

Boone's Lick Master Naturalists 2021 Annual Report

Despite the continuing effects of the pandemic Boone's Lick had the third highest total of volunteer hours reported, and we logged 749 *more* volunteer hours in 2021 than we did in 2018, which was the last time we did not hold a core training class. Our advanced training hours were the second highest total ever! We continued to meet via Zoom due to Covid restrictions limiting our ability to meet in person, and we averaged 40 members attending each meeting.

Number of volunteer service hours: **6026**

Number of hours volunteers participated in advanced training: **1665**

2021 Total number of hours: **7691**

List of Chapter Partners (partners are local organizations that have a reciprocal relationship with the chapter):

Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge

City of Columbia

Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site

Columbia Audubon Society

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area

Greenbelt Land Trust of Missouri

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

School Outdoor Classrooms

University of Missouri Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network

University of Missouri Extension (Columbia Office)

University of Missouri Raptor Rehabilitation Project

University of Missouri Jefferson Farms & Gardens

Wild Ones

Select Activities Summaries:

Invasive control hours totaled **809** hours. This included work at Clark's Hill, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Prairie Fork Conservation Area, and other various sites around the state.

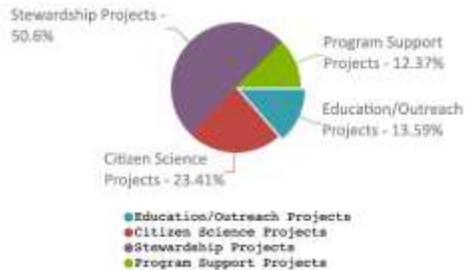
Volunteer work related to Birds and conservation totaled **956** hours of service. This included, in descending order of total hours: Monitoring Bluebird Nest Boxes for the Columbia Audubon Society, Missouri Eagle Watch Program (MDC), Bird Surveys using eBird, Project Feeder Watch, Bluebird & Wood Duck Nest Boxes monitoring at Prairie Fork Conservation Area, Great Backyard Bird Count, Christmas Bird Count, and the Global Big Day Bird Count (North American Migration Bird Count).

Partner with the most volunteer hours: Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (RBMSP), with **1031** hours

Hours Summary by Category:

Citizen Science Projects: **1411**
Education/Outreach Projects: **819**
Program Support: **745**
Stewardship Projects: **3051**

2021 Boone's Lick Volunteer Hours By Reporting Group



Certifications, Milestones, and Members Reporting Hours:

Number of volunteers that achieved their initial certification in 2021: **7**
Number of volunteers that achieved their 2021 annual certification: **59**
Number of volunteers that reached the 250-hour milestone in 2021: **9**
Number of volunteers that reached the 500-hour milestone in 2021: **3**
Number of volunteers that reached the 1000-hour milestone in 2021: **2**
Total number of active Chapter members:
Members Reporting Hours in 2021: **77**
Members Reporting at least 20 Hours Volunteer & 4 hours AT: **64**
Members Participating over the last 3 years: **115**
Number of core class graduations in 2021: **no core training class in 2021**

With Covid restrictions being a bit looser we were able to volunteer in larger groups. It was great to once again see familiar faces in person rather than through a computer screen. Volunteers participated in our usual activities, such as butterfly counts at RBMSP, stream team monitoring at Gans Creek and Cedar Creek, seed collection at Prairie Fork, Bluebird box monitoring, and Missouri River Relief Cleanup to name just a few.





Our volunteers also participated in a few special projects: mounting signs at RBMSP showing the parks history, building a park bench at Eagle Bluffs Headquarters in honor of Chris Egbert's late wife, and leading virtual and live presentations for the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO) Birds and Bees Festival.



The chapter enjoyed a wide variety of advanced training presentations during our meetings. For our May meeting Max Carr, US Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Canine Officer, and his dog, K9 Teal, demonstrated how they work together to detect and prevent crimes in our natural resource areas. That presentation was virtual, but in August a few of us were able to watch them

work in person. It was amazing to see what Teal is capable of, and realize how much time Max has put in training her for them to work so well together. Teal is so accomplished she even has her own trading card.



Another advanced training presentation was given by our member Karen Zimmerman. She shared about finding, preparing, and eating wild edibles both native and invasive. Karen has found many wild plants that are good in salads, and says she can hardly eat salads anymore with common lettuces and veggies. She not only prepares them in salads, she cooks them as vegetables, puts them in soups, and eats them sauteed, boiled, and roasted. She also shared how nutritional most of them are. We learned there are an incredible number of wild edibles.

We also enjoyed a few field trips. We toured the University of Missouri's A.L. Gustin Golf Course in August. Isaac Breuer, golf course superintendent, guided us around the course to show us the native areas they've created throughout the golf course. The course is known for its efforts to promote environmental sustainability. They have removed more than 5 acres of invasive bush honeysuckle. Through cooperative partnerships with Missouri Department of Conservation and the Mid-Mo Quail Forever chapter they have been installing native pollinator plot plantings each year for the past 12 years. Their use of native plantings and select turf species conserves water, decreases pesticide and herbicide use, and decreases their maintenance workload.



One of our chapter's important accomplishments in 2021 was updating and amending the 2010 version of our bylaws. Paula Strehl headed the bylaw committee, and she and the committee worked hard to be sure they coordinated with the state bylaws.

Boone's Lick once again held a virtual raffle during our December meeting. A total of 17 items were donated with over \$900 being raised. Items included several handmade items: hand forged dinner triangle and horseshoe candle holder, stained glass suncatcher, bluebird house and bee hotels, and a pillow with a dragonfly design. Other items included artwork, a metal print photograph, and some unusual items such as a circular saw.

2022 officers were also elected at our December meeting. They are: President Becky Bohlmeier, Vice President Damon Kempker, Secretary Carolyn Flynn, and Treasurer Jarrett Whistance. 2022 Members-at-Large are Ali Price and Jack Gay.

All in all, we had another great year in 2021, and we are looking forward to hold a training class again in 2022.

Becky Bohlmeier
Boone's Lick Chapter President (2021/2022)
Missouri Master Naturalists
7 January 2022