



**Martha Lafite
Thompson Nature
Sanctuary**

Connect with Nature



THE SANCTUARY

Summer at the Sanctuary

Celebrating 50 years in 2026!

The mission of Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary is to protect native habitats and wildlife while providing opportunity for people to discover and connect with nature.

Renew your membership today!

Your membership helps maintain and improve wildlife habitats, educational programs, and facilities. Members receive reduced rates on programs and events. Visit our website to become a member or renew your membership!

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Support MLTNS



www.NatureSanctuary.com



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SHARING NATURE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

UNITED TWEETS STORY WALK



Story Board on the Story Walk

To commemorate the United States of America's 250th anniversary, MLTNS has created a story walk of Hudson Talbott's book "United Tweets of America." This clever and amusing children's book introduces the 50 State Birds through colorful illustrations and witty dialogue between the birds. The Story Walk begins at the picnic shelter and follows the paved trail to the Rush Creek Overlook. This trail is stroller-friendly and passes through the prairie, forest, and glade, finishing at a beautiful view of Rush Creek. At the kiosk near the picnic shelter there is a poster that provides the author's biography and a QR code to 10 questions you can answer by reading the story boards. The Story Walk is open daily from 8 am to 5 pm. The Story Walk is free, but MLTNS would greatly appreciate a donation to support our educational programs and conservation of the habitats on the property. We thank the City of Liberty for funding this incredible Story Walk with America 250 funds and hope everyone will enjoy the State Birds from now until December!





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Habitats to explore: Prairie, Glade, Forest and more

EGADS SUMMER CAMP



EGADs: Earth Guardian Adventure Days

What are your best memories of summers as a kid? For many people, summer camp is a treasured memory from childhood. MLTNS offers week-long summer camps for ages 3-6 (Discoverers) and 6-14 (Earth Guardians) throughout most of the summer. EGADs camp is a great way to unplug from screens and connect with the nature found in the many habitats at MLTNS. Kids will spend time outside every day exploring the creek, hiking the trails, playing outdoor games, creating arts & crafts, and learning about the plants and animals all around them. Camps are led by trained enthusiastic and energetic Naturalists. To find out more about each camp and to register, go to <https://naturesanctuary.com/egads/>

Discoverers Camps: June 8-12, June 15-19, June 22-26, July 6-10, July 13-17

Earth Guardians Camps: June 22-26, July 6-10, July 13-17, July 20-24, July 27-31

Single Day Camps (ages 6+): August 4, 5, 6, 7

Family Camp: August 8

EGADs Leadership Training: ages 14-17, any week of camp





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MLTNS, "The Nature Sanctuary"

BIRDING AT MLTNS



Barred Owl at Martha Lafite

2026 has already been a great year for birding at MLTNS! Our bird feeders outside the Nature Center are attracting many species of birds. At any one time you can easily spot 7-10 different types of birds at the feeders, and each week there are new migrants passing through! Come to the Nature Center exhibit space to learn more about birds and birding. You can also visit our brand-new Hummingbird Deck anytime the Nature Center is open! The deck offers an opportunity to have a close encounter with hummingbirds by sitting outside amongst hummingbird feeders and pots filled with flowers that attract hummingbirds. This peaceful spot will quickly become your favorite getaway all summer long. Our June Owl Prowl is sold out, but stay tuned for when registration opens for another Owl Prowl on July 18! Swoop, the Eurasian Eagle Owl, will visit to help us learn about owl biology and owls in Missouri. Mark McKellar will lead the owl prowl night hike. The owl prowl is free but a donation for Wings of Love and Martha Lafite is requested.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Eastern Bluebird in nestbox



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A LOOK BACK: MARTHA'S MIDDLE YEARS



Martha Lafite in her 30's

We can't celebrate 50 years of MLTNS without remembering the life of Martha Lafite Thompson. This year our newsletters will highlight segments of Martha's life, continuing here with her life in her 20's and 30's.

Martha returned to Liberty in the summer of 1933 after graduating from college. We know the most about Martha's life in this time period because of a small journal she kept from 1933-1937. Her daily journal indicates places she went, people she saw, people she wrote letters to and received letters from, and of course, the weather. Martha spent a lot of her early 20's socializing with friends and dating. She rode her horse throughout all of Liberty to visit friends and go to shops like Brants on the Square, often riding with her best friend Dody (Medora Crawford). She went swimming at Lake Maurer Resort near Excelsior Springs and went to lots of movies at the Plaza Theater! Martha had a good relationship with her father, despite her parents' divorce in 1929. Martha's father fostered her connection to art and culture and was the source of her interests in art museums, classical music, French language, and travel. Martha went to innumerable dinners and movies with Pop in Kansas City, and they were regulars at the KC Philharmonic. They went to the circus, a show at the Miami Club, lectures at the Nelson Art Museum, the American Royal, ballets, and plays. She also traveled with him on car trips to Chicago to the World's Fair in 1933, to Mexico City in 1935, and the entire West Coast from Los Angeles to Victoria BC in 1936. Martha dated quite a few men in the 1930's but one man began to stand out from the rest. In a rare moment of deeper self-reflection, Martha writes of her love for this man at the end of 1935. Our next newsletter will reveal Martha's suitor and the events that led to the founding of Martha's Nature Sanctuary.



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\$50 FOR 50 YEARS CAMPAIGN



This year marks a remarkable milestone for the Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary—our 50th anniversary of connecting people with nature, inspiring stewardship, and preserving the beauty of our natural environment for generations to come. For five decades, the Sanctuary has served as a treasured community resource, offering environmental education, wildlife experiences, and a peaceful place to explore the wonders of the natural world. None of this would have been possible without the generosity and support of individuals like you. To celebrate this special year, we invite you to participate in our “\$50 for 50 Years” campaign. A donation of \$50 honors our past, sustains our present, and helps ensure a vibrant future for the Sanctuary. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mltns50for50> to inspire a love of nature for the next 50 years.

Support MLTNS by attending these Upcoming Events!

Bluegrass in the Tallgrass: September 12

Fairy Tale Forest: October 15–18

50th Anniversary Open House: November 14

Martha Lafite is solely supported by donations, grants, and memberships from the local community. Whether you can make a \$5 donation when you visit, get a family membership for \$200, or give a \$1000 donation to procure needed equipment and repairs, your gift is greatly appreciated.

Please consider how you can support MLTNS today, then visit www.NatureSanctuary.com and click the Donate button.

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