



Lake of the Ozarks Missouri Master Naturalists Annual Report 2011



Graduates of the 2011 class.

Below: Summer Social at Ha Ha Tonka
Getting to know the recently graduated class
of 2011-Good Food & Good Company



Organized in the spring of 2009, the Lake of the Ozarks Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist program serves the residents of Camden, Miller & Morgan counties, and most recently, has added participants from Laclede County. Sponsored jointly by the [Missouri Department of Conservation](#) (MDC) and the [University of Missouri Extension](#) (UE), the [Missouri Master Naturalist](#) program is an adult, community-based, natural resource education and volunteer service program with 13 chapters in the state of Missouri.

In the three years of existence, there have been 70 + graduates of the Lake of the Ozarks program. Our mission is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service.

The Chapter's objectives include:

- Improve public understanding of natural resources ecology and management.
- Enhance existing natural resources education and outreach activities.
- Develop a self-sufficient state-wide Missouri Master Naturalist™ volunteer network.

We perform volunteer service and offer opportunities for educational training in the Lake of the Ozarks area. Our members share a common interest in learning about the natural world and in helping to protect, preserve, and restore Missouri's natural heritage.

Activities Completed in 2011

The members of the Lake of the Ozarks Master Naturalists have continued to work on ongoing projects and initiated several new activities in 2011.

Volunteers graduating from the training class in 2011—26

Volunteers who achieved initial certification—12

Volunteers who achieved re-certification—25

Milestone pins awarded—4

Active Chapter members—71

Total hours of volunteer service—2504

Total hours of advanced training—728



Above: Eagle Days volunteers



\$1500 Scholarship awarded to Caitlin Shoults by the Lake of the Ozarks Missouri Master Naturalists

Volunteer Service Projects Highlights

- Initiated the Conservation Kids Club in a partnership with Camdenton R-III Schools After School Program (see Highlight page).
- Developed Power Point presentations that incorporate Missouri science curriculum objectives regarding the water cycle, runoff, groundwater flow, and erosion, and the impact of human activities on those same processes in a partnership with LOWA.
- Donated over 200 hours of volunteer service to Eagle Days in a partnership with the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce & the Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- Helped with Oak Mast count for Miller, Camden, Morgan & Laclede Counties.
- Participated in Stream Team # 3117 on the Niangua River and Stream Team # 4193 on the Little Niangua River.
- Provided a booth and volunteer service at LOWA's Clean Water Festival during Two Dam Days Paddle Festival.
- Hosted a booth at West Lake Aquatic Centers special event—Dive Into Summer.
- Created/improved displays/activity centers at the Orion Science Center in Camdenton.
- Participated in Hazardous Waste Disposal.

- Continued our Adopt a Highway Clean-up.
- Developed nature landscaping and native plant demonstrations at Lake of the Ozarks State Park and the Missouri Department of Conservation building.
- Participated in quail habitat improvements at Allen Research Farm in Laurie MO.
- Assisted Ameren UE and LOWA in watershed projects/low impact landscaping to reduce lake pollution.
- Continued with the Hurricane Deck Elementary Outdoor Classroom improvement project.
- Continued nature landscaping improvements around MDC building with native plant & rain gardens, wildlife displays, bird houses, plant barrels, trail maintenance, compost bins, invasive species removal, etc.
- Assisted at the MDC Outdoor Skills Day at the Larry Gale Conservation area.
- Assisted MDC with fish counts on Lake of the Ozarks.
- Worked with Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program in water testing.
- Created display of the lake area to promote the Master Naturalist program.



Advanced Training Highlights

The Lake of the Ozarks Master Naturalist Chapter provides regular advanced training activities at most monthly chapter meetings. Some of this year's topics included Photography & Journaling, Honey Bees, Natures Frogs & Toads Chorus, Butterflies & Moths, Trapping & Dealing with nuisance animals, and Elk Restoration in Missouri.



Above: Low Impact Landscaping

In addition to these monthly topics, many opportunities for advanced training are offered in the lake area and in the state such as: Prescribed Burn training, Water Quality training, Missouri Master Naturalist State Conference, Cole Camp Prairie Days, MDC's Outdoor Skills Day, Native Plants & Landscaping, Healthy Yards for Clean Water workshop, Improving Quail Habitat, Fish Counts, etc.

Conservation Kids Club

In September of 2011, The Lake of the Ozarks Chapter kicked off their new project, Conservation Kids Club (CKC). In a partnership with the Camdenton R-III Schools After School Program called Project PASS, chapter volunteers work with 3rd & 4th grade students who attend monthly sessions and enjoy activities and education on conservation or nature topics. The truly unique feature of this program is that the parents are right beside their children, working together as they discover the wonders of nature. When the program was introduced, it was so popular that a lottery system had to be used to limit the class size.



Kids and parents casting tracks



Wonders of Wildlife

The CKC project has been in the works for over a year, with a number of our members going through Project Wild training, creating lesson plans with hands on activities for the monthly sessions, and connecting with the school district. This team of dedicated volunteers, lead by Laura Toombs, has created an incredible opportunity to teach our youth about conserving and protecting our natural resources, which in turn helps to

assure that our future outlook of maintaining a healthy environment is safe. As Laura stated, "We look to this fledgling program as the basis for the possibility of involving even greater age ranges of children and young adults."

Educating youth has become a focus for the LOMN chapter members who also renovated and maintain an outdoor classroom and trail area at the Hurricane Deck Elementary School,

MN volunteer at work



support local Kids Fishing Days, assist MDC with summer youth programs, and work with interpretive programs at the state parks and other locations.

Hands on Learning



Needless to say, we are very proud of the direction we have taken.

Thank You to our Partners

Ha Ha Tonka State Park

Ameren UE

Lake Ozark Watershed Alliance (LOWA)

MO Department of Transportation (MODOT)

Camdenton R-III Schools

Allen Research and Education Farm

Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

The Convention and Visitors Bureau

Below: Workday at Willmore Lodge—Rain Garden to minimize storm water run off



Lake of the Ozarks Missouri Master Naturalist Sponsors

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Lake of the Ozarks Chapter