



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Madison-Monroe-St. Clair Unit
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www.extension.illinois.edu/mms

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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 2022 Master Naturalist training will be offered as a hybrid training. Each week a different topic will be discussed. Topics include invasive plant species, ornithology, forests, prairies, geology, and much more. Trainees will have a study guide, journaling topic, plus additional readings, webinars, or websites to explore on their own. Then trainees will connect for more discussion about that week's topic. The weekly meetings will be Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning August 23 and ending November 1. Trainees can participate in the weekly meetings at the Collinsville office or online. We will also have two Saturday hikes for more field experience. The hikes are scheduled for September 10 and October 1.

The fee for the training is \$250 and includes a copy of the Illinois Master Naturalist Manual. Background screening is also required prior to training to ensure we offer a safe environment for all participants.

Following the training, you will become a University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist volunteer. Some activities volunteers assisted with last year include 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, staff will contact you to discuss the Master Naturalist program further. **Applications are due August 12, 2022.** Space for the training is limited, and applications will be processed first come, first served. The next training opportunity will be in August 2024.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Ruth
Horticulture & Natural Resources
Program Coordinator

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

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