

Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Chapter Annual Report 2019

<https://mississippihills.missourimasternaturalists.org/>

MISSISSIPPI HILLS CHAPTER 2019 HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Our fledging chapter is emerging! In our second year we hosted our second Initial Training Course with 20 people graduating in August to become Master Naturalist Member Interns. By the end of 2019, 18 out of our 38 members were certified including two from the 2019 class. 14 of our members received the Blanding Turtle pin for their annual certification. During 2019, the Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Chapter participated in a diverse array of Advanced Training and Volunteer Service projects. The chapter provided opportunities for over 50 different activities, outside of monthly meeting times, for its members to log volunteer service and advanced training hours. Many of the activities were offered in multiple, even monthly, sessions. The variety of approved activities included 22 Advanced Training programs, 5 Citizen Science projects (two occurring over multiple weeks), 17 Education/Interpretive programs and 8 Stewardship service projects (three ongoing throughout a season). These activities provided over 1600 volunteer service hours to over ten local community and conservation organizations. Program Support garnered almost a third of the volunteer service hours with the completion of the chapter by-laws and manual along with developing the chapter's website.

Stewardship projects included the ambitious capstone project which removed invasives such as tree of heaven, honeysuckle, autumn olive, winter creeper, and more on the legendary Cardiff Hill and Hannibal Lighthouse overlook area. An article written by one of our new interns highlighting the project and the threat of invasives was published in the Hannibal Magazine and Hannibal Courier Post. One of our members has logged hundreds of hours planting trees, clearing invasives, planting food plots, and trail work on US Army Corps of Engineers property at Mark Twain Lake. Education and Interpretive programs included Clarksville Eagle Days, Hannibal Parks and Rec interpretive programs, Discover Nature school programs at Mark Twain State Park, tree cookie necklaces and teaching about tree rings at the Hannibal Arts Council Wild and Wacky children's event, the NE MO EnviroThon, 4-H canoeing, and a couple Outdoor Safety programs. Of special note were the annual Veterans, youth, and handicapped deer and turkey hunts, and children's shed hunt at Mark Twain Lake. We even printed our own Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist banner and t-shirts to display at such events. On the Citizen Science front, members participated in the MDC Chronic Wasting Disease sampling, and our famous Sodalis Myotis bats got counted and mist netted at the Sodalis Nature Preserve, and surveyed during the MDC bat emergent project in Macon and Lewis Counties.

Suffice it to say, that as a new chapter we are excited about all the things we are learning and applying to contribute to the quality of life in our natural and human communities. Two of our members attended the Conservation Round Table which impressed upon them the unique role we have as Master Naturalists especially here in Northeast Missouri. We're still learning how to spread our wings but fly, we will.

Special Thanks to:

Kathi Moore – MDC Chapter Advisor; Wyatt Miller – (former) MUE Chapter Advisor; Hannibal MDC office staff; Jerry Barnabee – web designer; Kyle Monroe and Jaime Ebbesmeyer – MDC; Hannibal Parks and Recreation; Hannibal LaGrange University; and FORREST Council

INITIAL TRAINING COURSE

Training started May 28th, 2019 and on August 27th, 20 interns graduated. Hannibal LaGrange University was the host facility.

MEMBERS AND CERTIFICATION

18 Certified members (includes all active 2018 charter members and 2 from 2019 Training Class)

20 Interns

14 Annual Certification (received 2019 Blanding turtle pin)

38 TOTAL Active members

SERVICE PROJECTS

2019 Volunteer Service Total = 2404.5

Program Support = 778

Education Interpretative = 342

Stewardship Projects = 1080

Citizen Science = 204.5

Eagle Days at Clarksville, MO

Mark Twain State Park - Discover Nature Schools Pond Life Program

No More Trash Judging - Hannibal Homeschool

4-H Canoeing Class

Hannibal Arts Council Wild and Wacky children's art event

DNS Discovery Trunk Inventory

Brownie Troop 9197 Prairie Visit

EnviroThon at Ted Shanks Conservation Area

YMCA Beginning Kayak Class

Shed Hunt - Mark Twain Lake

Handicap and Youth Hunts - Mark Twain Lake

Plant Safety Program - Paris Great Pumpkin Festival

Outdoor Safety Presentation – Farm Safety Days Pike County

2019 Training Class Planning and Implementation

Stewardship projects with FORREST Council and USACE at Mark Twain Lake

Hannibal Parks and Recreation invasive species removal and native plantings at Becky's Garden, Cardiff Hill

Overlook & Lighthouse, and Broadway Mini Park

Hannibal Parks and Recreation Interpretive Programs

Earth Mirrors Stewardship Field Trip

Memorial Biodiversity Tree Planting

Hannibal Board of Public Works - Bear Creek Clean Up

CWD Study

MDC Indiana Bat Survey - Northeast, MO

Christmas Bird Counts - Kirksville and Wakonda State Park area

MISSISSIPPI HILLS EDUCATION/INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Approx 1820 Total people served in 2019

Hannibal Parks and Recreation Interpretive Programs 2019

Approx 450 TOTAL public served

Included Night Hikes, Seasonal Exploration programs, and Pirate Ridge Trail Hikes

1-3 Master Naturalist usually assist each program

Clarksville Eagle Days

January 27, 2019

Annual Public Event

Audience: Families

Approx 655 attendees during the Sunday that Master Naturalists managed

Mark Twain State Park Discover Nature School Programs
April 26 & 29, 2019
Pond Study portion of program
Audience: 3rd-6th graders from Palmyra and Monroe City schools
Approx 135 students served over two days

Hannibal Arts Council Wild and Wacky Children's Art Event
August 3, 2019
Annual Public Event
Audience: Families
Approx 300 attendees

Pike County Farm Safety Days
August 23, 2019
Outdoor Safety Program with focus on plants, insects, and snakes
Audience: 4th-6th graders from Pike County schools
Approx 130 students served

Paris Great Pumpkin Festival
October 12, 2019
Outdoor Safety Program with focus on poisonous plants
Audience: families
Approx 50 attendees

ADVANCED TRAINING

2019 Advanced Training Total Hours = 391.5

Phenological Walks
Storm Spotters Training – Hannibal, MO
Stream Team Training
Native Landscapes Workshop
Great Gardening Conference
Pesticide Applicator Training
Stormwater Best Management Practices
Foraging Hike
Conservation Planning Tools
Exploring Big River Ecology
Soil Health & Resource Conservation for Wildlife & Land Owners
Forrest Keeling 2019 Fall Field Day
Why Prairies Matter
Grow Native
Prescribed Burn Workshops - MDC and USACE

CHAPTER PARTNERS

FORREST Council
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake
Hannibal LaGrange University
Hannibal Parks & Recreation
Mark Twain State Park
MDC
University MO Extension
White Tails Unlimited, Monroe City Chapter
Turkey Federation, Hannibal Chapter

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

2019

President – Gale Rublee
Vice President – Jen Meyers
Secretary – Lisa Wiese
Treasurer – Stevens Plowman
Terry Bower, Quintin Heaton, Bob Kendrick

Committee Chairs:

Advanced Training and Volunteer Service Projects – Quintin Heaton
Initial Training Course – Bob Kendrick

2020

President – Gale Rublee
Vice President – George Wisdom
Secretary – Bella Erako and Brenda Weiss
Treasurer – Stevens Plowman
Keith Cline, Vanessa Crowe, Bob Kendrick, David Mobley, Kristy Trevathan

Committee Chairs:

Advanced Training – George Wisdom
Volunteer Service Projects – David Mobley
Communications & Publicity – Anna Banton
Website & Time keepers – Anne Coleman and Anna Banton
Hospitality – Vanessa Crowe