

Madison-Monroe-St. Clair Unit
901 Illinois Ave
PO Box 117
Waterloo, IL 62298

July 24, 2020

Dear Prospective Master Naturalist,

Thank you for your interest in the University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist Program. The Master Naturalist program educates and trains adult volunteers so they are better equipped to share natural resource information with the community and assist with conservation and restoration projects.

The 2020 Master Naturalist training will be offered online this fall. Each week a different topic will be discussed. Trainees will have a study guide, journaling topic, plus additional readings, webinars, or websites to explore on your own during the week. The class will then connect online for further discussions about that week's topic. The weekly online meetings will be Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning September 3 and ending November 12. We will also have two Saturday hikes. Those dates are to be determined. We will be following social distancing guidelines and best practices when in the field. Based on guidance from the University of Illinois and guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control, the outdoor hikes may be cancelled.

The fee for the training is \$250 and includes a copy of the Illinois Master Naturalist Manual. Topics this fall include invasive plant species, ornithology, forests, prairies, geology, and much more.

Following the training, you will become a University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist volunteer. Some of activities volunteers participated in last year included bird counts, water quality studies, prairie restoration, removal of invasive plant species, and educational outreach.

Mail your applications to Madison-Monroe-St. Clair Extension Office, P.O. Box 117, Waterloo, IL 62298. Please include an initial payment of \$125 with your application. Checks should be made payable to University of Illinois Extension. After we receive your application and initial payment, I will contact you to discuss the Master Naturalist program further. **Applications are due August 24, 2020.** Space for the training is limited, and applications will be processed first come, first served.

If you have questions, please call me at 618-939-3434, or email me at ruth1@illinois.edu.

Sincerely,



Sarah Ruth
Horticulture & Natural Resource
Program Coordinator