

Boone's Lick Missouri Master Naturalists Chapter

2019 Annual Report

Carolyn Flynn, President

8 January 2019

Chapter Data Results

Total number of hours reported: 8,385

Total number of 2019 volunteer service hours: 7,222

Total number of 2019 advanced training hours: 1,163

Total number of active chapter members:

Members reporting hours in 2019: 87

Members reporting at least 20 volunteer hours and 4 advanced training hours: 66

Members participating over the last 3 years: 102

Number of volunteers who achieved initial certification in 2019: 11

Number of volunteers who achieved their 2019 annual certification: 53

2019 data figures show a chapter record high for both volunteer and advanced training hours.

The notable volunteer hours spike shows an increase of 1,472 hours (about 26%) over our previous 2017 record.

Founded in 2004, this year Boone's Lick Chapter celebrated our 15th year of dedicated service. The numbers above demonstrate the additional boost a Spring core training class provided to our stability, as well as our growing membership, value and impact from Boone County throughout bordering counties and the broader central Missouri area. According to independentsector.org 2018 monetary values for volunteer service, total hours given by Boone's Lick Chapter members represent our donation of \$178,311.18 to conservation efforts.

Recent MDC requests to record volunteer hours by category provided a healthy, balanced view of priorities in 2019.

Stewardship project volunteer hours were 2,864 (39.66%)

Citizen Science projects volunteer hours were 1,504 (20.83%)

Program Support hours were 1,489 (20.62%)

Education and Outreach hours were 1,364 (18.89%)

Chapter projects and goals achieved in 2019

Major labor and cash sponsorship of the 3rd Boone County Extension Mid-Mo Farm Expo in April. 15 members helped with activities, displays and lectures and demonstrated zero-waste methods.

March - May Core Training Class resumption, intern integration and follow up.

Two successful Capstone Projects completed. Invasive plant removal at Clark's Hill/Norton state historic site in Cole County involved more than 8 members donating 426 hours. The Woodworking Capstone project saw 10 members donating 111 hours to create 40 nest boxes to donate to a new local partner, the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. This important project will include establishing natural areas in surrounding parkland. We also expanded our range of interests to include more opportunities to help Missouri mammals.

Working with US FWS bat biologists and Big Muddy FW Refuge staff, 17 members spent 77 hours learning and taking part in an initial Bat Mist-netting survey in August. There's much interest in future interaction with these partners. Chapter members also stepped up to aid MDC regional efforts to track furbearers in Boone and Howard counties, and also lent a hand at MDC's Chronic Wasting Disease sampling stations on opening firearms deer season weekend in November (outside of Boone County).

Boone's Lick continued to support and expand native plant conservation with children in local public schools. 13 members contributed 367 hours working with school outdoor classrooms. School garden projects involved also benefited from 175 MDC Milkweed seedling distributed and planted in November.

In 2019, largely from quarterly MN teleconferences, Boone's Lick Chapter began forming an independent chapter website with help from Jerry Barnabee, Meramec Hills chapter webmaster.

www.booneslick.missourimasternaturalists.org came online in July. One key improvement allows members to securely record hours online immediately, providing automatic personal updates. This successful technology transfer has resulted in easier, better records and time-keeping for our chapter as a whole and secure group emails. Chapter 2020 goals include formatting a public interface and monthly member milestone achievements.

Partners

We continue building good will with established local partners, especially Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. 27 Members gave 1,204 hours in 2019, making it our most popular partner. New this year, we also invited interested individuals and agencies to present a short request before our monthly program, and this has opened up more volunteer opportunities for members in new areas, from plant assessment to helping 4th graders enjoy a Missouri River boat trip.

This is a current listing (reviewed annually) of major local partners we work with on shared conservation goals:

Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge (Cooper County)

City of Columbia

Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site (Cole County)

Columbia Audubon Society

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture

Discover Nature Schools (MDC)

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area

Elm Street Nature Area Project

Greenbelt Land Trust of Missouri

Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program

Lincoln University Native Demonstration Garden (Cole County)

Missouri Native Plant Society

Missouri Prairie Foundation

Missouri River Bird Observatory (Howard County)

Missouri River Relief (Cooper County)

Missouri Stream Team

Missourians for Monarchs

Ozark Trail Association

Prairie Fork Conservation Area (Montgomery & Callaway Counties)

Prairie Garden Trust (Callaway County)

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

School Outdoor Classrooms

University of Missouri Bradford Research Center

University of Missouri Extension - Columbia office

University of Missouri Jefferson Farm & Gardens

University of Missouri Raptor Rehabilitation project

Walnut Grove Cemetery

Wild Ones

Youth Monarch Conservation Program

Conclusion

In response to members' requests, we formatted chapter programs and outside field trips to include advanced training information. Overall Chapter meeting attendance grew, and officers attended the Conservation Federation of Missouri affiliate conference, the MDC Partners Roundtable and the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative annual conference. We sponsored a Native Seed Collection and Propagation Workshop for chapter members, but also welcomed Missouri Master Gardeners and Native Plant Society members who made it a combined success.

Seven public Outreach & Education activities reached approximately 300-500 adults and children, and we added the new MRBO Birds & Bees Festival in Arrow Rock to our PR event list.

Chapter membership grew to represent 6 counties in central Missouri and reflected more impact and interest in surrounding counties. Meanwhile, members voted to expand the executive board and added three additional Members-at-Large to ensure leadership continuity in the midst of change and add new members voices to future chapter plans and goals.

But, in the end, Boone's Lick Chapter's over-riding goal and attraction is fun.

Companionship and rising to challenges, generosity and shared joy are our glue.



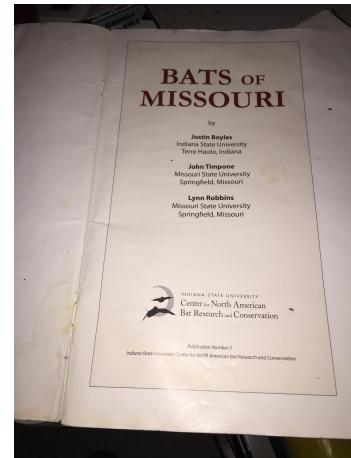
May 20, 2019 Graduating Class of Boone's Lick outside of Boone Extension Center, Columbia - 20 newbies



Phil Knocke, Vol Opps Chair & Jerry Barnabee, Honorary BL Member deep in computer-land summit December 2019

Wood-working Capstone Project made 40 Bluebird, Bee, Butterfly and Bat Houses from scratch for Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture August-October 2019

New Members: Melanie Knocke, Karen Zimmerman, Jon Hitt, Carol-Leigh Brack-Kaiser & Jayne Young
The chapter donated \$600.00 in materials, and members helped with tools & equipment to build the boxes which will be placed in the new Columbia Agricultural Park in 2020.



Above: Female Big Brown Bat 8.7.19 Bat Survey at Big Muddy & Keying Bats caught with this book.

Below: 16 Boone's Lick members trekked to Boone's Lick salt spring Historic Site July 20th to see the origin of our name & learn from Mike Dickey, site manager and history hero.

