



The 2023 Certification Pin is the American Burying Beetle!



[American Burying Beetle](#) | [Missouri Department of Conservation \(mo.gov\)](#)

American burying beetles, the first insect designated as endangered, have returned to [Wah'Kon-](#)

[Tah](#) as part of a well-coordinated partnership that includes the St. Louis Zoo's Center for American Burying Beetle Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Missouri Department of Conservation and The Nature Conservancy.

The St. Louis Zoo is breeding the beetles at their Monsanto Insectarium from stock acquired in Arkansas. Each of the partners has participated in a multi-year program to re-introduce the beetles onto Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie, located near El Dorado Springs in the southwest portion of the state.

Missouri Master Naturalists supported restoration efforts! Effective November 16, 2020, the USFWS reclassified the American burying beetle from [endangered to threatened](#).

With heartfelt thanks, your skills and knowledge **ARE** making a difference! Thank you so very much; we look forward to another year of working with you to benefit our local communities, Missouri, and beyond.

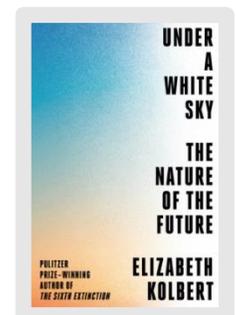


Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future by Elizabeth Kolbert

When I checked this book out from the library, I was expecting a book similar to the author's previous bestselling book *The Fifth Extinction*. The format was similar but the content led me emotionally in a different direction. Kolbert covers several areas of scientific research involved in determining the future of our planet. My reactions to each of these "projects" ranged from "Oh this is too complicated." to "And my tax money is paying for THIS?" to "Maybe we really are doomed if this is the best we can come up with?" Read it and see for yourself.

The unifying thread of the book is the assumption that we are currently in an era called the

Anthropocene, a time beginning anywhere from the Agricultural Revolution 12,000-15,000 years ago, to as recently as the 1960s (of course we can't agree on the beginning date), named so because human activity significantly influences the planet and ecosystems. As a result of our past 10,000 years of influence on the planet, we are scientifically influencing further to try to fix our predicament. These projects are not without merit but the author cannot help but point out the absurdity and/or futility of them.



In my mind, questions remain: Can we science our way into the future or are we simply conducting futile exercises in defying nature? Will nature prevail and find her way in spite of us? Are we just another animal of the earth or do we have answers?

Elizabeth Kolbert is a staff writer for The New Yorker.

A book review by Sue Knight

Thank You for Helping with Eagle Days 2022 at Loess Bluffs NWR

Hello everyone!

The 43rd annual Eagle Days was a great success!! We would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to all of you for volunteering to help with this event and let you know how much we appreciate the time and effort you put into it. This event would not be possible without the help of our volunteers. I would also like to thank the managers and supervisors for allowing their staff to participate in this huge event. In addition to the 7 permanent staff members we have here at Loess Bluffs NWR, we had 17 other FWS employees helping with the event and over 36 additional staff and volunteers from other cooperating partners.



The weather on Saturday was chilly, dropping down to 13 degrees overnight and reaching the low 30's during the day. Sunday gave us a little warmer temperatures in the 40's with some sunshine! Bald eagles were spotted high and low, along with trumpeter swans, ducks, and more. You all did a fantastic job engaging the public and taking on whatever task you were asked to do. Visitors came from near and far to attend this event. Thank you for helping make it a positive experience for all ages!

We also want to thank all of the other volunteers and partners without whose assistance we could not pull off this great event. Thanks to our co-sponsor, the Missouri Department of Conservation

and special thanks to the World Bird Sanctuary for the terrific Eagle Show. Thank you to volunteers from the student chapter of the Wildlife Society at Missouri Western State



University and Northwest Missouri State University, Loess Hills Missouri Master Naturalists, Osage Trails Missouri Master Naturalists, Midland Empire Audubon Society, Burroughs Audubon Society, Missourians for Monarchs, Missouri

Department of Transportation, Remington Nature Center, Fairytale Face Painting, Maryville Boy Scouts Troop 190 and Friends of Loess Bluffs.

Below are the total numbers for both days of the event.

Student Day on Friday had 575 teachers, students, & bus drivers and will happen again in 2024. Saturday had 1,500 visitors and Sunday had 850. Weather on Saturday was a low of 13 into the 30s and Sunday was into the 40s with some sunshine. It definitely made a difference!

- Janet Mason

2022 Eagle Days Totals:

- Friday: 575 students/teachers
- Saturday: 1500 visitors
- Sunday: 850 visitors

As we plan for the 44th Annual Eagle Days event, we are always looking for ways to improve our efforts to make this event better. Our volunteer

pool this year was a mixture of both returners and newbies. That being said, we appreciate any feedback (both positive and negative) and any suggestions you may have for making this the best possible experience for both volunteers and the public.

If you have any photos from the event and would like to share them with us, we would greatly appreciate it. You can email them to me at Nicole_horne@fws.gov.

Again, we can't thank you enough for being here for this event. For those representing partner organizations and volunteers, please forward our

thanks to your volunteers and staff that helped make this another successful event.

Thank you and happy holidays!

P.S. Mark your calendars for the 44th Eagle Days which will be held on December 2 and 3, 2023.

Nikki Horne

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Public Outreach at the Mound City Public Library

Several Missouri Master Naturalist members participated in an educational public outreach program that was hosted by the Mound City Public Library for students of Mound City R-2. The after-school STEM program was well received with (12) third grade students and (12) fourth grade students attending on October 4th and October 6th.

Dennis Rush brought and displayed bones and furs that are part of a collection he loans to the Remington Nature Center in St. Joseph, MO. This provided for stimulating discussion and hands on exploration. Stations were set up to provide discussion about the differences between grazers and hunters. What could the bones tell us? Dennis had a tip, "Eyes on the front they hunt. Eyes on the side



Photo by Linda Gocken

they hide." He also discussed the spine and the disks that allow an animal's head to flex and rotate. Dennis encouraged students to study the position of teeth in the jaw bone. Comparing skulls and teeth led to discussions about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Kathy Bunse went into more depth on horse bones while showing a skull with jaw bone and teeth intact. She also talked about how bones showed that horses feet evolved from toed to a single hoof that gave them more speed to evade predators. The horse, a grazer was compared with another grazer, a deer.

Students especially enjoyed the soil station. They examined soil taken from an old barn inhabited by an owl. The soil contained numerous bones and bits of fur. Students picked through the dirt and crumbling owl pellets, extracting many small bones and evaluating them under a microscope. They found tiny little spines



Photo by Linda Gocken

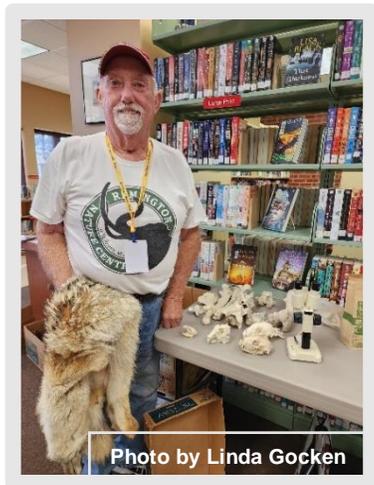


Photo by Linda Gocken

and jaw bones with teeth. Linda Gocken led this station. She said "After some discussion, we had to assume the owl diet probably included mice, voles, snakes and even baby rabbits."

Nikki Horne of Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge also engaged the youth in discussion about animal bones, teeth and shells. It was interesting to see how much variation there was between a red fox, gray fox and bobcat skull. We even had turtle shells and armadillo shells to compare. Students were encouraged to visit the Refuge, which is nearby.

The ninety - minute program flew by in the blink of an eye. Everyone enjoyed the hands-on activity and the topic of BONES!

by Linda Gocken

New Officers for the New Year!

Our Loess Hills Master Naturalist Chapter elected all new officers for 2023



Dennis Rush, Robert (Bob) Spurgat, Tom Aldrich, Suzanne Rush, Larry Bunse, Hayley Howard, Janet Mason, Ruth Hibarger & Kim Lafolette

Officer Position	Outgoing	Incoming
President	Robert (Bob) Spurgat	Dennis Rush
Vice President	Larry Bunse	Kim Lafolette
Secretary	Janet Mason	Hayley Howard
Treasurer	Tom Aldrich	David Laderoute

Additionally, the board welcomes two new at large board members:
 Ruth Hibarger is replacing Suzanne Rush and Dave Gamet is replacing David Laderoute.

The officers will serve 1-year terms while the at large members will serve for two.

Two other at large members, Peg Strickland & Don St. Cyr retain their posts for another year.

Winter Gear

Wind Chill*

Anyone that volunteers for Loess Hills service projects in the cool season months soon learns a rule of thumb to subtract the forecast wind speed from the forecast

temperature then subtract another 5 to 10 degrees from that if in a prairie environment less another 5 to 10 degrees for every hour standing in a spot to estimate the real feel for volunteering...err layering.

Dampness also escalates the body's loss of warmth, so avoid it with wicking away sweat from the body and providing waterproof outer layers to resist the weather.

That said, it doesn't detract many for volunteering for fun projects such as CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) in November and Eagle Days in December and January. Even Wings Over Weston the first weekend in May can have a snow shower lumber through the area even though snow is unusual, but not unheard of until May 20 north of the river!

My CWD 2022

At the Tuesday, November 8 meeting Bruce Windsor asked me if I had seen a forecast because he was going deer hunting near Brookfield and knew I was volunteering near Kirksville. I mumbled my discontent as I saw a forecast for LaPlata Saturday morning of 13° F and it hadn't changed...not really what I had been hoping for! That information galvanized me into action to create a one-piece wool insulated hooded coverall that would protect me from the elements.

Years before in 1999, I had purchased aspens material and a preprinted vest material with a wildlife scene and in 2021 had used a longarm (standup, commercial sewing machine) to stitch the fabric and denim backing together. It was definitely time to use it!

After three full bobbins of thread [I usually use one per month]. I had enough put together to successfully battle the elements.

Layering Just as your mother told you and you learned from insulating your home, dress in layers and trap air pockets between you and extreme weather.

Socks - Even very thin layers of sock liners assist the body to retain heat and wick sweat dampness away from the body. For those that can't wear wool, the liners also protect skin from "itchies".

Base Layers – I used two base layers on Saturday, one thin and silky and the next one thick and slightly scratchy but with a weave that creates air pockets.

Mittens – I used mittens with two layers of fleece. However, true to form, I forgot to pack one essential item while sewing with the pedal to the metal from Wednesday through Friday sewing insulated hooded coveralls and vest. I forgot to pack thin but warm gloves without fingertips to keep most of my hand warm while

I tapped on the iPhone as a CWD recorder then between recordings could easily slip my hands into mittens.

Hand Warmers – I used this commercial product for the first time at CWD and they work if exposed to oxygen.

Neck Gaiters and Headbands – I used purchased products with one or two layers of fleece that kept my neck and ears warm. They're usually found in the ski accessories aisle.

Sew Your Own – I am usually disappointed in the warmth factor for winter garments found locally, so I've been adding to my collection with very easy sewing projects.

DIY Insulated Coveralls If you're in the mood to create your own insulated coveralls, I used Simplicity pattern #H0202 that I ordered online. The models on the pattern all looked about 16 and were indoors, so I tried to leave more room for "expansion" [or "ease"] using a centered zipper rather than a lapped hook and loop (Velcro) band for another inch of circumference for layering [also for a "mature adult" figure].

That seemed to leave almost enough room for base layers, jeans, turtleneck, two wool sweaters, and a cotton sweatshirt with a buck embroidered on the front.

DIY Fleece Mittens I used two layers of thick fleece to create mittens. When in a wet or windy environment like found shoveling snow or at CWD, I have another pair that is one layer of fleece that are oversize mittens that add another layer that creates a warm environment for over 90 minutes.

They are surprisingly warm and if you curl your fingers, you can warm the tips in five or ten minutes even outdoors (~ 32° F).

Simplicity pattern # 7356 [c. 1990's may be found on Etsy and eBay] has hats, caps and mittens+ and if they are adapted to accommodate the thickness of two layers of fleece, are surprisingly warm down to about 0° F.

DIY Color Considerations During an advanced training in the woods on Geo-cache c. 2012, TJ asked me if I wore my white homemade fleece hat outdoors. I answered yes, but wondered why he would ask that question. He was in the process of teaching a hunter education class and was teaching students to identify and background their shot. My white hat bobbing up and down in the woods could trigger someone to take a shot, mistaking the hat for a white-tail of a legitimate target.

When it's all said and done, there's a lot to be said for a warm cup of hot cocoa and the conveniences of a warm fire then retire for the evening with a modern heat system.

*Wind Chill

For those who are curious, the new mathematical equation to [calculate wind chill is here](#):

T = Temperature of air in °F

v = Velocity in mph

$$\text{WindChill} = 35.74 + (0.6215 \times T) - (35.75 \times \text{Wind}_{\text{sfc}}^{0.16}) + (0.4275 \times T \times \text{Wind}_{\text{sfc}}^{0.16})$$

by Janet Mason

Smithville Eagle Days 2023

Paradise Point Golf Course Club House and W boat ramp were the locations for the 27th Smithville Eagle Days event. The club house featured live eagle programs on Saturday and Sunday, with other nature displays; and W boat ramp was the site for wild eagle viewing. Cold weather likely affected attendance on Saturday; but Sunday attendance was outstanding, with a two-day total of 1285 visitors at the club house. The event is co-sponsored by: the Smithville Lake USACE; Clay County Parks; and the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. Jaime Picken, a Park Ranger with USACE and Aaron Kagay of CCP organize the event. The live eagle shows are provided by volunteers from Operation Wildlife of Overland Park, KS. The CCP staff shared exhibits from the nature center, showing live reptiles and other examples of local wildlife. Other exhibitors were from: the Swope Park Lakeside nature center;



Frank the Eagle - Photo by Don St. Cyr

Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Center in Liberty; and the Wings of Love, whom showed and flew a Eurasian Eagle Owl at the end of the final show each day.

The multiple live eagle shows were narrated by Bill Whinery with the help of Frank, a rehabbed Bald Eagle; and as always, they do

I had a great time participating in the 2023 Smithville Eagle Days Event. The program was excellent and the live birds always make it special. The event was well attended and we managed to come up with some good leads for new members. I especially enjoyed getting to visit with them and answering their questions about what we do.

- Bruce Windsor

a fine job of involving the audience, particularly kids. Rick Tubbs also spoke about other raptors; and showed a live Merlin named Jack. These speakers travel many miles annually to present these shows and others to the public. Operation Wildlife is operated by volunteer help; and is dependent on donated funding. The organization accepts as many as 5000 injured and orphaned of nature's creatures



Jake the Merlin - Photo by Don St. Cyr

I went to the first presentation and down to the dock both days and there was pretty good attendance at both places. Apparently, there were several people that had enough interest in the Master Naturalist program. Kathy, Larry and Hayley did a nice job of helping with the spotting scopes, especially with the kids, and I am sure Kathy got some good pictures. The two conservation officers at the viewing site were knowledgeable and helpful. The eagles cooperated better the second day and demonstrated a little fishing and the juveniles flew around a bit more on the pleasant second day. We could have used a few more eagles. Gerry says they used to use the area around the dam as the viewing site because of the moving and open water, perhaps if they get the construction done around the dam it could be used again, that is probably all up to the conservation folks. How can one not have an enjoyable time watching people watch eagles. Kind Regards,

- **Walt Hibarger**

members of our chapter were stationed with viewing scopes, focused on perched birds, to discuss and share info with those folks excited to see and hear about the wild eagles that were there. Due to the recent cold and the lake being ice covered the numbers of eagles were small; but enough for a nice viewing experience.

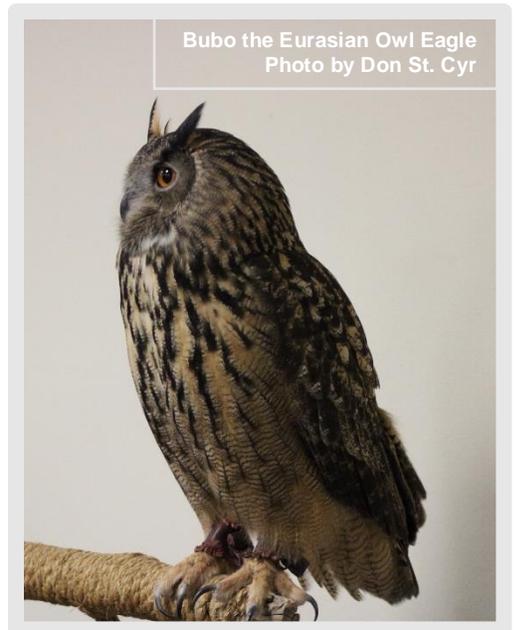
Many members of our chapter staffed a recruitment table to promote our LHMMN chapter with an opportunity for interested candidates to sign up with their contact information; and the MMN program in general. The table featured two standing picture displays and info brochures; and members to meet and explain the program to interested people about

annually to rehab and to hopefully return to their natural habitats. They welcome volunteer and financial assistance, as well as visitors to their facility. Their information is available at their web site, owl-online.org and phone number 785-542-3625.

The live wild eagle viewing was at W boat ramp where members of USACE, and MDC, and

how to become a MMN. Thanks to Dennis Rush (Suzie was probably assisting) there was a frame on which to display our big banner as an awesome back drop

for our table. Thanks, and kudos to all the members who contributed their efforts in presenting the MMN program and the LHMMN chapter resulting in 17 new candidates. Just an outstanding effort.



The only picture I took was of the Eagle! Being kind of an introvert, I was proud I actually succeeded in having 2 people sign up on the sheet. I also enjoyed spending the day with fellow members.

- **Sue Knight**

Members who did such an outstanding program promotion are: Larry & Kathy Bunse; Michael & Lisa Euler;

Chris & Richard Fulker; Dave Gamet; Charlie Higdon; Walt Hibarger; Hayley Howard; Sue Knight; Shirley Shipley; Jane Waller; Bruce Windsor; and Don St. Cyr. With these and other names, the numbers of new candidates are substantial; and bode well for the future of the LHMMN chapter.

by **Gerry Crawford**

Crafting With Leftovers; New In-Roads to Recruiting Hunters

A few months back, we saw a report that was commissioned by Education and Relevancy that highlighted our R3 customer journeys. One of these journeys was a self-sufficient, survivalist. One thing that stood out to us was that they were not opposed to hunting, but if they were going to go hunting, they wanted to use more of the harvested game than just

the trophy and the meat. So that got us thinking... "What else can we use?" "What did the pioneers and indigenous people use of their harvested game?" We brainstormed a few ideas and settled on deer as our first query.

One thing we saw about people from our past was that they all wore buckskins, until the invention of Levi's.

On Dec 12th, Education held the first program in a series entitled "Crafting with Leftovers". The program we did was "Deer Hides to Rawhides" at the Trial Barn at Pony Express CA. The preparation for this program began back in October.

Brian Flowers, Kara Entrop, Ginger Miller, and TJ Peacher got together at Lost Valley Hatchery to brush up on their skills of scraping and stretching deer hides. We saw many different fleshing beams and settled on one we liked made out of a couple 2x4's and a chunk of PVC pipe. It's quick to assemble, easy to clean, light weight and cheap enough to have 20 of them. We decided that this was definitely a program we wanted to take to our

stakeholders, but how? Where? And when?

If we were going to have participants bring in a deer hide, they would need to know about this program before deer season. Where? Given the people involved we wanted to have one in NW, one in KC Metro, One in outer KC Region, and one in Central Region. Next was to make sure we weren't violating any wildlife codes or doing anything that would jeopardize the resource. We talked to RRM and Protection and both said that you should be fine, protection gave us some rules, but they were easily followed. We got all of the particulars lined out set a date, lined out locations, and got Event

Manager lined out. Next step was to get extra deer hides.

We called staff, friends, family, and neighbors and told them that we needed extra hides for demonstrative

purposes and in case someone wants to participate but was unsuccessful harvesting a deer. After all was said and done, we had piled up over 30 deer hides, (all labeled). About 5 days before we started, we had to start soaking the deer hides so they were ready for the program and have a couple that had one side or the other already scraped.

When it was time for the programs, we were a well-oiled machine. All of our classes had a full registration, and some had waiting lists. The programs went well. Next year we have a lot more done rawhide so we will be



able to show products that come from rawhide better. Our press release had over 1200 likes on Facebook and almost 500 shares. Our post-program press release had about 300 likes. One of the most frequent comments was, "When are you doing that in my neighborhood?"

We are in the middle of our Fly-tying class right now using leftover parts of game birds. Next up is a deer leg bone knife at Lake City Range on January 21st. After that is "Tallow Products: Make Heal Balm, Candles, and Fire starters" on February 6th and 7th in KC Region.

by TJ Peacher and Dr. Ginger Miller

MMN LH 2022 Service Awards

Congratulations on achieving these milestones in 2022:

Pin	Hours	Name	Month
<u>Dragonflies:</u>			
Cloisonné – Initial	48	Dave Gamet Annie Hartley Linda Gocken Michael Thomas	August August December December
Bronze	250	Larry Bunse Kathy Bunse	April May
Pewter	500	Bob Spurgat	May
Gold	1,000	Bruce Windsor Dennis Rush Bill Blackledge	December December December
<u>Pin</u>			
Silver	2,500	David Laderoute	September
Gold with Diamond	5,000	N/A	
<u>Annual Recertification:</u>			
Grass Pink/Swamp Pink	40 + 8	Bruce Windsor Suzanne Rush Gerry Crawford Janet Mason David Laderoute Darrel Magee Kim LaFollette Don St. Cyr Dennis Rush Larry Bunse Bob Spurgat Debbie Butterfield Chris Fulker Rick Fulker Kathy Bunse Ruth Hibarger Walt Hibarger Charlie Higdon Dave Gamet MaryJo Ostenberg Sue Knight Cathy Whitney-Vuchetich Peg Strickland Janet Salsberry Hayley Howard Brent Galliard Bill Blackledge	March April April April May May June June June July August August September September September September September October October November November November December December December December

Eurasian Tree Sparrow Sighted in Northwest Missouri

On December 28, 2022, a unique bird appeared at the Cosby, MO home of Larry and Kathy Bunse. Kathy spotted it among a flock of House Sparrows feeding in the backyard. The bird was smaller than the House Sparrows and didn't resemble any of the winter sparrows which frequented the feeders. Bold, black dots on both of its white cheeks made it stand out.

The couple searched bird books (A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies and National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Birds of North America) and the Audubon app. All signs pointed to the Eurasian Tree sparrow. However, this seemed unlikely. Information from these sources indicated that these birds were introduced in St. Louis in 1870 and have remained on the eastern side of Missouri.

Larry contacted experienced birder, Brent Galliard, concerning the sighting. Brent was skeptical, as Eurasian Tree Sparrows hadn't been seen in this area. However, after viewing photos, he decided



that the Bunes might have a legitimate sighting.

On January 12, 2023, Brent and another expert birder, Tom Nagel, visited the Bunse farm. They observed and photographed two Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Unfortunately, these quick little sparrows could only be photographed individually. They also submitted the sighting to E Bird.

E Bird maps recorded sightings in Columbia, Jefferson City and Kansas City, MO. They also indicated that Eurasian Tree Sparrows had been seen in Omaha, NE and Des Moines, IA. However, Galliard and Nagel's entry marked the first confirmed report of a Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Northwest Missouri.



Besides, Galliard and Nagel, five other visitors have stood in the Bunse's kitchen and observed the birds. One visitor suggested that Eurasian Tree Sparrows may have traveled west and north in the trailers of trucks. Perhaps they did. If you are interested in viewing the sparrows, and speculating on how they arrived, contact Larry and Kathy to arrange an appointment.

by Kathy Bunse

Near My Backyard

This month I am going to step a little way from my backyard to talk about one of the benefits the Missouri Department of Conservation provides its citizens. Several years ago, my wife and I bought a piece of property with the plan to build our retirement home. This was located in a small development with an old farm pond, (1+ acres & 2-4 ft. deep), with some small fish, bull frogs and small snakes. The usual local forest animals populated the surrounding woods (deer, fox,



raccoon, opossum, rabbit, field mice and coyote), along with birds and waterfowl. All of the new homeowners liked the natural setting; the Neighborhood Association even became certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

However, it soon became apparent that this pond, in order to keep it healthy, was going to require regular maintenance. Because it was shallow and surrounded by trees that added

nutrients in the form of dropped leaves, it was subject to an overgrowth of choking algae. The usual pond chemicals were added and it helped for a while; a few grass carp were added to forage on the algae. Then, during a hot summer, there was a fish kill when the water level got low. In an effort to prevent further kills, because the pond froze solid in the winter, one of the homeowners put in a pump to oxygenate the water and to provide a small ice-free area. When we thought things were getting better, raw sewage leaked into the pond—a broken sewer line.

Once that problem was fixed, one of the homeowners decided to make the pond his personal project and contacted a fresh water consultant from the Northwest Office of the Missouri Department of Conservation. The consultant came out several times, did fish counts and environmental assessments. (At one point there were only a few small fish, turtles and bullfrogs, indications of a nearly dead pond.) It was his recommendation that the pond needed aeration and increased depth to help the fish and



control the algae. We would try to do this with as few chemicals as possible.

The first step was to put in an aerator for water circulation, oxygenation and to prevent freezing in the winter. The next step was to install an adjustable gate at the outlet, increasing the depth to 6 feet. It wasn't long before there was a healthy fish population (large-mouth bass in the 12" – 14" range, bluegill) and a more balanced number of turtles and other amphibians. Ducks, Canada geese and Great Blue Herons are back on a regular basis.

Having a pond where we live certainly adds to the natural experience of our neighborhood. Keeping it healthy takes work and attention. Although we still have some algae and rare duckweed, it is much easier to control without excessive use of chemicals. The water level is also easier to regulate. The resources of the MDC, with the professional guidance we have enjoyed, are appreciated—and it all comes with being a resident of Missouri.

by Bob Spurgat

Afterword:

I'd like to give a big thank you to the newsletter editors of the past! Piecing this newsletter together has been a chore and I am quietly anxious to see how many errors I have made. These documents take time and a lot of effort to get everything to work and look good. I hope to eventually have something worthy of the newsletter editors of the past, but in the interim, please don't beat me up too hard as this is my first one and I promise to improve!

With that said, BIG apologies to anyone and anything I missed! The simple act of juggling dozens of emails, replies, documents, phone calls, texts and everything else needed has been daunting. I am working toward keeping everything in good order, so things are easier next time.

I intend to put the Spring newsletter together in mid-March, so please keep everything coming in!

Sincerely,

Don