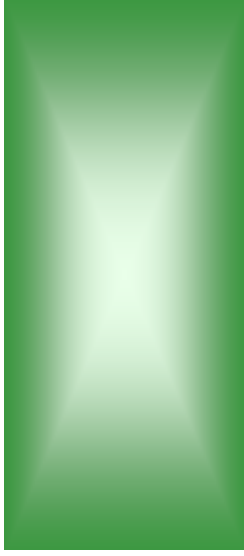


**THE SANCTUARY**    **ISSUE#1-17**  
**MARTHA LAFITE THOMPSON NATURE SANCTUARY**  
**407 N LA FRENZ ROAD**  
**LIBERTY, MISSOURI 64068**

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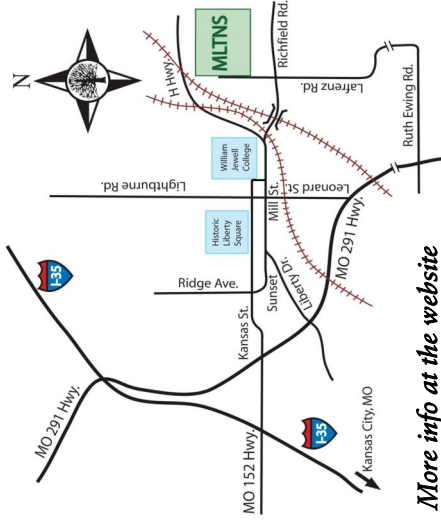
**March 7 MLTNS Members  
sign up for Summer Camp**

**Hours**

THE NATURE CENTER  
Always  
Tuesday - Saturday  
9am - 5pm

THE SANCTUARY AND TRAILS  
April through September  
open daily 8am - 8pm  
October - March  
open daily 8am - 5pm

The Nature Center is closed on major holidays. Hiking trails are open every day unless weather hazards (such as lightning, winds, falling trees, etc) or construction/maintenance hazards dictate.



**More info at the website**

[www.NatureSanctuary.com](http://www.NatureSanctuary.com)

**Join us on facebook**

**Follow us on twitter**

**Donate or become a member online**

<https://squareup.com/market/MLTNS>

**COME OUT AND TAKE A HIKE WITH US.**



Liberty, MO  
www.NatureSanctuary.com

# THE SANCTUARY

Issue #1-17


From the Sanctuary *By Michael Sandy*

Thank you all for a wonderful 2016 year end... from Fairy Tale Forest thru Elves' Workshop and the NEW YEAR! We start each year with our annual fundraiser for Land and Resources. This pays for the repairs and projects for the Nature Sanctuary. Talk to your accountant if you wish to apply the donation to your 2016 taxes. After taxes, put out your humming bird and oriole feeders - please try to put them out early because they have shown up between April 1st & 10th the past few years. The early hummingbird feeder will attract the birds. The food mix is four parts of water to one part of sugar. If you would like to see a really unique bird come out for the "Woodcock Watch" in March. Arrive early and have a picnic on a blanket at the picnic shelter then wait for the sound and the show. They are quite the unusual singers and acrobats! Hope to see you soon hiking the trails and visiting the gift shop

Remember..., visit our **GIFTSHOP** for that unique Valentine's Day and Birthday Gifts! 

## WINTER AND SPRING PROGRAMS FOR THE FAMILY!

Please call to register for programs, 816-781-8598.

**Feb.4, 11, 18, 25 SATURDAY Story Time**   
On Saturdays, come out for a story and a craft.  
Time: 1:30 - 2:30pm Ages: 3 and up Saturday, Feb.4

February: **CHIPMUNKS COME OUT OF HIBERNATION**  
Mid-February: Clean out those Bluebird houses to prepare for the spring nests.

**Saturday, Feb.25 GIRL SCOUTS (JUNIORS); GET MOVING WORKSHOP: ENERGY IN NATURE**  
Our naturalist will teach the girls about how energy makes its way through the many paths of nature. Please call to register, 816-781-8598  
Time: 10:00 - 12:00pm Rank: Juniors Fees: \$5/child w/adult

February: **Listen to chorus frogs.** Their call is like a thumbnail scratched along a comb.

**Wednesdays, Starting March 1 (8, 15, 22, 29) COMMUNITY GARDENING**

Get started with community gardening from planning, to harvest, and winter resting. Each month we will have programs and discussions appropriate to the time of the season followed by practical application. Meetings and gardening will be held at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary. New gardeners may join us anytime during the season. Please call to register, 816-781-8598

**Time:** Afternoons through March and April. Time will be set by class participants. Ages: Adult  
**Fees:** \$20/month or \$65 for the whole 2017 season

**Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4, 10 & 11 (dates are subject to change) WOODCOCK WATCH**

We'll start off with some background on what we will (hopefully) be seeing when we head outside to watch for their aerial displays. Bring your binoculars and lawn chairs if you have them. Limit 25. Please call to register, 816-781-8598.  
**Time:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm (runs late) Ages: 6 and up  
**Fees:** \$3 suggested donation


**Saturday, March 4 MLTNS Grounds Work / L&R Workday**  
Come participate in this work day to help keep the wildlife habitats healthy.

**Time:** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Ages: 14 and up  
**Saturday, March 4, 11, 18, 25 SATURDAY Story Time**



On Saturdays, come out for a story and a craft.  
Please call to register, 816-781-8598. Time: 1:30 - 2:30pm Ages: 3 and up  
Tuesday, March 7 **MLTNS Members sign up for Summer Camp**  
Non-members signup begins April 4.


**Tuesday, March 7 and Saturday, March 11 CHILDREN (6 AND UP) AND HOMESCHOOLERS: Fabulous Frogs**

We'll meet some amphibious friends, take a hike to listen to their calls, and make a froggy craft! Please call to register, 816-781-8598.  
**Time:** Tuesday 1:00 - 2:30pm / Sat 11-12:30  
**Ages:** 6 and up **Fees:** \$5/child, \$10/family 

**Saturday, March 11 GIRL SCOUTS (Daisies); 3 CHEERS FOR ANIMALS WORKSHOP**  
Please call to register, 816-781-8598.  
**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00pm **Rank:** Daisy **Fees:** \$5/child w/adult

**Saturday, March 11 & 25 LIVE ANIMAL FEEDING**  
**Time:** 3:00 pm until they're done

**Sunday, March 12: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AND NEW MOON**  
**March: MUSKIES BEGIN SPAWNING**

**Wednesday, March 15 & Saturday, March 18 PRESCHOOLERS: Happy Hoppers**  
We'll learn about our webbed-footed friends, take a hike to listen to their calls, then make a froggy craft! Please call to register, 816-781-8598.  
**Time:** Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00pm **Time:** Saturday 11:00 - 12:00pm  
**Ages:** 3 - 6 years **Fees:** \$5/child \$10/family 

**Friday, March 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
**Friday, March 17 SPRING 'N STARS**  
During this program we'll take a look at the planet Saturn and learn the constellations Canis Major, Leo and Cassiopeia. Limit 25. Please call to register, 816-781-8598. **Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm **Ages:** 6 and up  
**Fees:** \$8/1 adult and 1 child, or \$10/family

**Saturday, March 18 Cub Scouts (Wolves): Paws on the Path**  
Please call to register, 816-781-8598.  
**Time:** 2:00 - 3:30pm **Rank:** Wolf **Fees:** \$5/child w/adult  
**March: WHITE BASS BEGIN SPAWNING**

Monday, March 20: FIRST DAY OF SPRING/ VERNAL EQUINOX - Day and night are equal in length.

March: Young river otters are in dens near lakes and streams

### Saturday, March 25th Lunch with the Birds

Bring your lunch and sit in the bird viewing area to watch and discuss birding. Today's topic: Bluebirds.

Time: 12:00 - 1:30pm Fee: Free, donations welcome PLEASE.

### Saturday, March 25 BLUEBIRD BOX WORKSHOP

Help the beautiful Eastern Bluebird (Missouri's State Bird) by making an easy-to-assemble bluebird nesting box. Boxes are pre-cut and drilled, and all materials are included in the program fees. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Limit 15 boxes. Please call to register, 816-781-8598.

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 pm Ages: Family Fee: \$21/nest box

### Saturday, March 25

### CANDLELIGHT NIGHT HIKE / Earth Hour 2017

Turn off your lights and come out to the Nature Sanctuary for a candlelight night hike. Bring an earth friendly candle. Please call to register, 816-781-8598.

Time: 8:30 - 9:30 pm Ages: Family Fee: Donations are appreciated

March: BUCKEYES BEGIN LEAFING

Monday, March 27: FULL MOON

### Saturday, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 SATURDAY Story Time

Saturday Story time returns with plenty of animal stories to tell. Afterwards, we'll make a fun craft.

Please call to register, 816-781-8598.

Time: 1:30 - 2:30 Ages: 3 and up

CALL 816-781-8598, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE (WWW.NATURESANCTUARY.COM), FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS AND EVENTS!

Please call to register for programs, 816-781-8598.



*Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary says "THANK YOU!" to:*

**THE CORPORATE SPONSORS:** Hawthorn Bank, Hallmark Cards Inc. Corporate Philanthropy, East Clay Rotary, Brandt's Clothing, Commerce Bank, Capitol Federal Foundation, Green Wish KC, Bank Liberty, Crowley Furniture, Irven E & Nevada P Linscomb Foundation, Backyard Bird Center, Derek's Lawn Care, Wild Birds Unlimited

### THE MEMBER SUPPORT MEMBERSHIPS, DONATIONS AND CORPORATE SPONSORS

Note: Participation after December 31, 2016 will be in our next newsletter.

#### MEMBERS

Kingfisher Level: Glenn & Judy Longworth, Chris & Renee Valentine, Kenneth & Joyce Oyen

Monarch Level: Irene Thomas, James & Robyn Simpson, Vera Thomas, Stewart Russell & Catherine Raine, Sallie E Smith, Steve & Lori Calder, Terry Larsen & Rebecca Hill-Larsen, Gary & Dolores Swenson, William & Carla George, David & Sandi Cole, Rebecca & Rob Groebe, Tom & Trina Henke, Holly & Paul Schenk, Tom & Mona Riggs, Kandice & Larry Wepler, Erik Gallimore

Bluestem Level: Dr Carol Plum & Steven Wilson, Trish Hughes, William & Doyne McKenzie, Marvin Silvey & Sandra Bowlby, Ken & Diana Ludwig, Don & Carol Fletcher, Raymond Dahlberg, David & Jennifer Ferguson, Judy & Bill Chastain, Denis & Susan Wendl, Anette Wilson, Carolyn & Tim Frame, Pete & Nancy Rucker, Lee & Judy Minor

Bluebird Level: Boese Family, Frank & Pat Roth, Aubrey Deitrick, Allen & Sue Scoggan, Mr & Mrs Dan Triplett MD, Fana Vogelbaugh, Lisa Owens & Craig Weltig, Karen Orrill, Martha Galutia, David & Marilyn Lindsey, Diana Balthasar, Norma & Jerry Nicholson, Jennifer & Chad Harrison, Daniel Reece & Tabetha J Reece, Calvin W Nelson, Amanda McDowell, Fred & Vickie Collison, Robert & Clara Beth Saunders, Arlon & LaDonna Ebright, Carlyle Raine, Thomas & Patsy Schmutz, Alfred & Theresa Hupp, Bill & Patsy Lorimer, Maggie & Charles Jackson, Nancy M Mose

Coneflower Level: Dr Will Adams, Molly Suddarth, Roberta J Keiter, JoAnn Eldridge, Mary E Wieshaar, Ruth Simmons, Lisa Shartzter

Ladybug Level: Kyle Driggers, Suzanne Gough, Alma Beile, Gail Doerr, Jutta Brill, Rose Mary Kelley, Dorothy Richey, Andrea Lee, Lynne Lund

#### MEMORIALS

Memorial donations received in loving memory of Paul Boese from:

Bob and Barb Coker, Jess Coker & Renee Stuebgen, Sam Coker & Heather Letzkus, Rachel Coker & Alex Cooley, Maryann Kiehl, Steve & Sandy Lee, Bob Boese, Mikaela, Quentin, & Kira Lee, Dale Bermond, J Dennis Fetter, Marlyn Smith, Carla S & James Coats, RT & Lauri Beth Buck, Kevin & Sheila Koenig, Douglas & Carol Edwards, Melba Mier, George & Mary Smith, Janice Tilman, Cynthia Lizabeth & Terry Wayne Holt, Daniel J Eber & Valarie G Eber, Robin Hathaway, Ronald J Eber & Arlene F Eber, Tracy L Wilt & Phillip L Wilt, Karen J & Robert P Erwin Jr, Danny M & Kathy J Boese, Marie E Brown & Adam J Brown, Eric & Davinne Glenn, Theresa Lauritsen, Noah & Melody Eber, Ron H & Patricia J Fisher, Margaret Brinkman, Karen L Tinnin

Memorial donations received in loving memory of Myra Unger from:

Scott Cozad Trust

Memorial donations have been received in loving memory of Robert F Schaeffer from:

Evie Ausen

#### GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

From: Denis & Susan Wendl to: Lora & Shawn Rhodus, Landon & Lexi Rhodus

#### SPONSORSHIPS AND GRANTS:

American Century Investments, Liu Wenhui, Fringe Festival KC

Thank you  
for your  
DONATIONS!

**NUTS AND BOLTS:** (*donations for buildings and grounds*)

Michael & Meredith Klamm, Richard Moore & Linda Hezel, Katrina & Tom Henke Charitable Fund, Debra Ahern & Steven Wolcott, Waiva Worthley & Kenneth Alpern, Dorothy Richey, Marcie Milz, Waiva Worthley & Kenneth Alpern, Steven & Mitzi Mathews, Patricia Ward for Seth Ward Birthday, Niki Kampman for Seth Ward Birthday, Group Donation for Seth Ward Birthday Party.

**VOLUNTEERS**

These volunteers assisted with one or more of the following projects: accounting, animal care, bird feeding, committees and board work, displays, grant applications, land and resources, newsletter preparation and folding, program and event planning, preparation and assistance, reception, recycling and volunteer training.

Paula Bargar, Dixie Baldwin, Eli Eber, Collin Edwards, Carol, Kaitlin & Doug Edwards, Eagle Scouts, Annika Fuller, Frank & Pat Gannon, Jacob Goodman, Julie Goodman, Michelle Hammack, Immaculata Manor My Day, Jeannet te Lawson, Lucy Lovier, Latter Day Saints Missionaries, Tammy Maples, Master Gardeners, MO Master Naturalist, Opal Fields, Gordon Risk, Esther Ray, Leah Rhuele, Susan Robb, Pat & Frank Roth, Sue Scoggan, Susan Seyboth, Doug Smith, Sharon Caylor, Jacklyn Drewry, Winnetonka High School, NHS-Liberty High School & Liberty High School -Key Club, Rebecca Groebe, Amy Petersen, Vicki Catt, Leah Davis, Bob Lawson, Kara Diffen, Fiona Burroughs, Sara Blattel, Jordan Carlson, Vickie Rabideaux, Gage Rabideaux, Dan Vlamis,

**An Extra THANK YOU to the volunteer efforts of:  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President** .....*Kent Peterson*  
**President elect** .....*Anne Nickel*  
**Secretary**.....*Debra Ahern*  
**Treasurer** ..... *Christi Carlson*

**Board Members;** *Joe DeBold, Bill George, Steve Karol, Amy Petersen, Paul Schenk, Chris Wilson, Waiva Worthley*

**MLTNS STAFF**

**Director** .....*Michael Sandy*  
**Naturalist** .....*Collin Edwards*  
**Admin. Assistant** ... *Daranya Rasa / Tammy Maples*  
**Maintenance** ..... *Frank Gannon*

**THE WATER SCORPION (*Ranatra spp.*),**

In the midst of winter, Rush Creek often seems quiet, nearly deserted. Many of the animals the summer camp children so exuberantly caught have snuck off to pockets of warmth, somewhere unseen in the creek bed, awaiting the return of a warmer season. The teeming waters of summer have long since passed, replaced by a grey, cold, icy sheen. But if you look carefully, you will see that not every creature has tucked away for the winter.

Below the creek's icy surface, life is still present. Fish are lethargic as their body temperature lowers. Turtles can occasionally be seen, roused from periods of inactivity. Algae is often still alive and productive. A peculiar creature with spindly legs, two claw-like appendages and what appears to be a long stinger may also be seen beneath the ice. It is an odd sight, especially in the winter.

This strange creature, the water scorpion (*Ranatra spp.*), is no scorpion despite its similarities in appearance and name. In fact it is a true insect, meaning it has six legs and special mouth parts for piercing and sucking, much unlike an actual scorpion which is an eight legged arachnid. Water scorpions grow up to 4 inches and are usually found holding tight to aquatic plants near the water's surface. The water scorpion is a predator of the creek. It uses its mouth parts to prey on all sorts of aquatic insects, small fish, and any other small animal it can seize with its two front grasping appendages. It injects its prey with digestive enzymes and sucks up the resulting juices. The water scorpion, like all true bugs, has wings and is capable of flight though it rarely takes to the air.

The "stinger" on the end of the water scorpion is not a stinger at all. In actuality, it is a tube made of two filaments that when brought together allow the insect to breathe while underwater - like a diver's snorkel. This snorkel works by being able to fill an air bubble with oxygen rich air from the surface. The bubble is carried on hairs between the water scorpion's wings and body acting similar to a scuba diver's tank.

But if the water scorpion is trapped underneath a layer of ice, how is it possible that it can breathe without being able to reach the surface to make use of its snorkel? The properties of the winter water provide a solution to this problem. As water gets colder, it can hold more oxygen. The cold causes the water scorpion to slow down, using less energy, causing it to need less oxygen. As a result, there is enough oxygen in the water that the water scorpion's bubble fills on its own. No snorkel is necessary! This allows the water scorpion to survive below the ice all winter.

Come take a hike to Rush Creek and see if you can spy any of the illusive creatures braving the cold.

*By Collin Edwards, MLTNS Naturalist*



Hazel Galloway, 2012