

NATURALIST NEWS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIT 27
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION MASTER NATURALISTS

SUMMER 2019 - ISSUE 1

MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM UPDATE

WRITTEN BY ERIN MEDVECZ

The Master Naturalist program is planning for the future! Extension staff have been meeting with local program partners to answer their questions, assess their needs, and hear their ideas for improving the Master Naturalist program. The program was in part designed to train volunteers for our partner organizations, so we want them directly involved in plans for future trainings and volunteer support. Ideas for the future include adding in more hands-on experiences into the training (such as trail maintenance workshops, more in-depth training on interpretation, hosting an event specifically for volunteers to get volunteer experience, and more).

The next training for the Master Naturalist program will be held in spring of 2020. We look forward to seeing the new changes implemented, and invite you to attend these new sessions to continue to grow your knowledge.

We continue to appreciate your volunteer efforts to help our local organizations! Please remember to log your volunteer hours at <https://volunteer.extension.illinois.edu/>.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to call (618-833-6363) or email (emedvecz@illinois.edu).

UNIT 27 PROGRAM PARTNERS:

- CACHE RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA & BARKHAUSEN CACHE RIVER WETLANDS CENTER
- GIANT CITY STATE PARK
- FORT MASSAC STATE PARK
- SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST
- DIXON SPRINGS AGRICULTURAL CENTER
- AG IN THE CLASSROOM
- RIVER TO RIVER CWMA

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& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Department of Agriculture |
Local Extension Councils
Cooperating

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunity in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any program, please contact your local Extension office. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



Above: Previous Master Naturalist logos.

A NEW LOGO IS COMING!

With U of I's new logo update are coming updates in program logos. There will be a new Master Naturalist logo revealed soon - do you have a guess as to what it will look like? Hint: it showcases an insect whose populations have been declining drastically across the country.

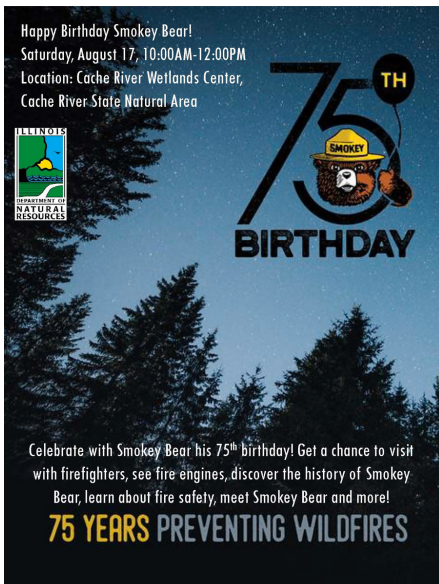
Sunday Story Hour: Animal Tracks Sunday, August 18, 2:00-3:00PM

Location: Cache River Wetlands Center, Cache River State Natural Area
Sunday Story Hour will run on the 2nd to last Sunday of the month. August's program features animal tracks. We will see how our footprints measure up to wildlife found in the Cache.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Aug. 9 - Happy Birthday Smokey Bear! (SNF)
- Aug. 10 - Happy Birthday Smokey Bear! (SNF)
- Aug. 17 - Happy Birthday Smokey Bear! (Cache River)
- Aug. 18 - Sunday Story Hour: Animal Tracks (Cache River)
- Sept. 7 - Nature Fest at Cache River Days (Cache River)
- Sept. 21 - Monarch Phenomenon (Cache River)
- Sept. 22 - Sunday Story Hour: Monarchs (Cache River)
- Oct. 2 & 3 - DuQuoin Conservation Fair (Ag in the Classroom)
- Oct. 5 - Journey of the Monarch (Giant City)
- Oct. 5 - Fall Migration "Mini-Sit" (Cache River)
- Oct. 20 - Sunday Story Hour: Bats (Cache River)
- Oct. 18 - Critter Night (SNF)
- Oct. 26 - Trek N' Treat (Giant City)
- Oct. 27 - Boo at the Slough (Cache River)
- Nov. 17 - Sunday Story Hour: Trees (Cache River)



Who to Contact?

Cache River Wetlands Center

Molie Oliver & Kim Rohling - 618-657-2064

Giant City State Park

Jennifer Randolph - 618-457-4836

Shawnee National Forest

Linda Hauser - 618-833-8576 x104

Ag in the Classroom

Maria Farris - 618-694-9893

Visit <https://www.siwanderings.com/> to see a calendar of upcoming events across southern Illinois!



STAY TUNED FOR FALL FIELD TRIPS!

If you have ideas for field trips throughout southern Illinois that you would be interested in hosting or attending, contact Erin!

Mastering Urban Tree Health & Identification

Mastering Urban Tree Health and Identification is a train the trainer model of advanced training for Illinois Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. This training has several components, including online course modules that you work through at your own pace; an in-person workshop to be held at multiple location options in the state; and a promise from you to devote a portion of your volunteer hours to developing your own tree walk, assisting with a local tree inventory, or other tree related community project in your county.

Your \$40 registration includes access to 7 online modules which will count as 10 hours of continuing education; registration to one hands-on workshop; and a completion certificate and Tree ID recognition pin.

Register before November 1, 2019 for this current class group at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registrationNew/?RegistrationID=200065>.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Aug. 10, 9-11am - Summer in the Swamp Hike @ Lower Cache River Swamp Trail
- Aug. 10, 10-11am - Six Years in the Illinois Territory, 1812-1818 @ Cache River Wetlands Center
- Aug. 24, 1-4pm - Reptiles in the Neighborhood @ Cache River Wetlands Center
- Aug. 31, 9-11am - Take a Stroll in Section 8 Woods Nature Preserve @ Egret Slough Trail
- Sept. 7, 10am-12pm - Which Grass is Which? @ Cache River Wetlands Center
- Oct. 12, 1-2pm - Fall Photography Workshop @ Giant City
- Oct. 24 & 25 - 2019 Master Naturalist State Conference, 4-H Memorial Camp. Registration link to come.
- Oct. 26, 12-2pm - Guided Hike at Cedar Bluff @ Ferne Clyffe State Park
- Nov. 2, 12-3pm - Guided Hike to Max Creek, hosted by Cache River Wetlands Center
- Nov. 2, 1-3pm - Forest Hike @ Giant City
- Ongoing - Mastering Urban Tree Health & Identification

Please Register for Events

Cache River Wetlands Center - 618-657-2064

Giant City State Park - 618-457-4836

