

## Loess Hills MN Chapter

# Get Your Shovels Ready

By Mary Jo Ostenberg

**T**his spring our chapter will begin work on one of the most ambitious projects we've attempted since our start, the Highway 36 Tree Planting project.

Imagine yourself as a young child in the 50's sitting in the back seat of the family car motoring east on Highway 36 and every five miles or so looking out the window to see beautiful groves of native trees planted along the road. You might have seen hawthorns in glorious bloom, wild plum, tall oaks, shrubs full of berries, red bud and sycamore—all of these trees and shrubs identified for you with a road sign. What fun!

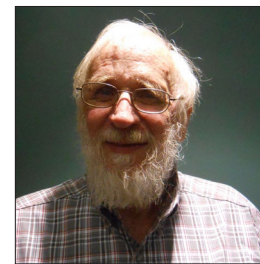
Unfortunately with the expansion of Highway 36, the addition of water and

gas lines and the natural toll of time, these groves of native trees originally planted by the Missouri Department of Conservation from St. Joseph to Hannibal have all disappeared.

This March our group will begin work on phase 1 of a 3 phase, 6 year project to replace these tree plantings. Phase one starts at the Missouri River in St. Joseph and ends at the west side of Cameron. This phase will consist of a total of 8 tree plantings, typically 2 offset rows of 10 trees for a total plot of 20. Eventually the tree planting will extend all the way once more to Hannibal and the Illinois border. This project will require many different tasks with something for all of us regardless of expertise or physical ability.

Some of the tasks involved include:

Continued on pg. 2



**Message  
From the  
President  
2013**

**W**e just got a new sign for the front of our house that reads "Welcome Nature Lovers". I was thinking that the term "Nature Lover" describes me better than "Master Naturalist." I've been a "Nature Lover" all my life but "Master Naturalist" for only three years. And when someone hears the term "Master Naturalist," they think of an expert in all

Continued on pg. 2

## In this Issue

New Class	page 2
Missouri Conference	page 3
Dutch Oven Cooking	page 4
Christmas Party	page 5

**Shovels**, Continued from p. 1

- Contact adjacent landowners and businesses.
- Contact local fire departments for help with watering
- Contact 1-800-dig-rite and assist workers with site locations and marking
- Remove and treat scrubby vegetation at sites in final preparation for planting
- Remove sod at each individual tree planting
- Plant trees
- Treat with wildlife deterrent
- Flag tree sites for visibility
- Periodically inspect trees for damage, watering
- Periodically inspect sites for noxious growth (thistle, teasle, etc.)
- Replace trees as needed
- Assist MODOT with signs

Please plan to be a part of this project in March. This is a chance to leave a positive and beautiful addition to our environment, a personal gift to your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. This

is a chance for our chapter to leave a lasting legacy, a visible illustration of our love of nature and our deep commitment to the environment and our wish to pass on that gift of love and dedication.

*“Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clodhopper may say: Let there be a tree-and there will be one.*

*If his back be strong and his shovel sharp, there may eventually be ten thousand. And in the seventh year he may lean upon his shovel, and look upon his trees, and find them good.”*

Aldo Leopold  
*A Sand County Almanac*

## Officers of Loess Hills Chapter 2014

**President**

Shannon Holcom

**Vice President**

MaryJo Ostenberg

**Secretary**

Karen Hayes

**Treasurer**

Tom Aldrich

**Newsletter Editor & Design**

Ann Thorne

**Logo** (on front)

Laurel Defreece

**Messages**, Continued from p. 1

things dealing with nature. I know a little about a lot of different natural things, but I am not an expert in any specific area. For example, I know names of some trees, some birds, some native plants, etc. I believe that all of us in our group are “Nature

Lovers.” But then again, maybe “Master Naturalist” is just a fancy term for “Nature Lover” with a little extra thrown in. We do have initial training and advanced training so we are becoming closer to the expert status. Then we use this information to help the natural

world or help others appreciate the natural world. So all a “Nature Lover” needs is some training and a desire to share and help, and they turn into a “Master Naturalist.” I’m not a nymph anymore. I’m a dragonfly.

## New Loess Hills MN Class to Begin February 25

The fourth class Loess Hills Master Naturalist class will start this spring. An orientation meeting will be held on January 21 at the Missouri Department of Conservation building on the Missouri Western State University

campus. Anyone who is interested must be signed up by February 4.

The class will have training sessions every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., between Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>, in addition to

scheduled 5 field trips on Saturdays.

If you know anyone who is interested, please ask them to contact T.J. Peacher at 816-271-3111.

# Loess Hills Master Naturalists Attend “Nature’s Path...” in Columbia

by Ann Thorne

Eight members of Loess Hills Chapter attended the Missouri Master Naturalists a one-day conference in Columbia, “Nature’s Path...A Day of Discovery.” There were 187 naturalists who attended, representing all of

insects, and that the Brown Recluse Spiders are extremely common and found in most homes, although they rarely bite people.” Lynn Tushaus, who also attended the session, remembered that the speaker said that if you handle a tarantula, you have to be careful not to drop it because its abdomen will break when it hits the ground. Both thought the session was lively and interesting.



Photo by Cliff Amos

From right to left: Bill Blackledge, Laura Lee Shaufler, Martha Moody Blackledge, Cliff Amos, Ross Shuman, Charles Bramlage, Lynn Tushaus, Ann Thorne.

Missouri’s chapters. There were 13 sessions to choose from, although some of the sessions were cancelled because of heavy rain.

The Loess Hills members attended a variety of sessions. Several people attended a session called “Spiders Everywhere.” The presenter, Sarah Zukoff, is an assistant professor at Kansas State University at the Southwest Research and Extension Center. She brought many spiders, both mounted and alive. Charles Bramlage, who attended the session, said, “She talked about how spiders fit into our ecosystem by eating

“Photographic Nature” by David Stonner. Bill Blackledge was one of the people who attended this session. He said he went to the conference to meet David Stonner, one of Missouri’s top nature photographers. “The session was really informative and included many spectacular images take around our state,” said Blackledge.

Ross Shuman, who also attended the session, said “He assisted us with hands-on experience. David Stonner’s Top 10 List of what a photographer should do:

- 1) Use a tripod.
- 2) Get to your photographic site early and take your

time.

- 3) Compose with simplicity in mind.
- 4) Don’t fight mother nature. Use an umbrella and keep shooting.
- 5) Learn to use a polarizer and neutral density filters.
- 6) Try different angles
- 7) Don’t be afraid to include people in your photographs.
- 8) Look for details to photograph in nature.
- 9) Research your subject. Know what time is best for your subject.
- 10) Don’t be afraid of bad weather—even fog or rain. Be tenacious.

Another session that Loess Hills members attended was

“Tour of the Stars,” was another session offered at the

Continued on p. 5



Photo by Missouri Department of Conservation

Dave Stonner shooting Mina Sauk Falls. The waterfall is one of the photos he showed the class.

# Dutch Oven Cooking

by Ann Thorne

More than 30 Loess Hill members, friends and family attended the Dutch Oven Cooking session at Honey Creek Conservation Area. The training session, led by T.J. Peacher, gave everyone the opportunity to learn how to use a covered cast iron kettle over a

Under Peacher's supervision, we made Shepherd's Stew, Enchilada Casserole, and Venison Stew. The Shepherd's Stew had beef, bacon, onions, potatoes, carrots, celery and lots of broth. The Enchilada Casserole was made of enchiladas, ground beef, salsa, beans, fresh tomatoes and cheese. The Venison Stew was Peacher's own venison, cleaned in a special way, with sauce and carrots, potatoes and onions.

Janet Mason made crepes in a skillet over the open fire. She also cooked apples with ham and spices in a Dutch Oven.



Photo by Bill Bramlage

The serving line dishes included Beef Stew, Enchilada Casserole, and Venison Stew.



Photo by Ann Thorne

T.J. Peacher talks with Crystal Daggett about the beef stew. He pointed out that she needed coals on top of the Dutch oven as well as underneath to cook it thoroughly.

"I don't think I missed trying anything!" said MaryJo Ostenberg.

"It was all wonderful, especially the treat from Janet, who made crepes with stewed fruit." Ostenberg said that she brought along her husband, and they have both had lots of bad venison over the years. It took some convincing to get him to taste T.J.'s version of venison stew. "He loved it and is still talking about it," said Ostenberg.

Janet Mason said that the wind blew smoke in every direction, so it was impossible not to stand where the smoke was blowing. "I fried crepes the entire

time without the three dogs eating any of them. Everyone had a great time," said Mason.

For dessert, Peacher made a pie, with a graham cracker crust, melted semi-sweet chocolate and toasted marshmallows on top.

campfire.

"It was a good day," said Gaylen Nicolsen. "A lot of the class showed up. It was enjoyable, just being there."



Photo by Bill Blackledge

Stirring apples and ham, filling for crepes.



Photo by Ann Thorne

Janet Mason making crepes.

# Loess Hills Christmas Party



**L**oess Hills of Master Naturalists Chapter invited the Osage Trails Chapter to a Christmas party at the Youth Building in Plattsburg, Mo. More than forty people, along with spouses, families and friends attended.

The area was decorated for Christmas, with strings of

beads, candles and candy canes. The decorators were Laura DeFreese, MaryJo Ostenberg, and Laura Robinson, from Osage Hills. Loess Hills Chapter donated fried chicken, and Osage Trails Chapter donated Christmas plates and silverware. In addition, everyone brought a dish to share.

At the end of celebration, there was a competition to see who could guess the most pictures. The pictures were childhood pictures of Loess Hills members. Michelle Newby and Laurel DeFreese's grandson Zach (with a little help from Laurel) tied with seven identifications each.

## Loess Hills MN in Columbia

Continued from p. 3

conference. It was held at Rock Bridge High School. Cliff Amos, who attended this session, said, "It was very interesting as the instructor was very experienced with the subject, and the facility at the high school was terrific."

Several Loess Hills members also attended the "Prairie Ecology: Management and Reconstruction" session. Unfortunately, the weather had

a major impact on this session, although they were able to tour the Prairie Fork Conservation area. "We did get to tour the area and see the harvesting equipment and storage there," said Amos. Shuman added, "They had a remarkable collection of grasses and fobs, providing an excellent example of how a 'model' prairie should look."

Overall, "the camaraderie and the facilities all contributed to an interesting and enlightening experience," said Shuman.

## Upcoming Events

**March 4**

Monthly meeting

**April 1**

Monthly meeting

**May 30 - June 1**

Missouri Master Naturalists Meeting in Kansas City