

Boone's Lick Master Naturalists 2020 Annual Report amid Covid-19 Virus Pandemic

This remarkable year Boone's Lick Chapter members recorded the second highest Volunteer hours and the highest ever Advanced Training hours. Covid-19 did not stop us.

Number of Volunteer service hours = 6156

Number of hours volunteers participated in Advanced Training = 1815

2020 Total hours = 7971

List of local (Missouri based) Chapter Partners

Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Boone County Resource Management

City of Columbia

Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site

Columbia Agriculture Park

Columbia Audubon Society

Downtown Urban Butterfly Garden

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area

Green belt Land Trust for Missouri

Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program

Lincoln University Native Demonstration Garden

Missouri Native Plant Society

Missouri River Relief

Missouri Stream Team

Ozark Trail Association

Prairie Fork Conservation Area

Prairie Garden Trust

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Columbia Public Schools Outdoor Classrooms & Native Gardens (9)

Three Creeks Conservation Area

University of Missouri Extension (Columbia office, Boone County) & Boone County Extension Council

University of Missouri Raptor Rehab

Walnut Grove Cemetery

Wild Ones

Our chapter took on three new citizen-science projects in 2020:

University of Missouri- CAFR sponsored Milkweed & Native Plants Monitoring called MO for Monarchs

The Great Sunflower Project (University of California, SF)

The Missouri Bumblebee Atlas program, partnering with the Xerces Society's Bumblebee Watch program

Members also contributed to the University of Kentucky's White Oak Acorn project.

We enjoyed Ann Koenig's May presentation on MO-IP, the invasive Plant Task Force, and this led to 662 volunteer hours of invasive plant control this year. This included work at Clark's Hill, Rock Bridge and several other areas we could separate, social-distance and burn off stress doing satisfying work.

Volunteer work related to Birds and conservation totaled 982 hours of service. This included, in descending order of total hours: Bird Surveys using eBird, monitoring Bluebird nest boxes at Columbia Audubon Society, Missouri Eagle Watch program (MDC), Bluebird and Wood Duck nest boxes monitoring at Prairie Fork, Christmas Bird Count, Global Big Day Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Woodcock Count at Rock Bridge and Bird Surveys at Knob Noster State Park.

Our local partner with the most hours was Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, who benefited from 999.5 hours total.

Hours summary by Category:

Citizen Science Projects 1473.75 or 23.94%

Education/Outreach Projects 465 or 7.55%

Program Support Projects 1230.75 or 19.99%

Stewardship Projects 2986.25 or 48.51%

13 volunteers achieved their initial certification.

58 volunteers achieved their 2020 annual certification.

88 active chapter members reported hours in 2020.

73 members reported at least 20 volunteer hours and at least 4 AT hours.

119 members have participated over the last three years.

26 Core Training Class members graduated in June. I believe Boone's Lick Chapter was the only chapter to hold and complete training in 2020.

We started off 2020 with high hopes and met as normal in January and February.

Our new training class began 4 March. Covid reached Missouri March 8th. By March 11th, we began real changes to protect our members health, complete our class and carry on with monthly chapter meetings. We chose not to give up and cancel. Our strong Training Committee co-chairs, Suzanne Wright and Melanie Knocke, worked with chapter advisor Kent Shannon, MU Extension to switch from live presenters to virtual Zoom programs, and on we went.

We all learned how to "Zoom". Kent also recorded all classes and chapter meetings and posted them on MU's Box and Canvas accounts for easy access.

By April, we were up and running. We held our first virtual Zoom chapter meeting with an apt program on Nature Journaling, the most popular AT, with 42 members attending.

Our classes' group day field trips morphed into individual trips with supporting print materials shared online for students to print out or save online. Field trip presenters shared their portions on Zoom during class time.

One of our long-time members is passionate about mosses, so she created a self-guided Moss ID Walk at 3 Creeks Natural Area. We could access information about 11-12 individual mosses on our phones or as printed out information we took with

We
we could
keep in
every-
ident Jill
monthly
Zoom



focused on what
do this spring to
touch with
body. Past Pres-
Edwards began
informal, fun
meetings, our

Communications committee members upped our Facebook page postings and created a new private FB group for members. Member-at-large Paula Strehl stepped up to lead a new By-Laws committee to update older bylaws. The work continues.

Volunteer group activities shrank from groups of ten down to individuals. This works for most volunteer hours, whether it's removing invasive plants, maintaining our nine public school gardens, our native plant garden sites or members doing citizen science at home.



Individual members are busy monitoring Bald Eagles, Milkweeds for a new University of Missouri Monarch survey, planting Lemon Queen Sunflowers for monitoring pollinators for the national Great Sunflower Project and watching Bumblebees for Bumblebee Watch with the Xerces Society.



Our Membership and Training committees got together to offer new graduates a new Mentoring program. Several members have adopted 3 or more interns each, to connect, guide, and ensure interns reach their initial certification. Capstone projects are being adapted, and new state volunteer opportunities shared with intern members.

We are very fortunate to have so many ways to learn more about our natural world. Our Advanced Training opportunities have greatly expanded online, thanks to our AT Committee's quick process and response time. Members have been taking advantage of these convenient online train-



ings, from FaceBook Live events, Big Muddy River Relief lecture series, Osher Master Pollinator classes, to plenty of great Zoom and Webex webinars from local, state and national groups. Some popular webinar sponsors include the Missouri Prairie Foundation (and Grow Native!), Xerces.org, Songbird Station, the Natural Areas Association, Pheasants & Quail Forever, MDC Wild webcasts, Missouri River Bird Observatory and CFM.



Members attended the virtual Conservation Federation of Missouri 2020 Convention, and MDC's virtual Partners Roundtable in October. Five chapter members attended The State MN Leadership Academy in February and joined in all four quarterly telephone calls.

Our chapter advisor transferred his job, so we lost him in August to Mizos students.

However, we welcomed Letitia Johnson, University of Missouri Extension, as our new chapter advisor in November. She's an expert in community engagement and building groups, based in the Columbia office. In September, our chapter chose to subscribe to Zoom annually, independent of University Extension. This service allows committee work and AT programs at chapter meetings to be recorded and stored on our website. We also celebrated the first year anniversary of our website, www.booneslickmasternaturalists.org and online reporting system, developed by Jerry Barnabee (Meramec Hills Chapter) and supported by Phil Knocke, our VolOpps Chair and amazing tech Guru. In December we held our chapter meeting and holiday party via Zoom.

We enjoyed a Trivia Game created by a member, and, thanks to our great Treasurer and Faith Tallman, awesome Boone County Extension Office Manager, we held our virtual Member Art Raffle.

Six member artists donated their unique artwork, from ceramics to photographs, painting and a walking stick. Members donations translated to raffle tickets (shared through email) and members Stephanie Michels and Everett Stokes did the honors and drew the winning tickets. We raised over \$900.00 for the club's account. This led to a new fundraising committee forming, chaired by Chris Egbert, to expand and open the auction to more public and partners. Member and excellent wildlife photographer, Carol Weston, donated 2 MDC new calendars for the raffle. Her photo of a Monarch on Aquatic Milkweed features on the 2021 cover.

We also elected 2021 officers at our December meeting. They are:

President Becky Bohlmeier, Vice President Lori Johnson, Secretary Kitty Peer and Treasurer, Paula Strehl. 2021 Members at Large are Jarrett Whistance, Jack Gay and Carolyn Flynn. Many thanks to Jill Edward's, Nominating Chair.

We look forward to a brighter year and serving conservation, as we grow and adapt to this uncertain time. Several of our members have survived the virus, and a devastating car crash; we are grateful to carry on and meet new challenges in 2021.

Carolyn Flynn

Boones' Lick Chapter President (2019/20)

Missouri Master Naturalists

8 January 2021

Member Linda Vogt logged over 495 volunteer hours fighting invasive plants this year! The most hours of any member- congrats!

