

NATURALIST NEWS

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

FALL 2019 - ISSUE 2

UPCOMING MASTER NATURALIST SPRING TRAINING

The next training for the Illinois Master Naturalist program will be held in spring of 2020 at Giant City Visitor's Center in Makanda, IL. The course will take place on Thursdays from January 23 - April 9 from 8:30am - 3:45pm, with optional additional trainings included.

We are excited to be offering a full day of interpretation training on January 30 with Tim Bischoff, park ranger from Rend Lake Visitor's Center. If you would like to learn how to improve your interpretation skills, this is the session to attend!

Current interns and certified Master Naturalists are welcome to attend sessions they have an interest in to count towards their 10 hours of continuing education. If you missed a class in previous years, this is an opportunity to make up for that missed class.

Do you know of someone who would like to join the program? Application materials can be found on our website:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/master-naturalists>. Applications can be mailed to PO Box 604, Anna, IL 62906.

If you have questions about the training, 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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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.

Illinois Master Naturalist



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THE NEW LOGO IS HERE!

Following the change in the U of I logo is a fresh face for the Illinois Master Naturalist program! The new MN logo features a monarch butterfly wing in the shape of the state of Illinois.

Master Naturalist State Conference - Monticello

Master Naturalist volunteers and coordinators from across the state met in Monticello at the 4-H Memorial Camp on October 25 to network and continue to expand their knowledge.

The day kicked off with a keynote talk on mushrooms of Illinois by Dr. Andrew Miller with the INHS. Networking and lunch were followed by three concurrent sessions. Master Naturalists learned about native trees, managing invasive species, archaeology, grass identification, climate change, citizen science opportunities, and interpretation skills, among others!

Master Naturalists also had the opportunity to attend one of four pre-conference tours on October 24, such as birding at Allerton Park or learning about the history, natural areas, and gardens of Allerton Park.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Dec. 16, 6am-5pm - Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count. To register and get your site assignment, call Cypress Creek NWR at 618-634-2231.

Apr. 21-23 - Stewardship Week at Dixon Springs Ag Center. Stay tuned for station sign-ups!

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Dec. 14, 10am - Winter Identification of Invasive Species @ Giant City State Park. Register at <https://go.illinois.edu/winterinvasives2019>

Feb. 8, 10am-3pm - Beginner Chainsaw Safety & Forest Stand Improvement Training @ Dixon Springs Ag Center

Feb. 22-23 - Maple Fest @ Touch of Nature

Mar. 14 - ENTICE Workshop on Chronic Wasting Disease @ Giant City

Apr. 4 - Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium @ John A. Logan College

June 16 - ENTICE Workshop on Turtles @ Wetlands Center

Sept. 15 - ENTICE Workshop on Invertebrates @ Wetlands Center

Who to Contact?

Cache River Wetlands Center

Molie Oliver - 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!