

NATURALIST NEWS

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

FALL 2020 - ISSUE 5

COVID-19 UPDATE

Extension has updated volunteer guidelines during COVID-19 to reflect the phases of the Restore Illinois Plan. Now, you can simply follow guidelines for volunteering according to the different phases. Please reference the information below. Always contact the volunteer site and your local Master Naturalist coordinator prior to volunteering on a project.

Phase 4:

- Maximum of 50 MNs can volunteer at an outdoor site at one time, with social distancing
- Face to face programming indoors with the lesser of 50 participants or 50% space capacity, with social distancing and face masks required
- Face to face programming outdoors with the lesser of 50 participants or 50% space capacity, with social distancing and face masks required

Phase 4, but county under warning status:

- Maximum of 25 MNs can volunteer at an outdoor site at one time, with social distancing
- Face to face programming indoors with the lesser of 10 participants or 50% space capacity, with social distancing and face masks required
- Face to face programming outdoors with the lesser of 25 participants or 50% space capacity with social distancing and face masks required

Phase 3:

- Maximum of 10 MNs can volunteer at an outdoor site at one time, with social distancing
- No face to face programming indoors
- Face to face programming outdoors with the lesser of 10 participants or 50% space capacity with social distancing and face masks required



Illinois
Master
Naturalist

I ILLINOIS EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois | U.S.
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.

Master Naturalist graduation at Giant City, October 1. Left to right: Beth Koehler, Jane Swanson, Pat Dunbar, Mary McCarthy, David DeWulf, Robert Wilt, Darlene Dufay, Austin Little, Florian Trebouet, Andrew Gebhardt.



GRADUATION CELEBRATES 12 NEW INTERNS

On October 1, the spring Master Naturalist class gathered at Giant City State Park for a socially distanced ornithology lesson and graduation ceremony. After the class was postponed in March, trainees finished the training via Zoom in August and September.

A beautiful fall day at Giant City was the perfect end to our training. We look forward to seeing all the great volunteer work this class accomplishes!

NATURALIST NEWS BLOG

Interested in what other MN programs in Illinois are doing? Check out the new statewide blog here - <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/naturalist-news>

CHECK OUT THESE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Roving Naturalist at Giant City State Park -

Volunteers work independently on their favorite trail(s) at a time of their choosing. Greet hikers, give trail information, share nature tidbits, and a friendly smile. Roving Naturalists provide support to the park and its visitors, sharing their love of nature. Roving Naturalists will have access to site training as well as educational supplies to help support engagement with visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Interested? Contact Jennifer Randolph at 618-457-4836.

RiverWatch - The Illinois RiverWatch Network is a citizen science initiative coordinated by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC). RiverWatch is the only statewide biological monitoring program that provides volunteers a hands-on opportunity to become stewards of our local waterways. The program was originally established in 1995 and has since expanded to the statewide level, with up to 200 committed Illinois citizens monitoring streams annually. Training sessions are being planned for March-May 2021.