includes a one-hour nature education segment followed by presentation of a quilt block inspired by the day's topic; students take home a pattern and instructions. This year's program featured native trees of Missouri.
- Our single most active "partnership" continues to be the Missouri Stream Team Program (345 volunteer hours this year). Volunteer water quality monitoring on the Dry Fork, Big Piney, and Gasconade Rivers; formed a new Stream Team and began monthly monitoring of two sites for nitrates, phosphates, and turbidity for DNR's Meramec River Basin.
- Provided 10 hours of advanced training at monthly Chapter meetings as well as five Saturday workshops. Topics included Monarch Butterflies, Missouri Quail Management, Engaging the Public, and Chainsaw Safely.
- Celebrated our Chapter's tenth anniversary with an evening of food, music, and reminiscence.
- Conducted educational activities and stewardship projects at the MDC Bray Conservation Area.

The Chapter conducts a variety of conservation educational activities and sponsored numerous educational events within the community, including forest management, chainsaw safety, sew native classes, water quality monitoring and youth nature programs.
Miramiguoa Chapter, Washington
http://www.miramiguoa.org

**Partners:** Shaw Nature Reserve, Meramec and Onondaga State Parks, St. Louis Audubon Society, Forest ReLeaf

**Highlights of selected volunteer service projects**

- Collaborated with Missouri River Relief on conservation projects.
- Monitored yellow lady slipper orchids and ginseng colonies at Meramec State Park.
- Helped with prescribed burns at State Parks and on private landowner properties.
- Honeysuckle eradication at various locations.
- Trail maintenance at Meramec, Onondaga Cave, and Hawn State Parks.
- Prairie rehabilitation at the MDC’s Jay Henges Shooting Range and various private properties.
- Participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count.
- Education programs in the Steeleville, schools on Karst formation.
- Education programs in the Bourbon schools on reptile and amphibians.
- Cave tours at Onondaga and Meramec State parks.
- Potted trees for Forest ReLeaf.
- Conducted native seed collections and mast surveys at Shaw Nature Reserve.
- Bat conservation and educational activities.
- Constructed and installed wood duck nesting boxes.

Volunteers conducted water quality and Stream Team activities as well as monitored yellow lady slipper orchids at Meramec State Park.

Building and placing wood duck nesting boxes was a successful capstone project.

Conducting prescribed burns with partners at State Parks.

The Chapter conducted numerous advanced training opportunities for volunteers.
Osage Trails Chapter, Kansas City
http://osagetrails.com

Partners
- Blue River Watershed Association
- Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City
- George Owens Nature Park
- Heartland Tree Alliance
- Jackson County Parks and Recreation
- Kansas City Parks and Recreation
- Kansas City WildLands
- Keep Kansas City Beautiful
- Kemper Outdoor Nature Center
- Lakeside Nature Center
- Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary
- Missouri River Relief
- Platte County Land Trust
- Platte County Parks and Recreation
- Powell Gardens
- Friends of Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
- Cave Springs
- MU Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects
- The Chapter continued a strategic planning project guided by MU Extension. The planning process has created the opportunity for the Chapter to be more proactive with partners and generate self-created volunteer service opportunities that meet their needs.
- Participated in Eagle Days and bird identification at the Squaw Creek NWR.
- Conducted habitat improvement and conservation educational activities at Lakeside Nature Center, including invasive species removal, rejuvenating pollinator gardens and replanted areas adjacent to watercourse and hiking trails.
- Native seed collection at the Nature Conservancy’s Dunn Ranch to support prairie restoration activities across the state.
- Collaborated with the Audubon Society in the Wings over Weston annual activity and developed educational displays for participants.
- Established a highway butterfly garden in the City of Parkville.
Springfield Plateau Chapter, Springfield
http://springfieldmasternaturalist.com

Partners
Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Springfield
City of Springfield Department of Environmental Services
Friends of the Garden
Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
James River Basin Partnership
Missouri State University, Springfield
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods
Springfield–Greene County Park Board
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Wonders of Wildlife Museum
Ozark Grotto

Highlights of selected volunteer service projects
- Hosted the 2015 Master Naturalist Advanced Training Conference.
- Initiated a monarch and pollinator project with Deer Lake Golf Course.
- Educational assistance was provided to the Butterfly Festival and Young Sprouts events with Friends of the Garden, Springfield–Greene County Park Board, Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods, City of Springfield Department of Environmental Services.
- Conducted cavity next box monitoring at the Valley Water Mill Watershed Center and Equestrian Park.
- Assisted the Audubon Society with bird counts including the annual Christmas bird count.
- Launched an Urban Outreach Committee to assist in planning volunteer service projects with partners.

A variety of educational activities were conducted with local partners during the year, including surveys of plant communities, leading conservation educational events for youth, water quality monitoring and stream sampling.

The Springfield Plateau Chapter was awarded the Conservation Education Award for 2015 by the Conservation Federation of Missouri.
A Snapshot of Program Impacts for 2015

- During 2015, **162 volunteers** participated in training conducted by ten chapters.
- Through December 2015, with combined efforts of 12 recognized Chapters, **1,855 volunteers** have been trained as Missouri Master Naturalists since the program was first organized in 2004.
- Over **12,300 hours of advanced training** were obtained by Master Naturalist volunteers.
- A total of **502 volunteers** became Certified Missouri Master Naturalists or maintained certification during 2015.
- During 2015, volunteers provided **64,157 hours of community service**.
- Over **387,000 hours of volunteer service** has been provided to local communities since 2004.
- Approximately **125 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 2015 is valued at **$1,657,714**.
- The cumulative economic impact of Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer service is valued at **$8,391,151**.

1 The value of volunteer service calculated using Independent Sector’s $23.07 per hour for 2015. 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 then increased by 12 percent to estimate fringe benefits. http://www.independentsector.org

### Chapter Volunteers, Advanced Training and Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter (year established)</th>
<th>Volunteers trained in 2015 (total, # certified in 2015)</th>
<th>Advanced training hours 2015 (cumulative)</th>
<th>Volunteer service hours 2015 (cumulative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ozarks (spring 2004)</td>
<td>N/A (100, 2)</td>
<td>59 (2,770)</td>
<td>584 (15,898)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone’s Lick (fall 2004)</td>
<td>24 (257, 45)</td>
<td>784 (5,637)</td>
<td>4,861 (37,609)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chert Glades (spring 2005)</td>
<td>N/A (127, 28)</td>
<td>843 (6,818)</td>
<td>3,166 (26,493)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meramec Hills (spring 2005)</td>
<td>N/A (142, 48)</td>
<td>1,064 (10,840)</td>
<td>5,564 (36,387)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confluence * (fall 2005)</td>
<td>6 (165, 51)</td>
<td>1,221 (9,742)</td>
<td>10,665 (49,455)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Rivers * (fall 2007)</td>
<td>21 (154, 48)</td>
<td>1,332 (6,930)</td>
<td>7,332 (33,290)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield Plateau (spring 2006)</td>
<td>25 (142, 40)</td>
<td>959 (8,537)</td>
<td>6,064 (43,235)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osage Trails (fall 2006)</td>
<td>21 (292, 87)</td>
<td>1,478 (10,774)</td>
<td>10,159 (62,312)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi Lonesome (spring 2008)</td>
<td>16 (104, 30)</td>
<td>531 (3,577)</td>
<td>2,517 (19,300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miramiquoa * (spring 2009)</td>
<td>11 (120, 40)</td>
<td>1,237 (6,257)</td>
<td>5,048 (26,818)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake of the Ozarks (spring 2009)</td>
<td>19 (181, 51)</td>
<td>2,115 (7,255)</td>
<td>4,931 (22,997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loess Hills (spring 2011)</td>
<td>19 (71, 32)</td>
<td>765 (2,898)</td>
<td>3,266 (13,612)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>162 (1,855, 502)</td>
<td>12,388 (82,035)</td>
<td>64,157 (387,406)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Chapters conduct joint training
Additional Program Highlights and Accomplishments

The Missouri Master Naturalist program consists of twelve chapters, each with a cadre of dedicated volunteers and supportive Chapter Advisors that conduct numerous educational and community service projects in collaboration with identified local partners. More detailed information about each chapter and their activities can be accessed through the Missouri Master Naturalist program website at http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/ and through the individual chapter web links provided in the previous section.

Below are just a few of the programming highlights that contributed to the educational mission of the Missouri Master Naturalist program:

• The Springfield Plateau Chapter hosted the **statewide Missouri Master Naturalist Advanced Training** event during 2015. Over 220 volunteers participated in this three-day advanced training and leadership development weekend.

• **Over 200 Master Naturalist volunteers** have achieved milestone pins (conducting 250, 500, 1000+ hours of volunteer service) since the inception of the program in 2004.

• The **Missouri Master Naturalist program website**, http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist, provides resources for volunteers and general information about the program to Missouri citizens.

• Approximately 60 Master Naturalist volunteers, from nine Chapters participated in **milkweed plant identification and seed collection** training led by Department of Conservation staff at Prairie Fork Conservation Area and the Nature Conservancy’s Wah’ kon-Tah Prairie. A portion of the milkweed seed collected by volunteers throughout the summer was sent to the MDC state nursery for propagation and future distribution.

• The **Springfield Plateau Chapter** was the proud recipient of the esteemed **2015 Conservation Education Award** from the Conservation Federation of Missouri.
Missouri Master Naturalist Chapter Advisors/Contacts

During 2015, Missouri Master Naturalist Chapter Advisors and contacts, representing MU Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation, provided leadership and facilitated educational programs and activities to ensure the success of Master Naturalist Chapters.

Boone’s Lick Chapter:
Kent Shannon – Boone County Extension Center
Bob Pierce - MU Extension

Chert Glades Chapter:
Janet Lafon and Robert Balek – Jasper County Extension Center
Jeff Cantrell and Kevin Badgley – Missouri Department of Conservation

Confluence Chapter:
Scott Killpack – St. Charles County Extension Center
Kevin McCarthy – Missouri Department of Conservation

Great Rivers Chapter:
Nathan Brandt – St. Louis County Extension Center
Colleen Scott – Missouri Department of Conservation

Hi Lonesome Chapter:
Connie Mefford– Benton County Extension Center
Steve Cooper – Missouri Department of Conservation

Lake of the Ozarks Chapter:
Jackie Rasmussen – Camden County Extension Center
Jodi Moulder – Missouri Department of Conservation

Loess Hills Chapter:
TJ Peacher – Missouri Department of Conservation
Tom Fowler and Jim Humphrey – Platte and Andrew County Extension Center

Meramec Hills Chapter:
Moses Ong – Missouri Department of Conservation
Kathi Mecham – Phelps County Extension Center

Miramiguoa Chapter:
Matt Herring – Franklin County Extension Center
Sam Faith – Missouri Department of Conservation

Osage Trails Chapter:
Lala Kumar – Jackson County Extension Center
Stacey Davis – Missouri Department of Conservation

Ozark Chapter:
Howell and Oregon County Extension Center – vacant
Stephanie McKinney – Missouri Department of Conservation

Springfield Plateau Chapter:
Jay Barber – Missouri Department of Conservation
Patrick Byers – Greene County Extension Center
Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs

A national network has been established for Master Naturalists and similar programs. The *Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs* (ANROSP) was formed in 2006 to facilitate networking and resource development for member programs with a goal to establish educational programs in all 50 states. The Missouri Master Naturalist program was one of the founding members. Currently, about 27 states have adopted the Master Naturalist model. The Missouri State Program Coordinators provide ongoing support to the Alliance through program membership, participation at annual meetings, serving on the Alliance Board, and participating in various committees. Additional information can be obtained by accessing the following website: http://www.anrosp.org/

The Missouri Master Naturalist program continues to grow and volunteers are conducting outstanding outreach and volunteer service programs within their communities. Thanks for all that you do as a Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer, program advisor and program partner. We celebrated our 11th year as a statewide adult volunteer educational program during 2015!