

Master Naturalists

A University of Illinois Extension program

BE AN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD AND BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST

THE MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

The program educates and trains adult volunteers so they are better equipped to share natural resource information with others in their communities and to assist with environmental conservation and restoration activities. We all have a responsibility to protect the natural resources in the places where we live in order to ensure our world is *fit for the future*. University of Illinois Extension partners with local agencies to accomplish the Master Naturalist mission of *providing science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards*.

THE CURRICULUM

Throughout the 12-week program, participants gain knowledge and have a better understanding of the following topics:

- Geology ▪ Soils ▪ Weather & Climate ▪ Wetlands
- Understanding the Natural World ▪ Ethics
- Entomology ▪ Prairie ▪ Botany ▪ Forests ▪ Rivers & Streams
- Natural Divisions ▪ Ornithology ▪ Herpetology & Mammalogy

FIELD TRIPS

As part of the hands-on learning process, participants go on field trips throughout Illinois. Previously visited sites include Great River Museum, Pere Marquette State Park, Emiquon Nature Conservancy, Rock Springs Nature Center.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Only 60 volunteer hours are needed for certification.
Only 30 hours are needed yearly to remain certified.

CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

During the first year as a trainee, no additional continuing education hours are required. Only 10 continuing education hours needed yearly to maintain certification.

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RiverWatch training



Master Naturalists

Details

AGE/EXPERIENCE

You must be 18 years or older, enjoy the outdoors, enjoy stewardship projects and have the desire to become a Master Naturalist. No previous experience is necessary to be a part of this program.

TIME COMMITMENT

Classes are held every Tuesday evening from 6 until 9pm and are held at various locations. Two or three Saturday field trips are also part of the training.

COST

While the cost of the 12-week program is \$150, participants may be eligible for partial fee waivers from University of Illinois Extension. Please contact us for details.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to community partners, classes will also be hosted in conjunction with Rock Springs Nature Center, Scovill Zoo and Macon County Conservation District.

UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

Be a part of environmental stewardship in your community! Illinois Master Naturalist projects are unlimited in scope and include wonderful outreach within the community. Teach a child how to fish, plant seedlings, build trails or restore prairie habitat in your efforts to practice natural environmental stewardship.

READY TO SIGN UP?

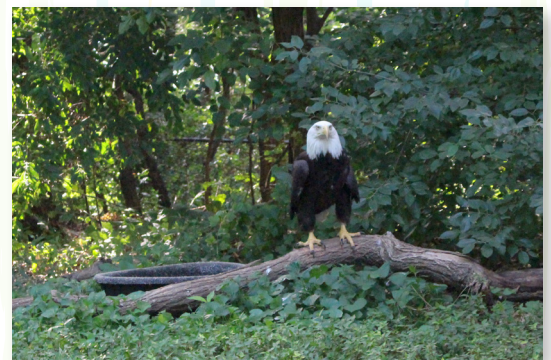
Are you interested in receiving information such as when the next Master Naturalist class will begin, area events of interest, volunteer opportunities, continuing education opportunities and more? Send your name, address and email address to denahyde@illinois.edu or call Dena at 217.877.6042 and we will send you our newsletters and invites to upcoming events.



Bird monitoring at Sand Creek Conservation Area

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like additional information about the Master Naturalist Program or have questions, please contact Dena Hyde at 217.877.6042 or denahyde@illinois.edu.



Bald eagle at Scovill Zoo

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