



For Immediate Release

Jackie Rasmussen  
Business Development Specialist  
University of Missouri Extension  
Phone: 573-346-2644

### ENROLL NOW FOR THE 2012 MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING PROGRAM

Help protect Camden and surrounding counties natural resources by becoming a Missouri Master Naturalist. The Missouri Master Naturalist program is a community-based, adult natural resource education and volunteer program designed to engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources. A little of your time and a desire to learn how to care for the environment are all you need to sign up for the program. The Missouri Master Naturalist program and professional natural resource experts will provide the training needed to get started.

The **next Master Naturalist certification training course starts** with an **orientation on Monday, Feb. 13, 2012** from 6-8 p.m. at the MO Department of Conservation Office in Camdenton. **Classes will then commence on February 27, 2012 and run through May 21<sup>st</sup>.** Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6-9 p.m. at the MO Department of Conservation office in Camdenton. In addition three Saturday field trips are included in the program.

The 50-hour course will teach participants about Missouri's natural resource ecology and management. After graduation participants are asked to provide 40 hours of volunteer service on land management, citizen science, education, and other conservation related projects in the local community and achieve eight hours of continued education annually. To maintain Master Naturalist certification volunteers continue to contribute 40 hours of service and achieve eight hours of advanced training annually.

Camden County currently has an active Master Naturalist Chapter in place whose membership is comprised of 70+ individuals that have completed the Master Naturalist training program over the past three years. To learn more about the local Chapter's efforts visit them online at [www.lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com](http://www.lakeozarkmasternaturalist.com)

You must be 18 or older to enroll. The enrollment fee is \$100. For more information or to sign up for the class contact Jackie Rasmussen, Ph: 573-346-2644 or [rasmussenj@missouri.edu](mailto:rasmussenj@missouri.edu)