

## EXTENSION SNAPSHOT

Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

# I ILLINOIS Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### What I Do and Why It Matters

This new Snapshot series serves as a way to re-introduce you to our unit staff. Each month a different staff member will be featured.

*Coordinating the unit-wide Master Naturalist program takes the majority of Christine Belless' work time. Additionally she provides program support to many ag programs.*

## What I Do and Why It Matters



**“I coordinate logistics and volunteers for commercial agriculture and natural resource programs. I work closely with our team of 90 Master Naturalists as they deliver educational programs, complete continuing education, and work with our partners on projects such as restoration of natural areas and environmental stewardship events. As a trained facilitator in Annie’s Project, I coordinate the training offered to women in ag and work with state commercial ag educators for programs held locally.”**

### Christine Belless

Ag & Natural Resources Program Coordinator

[cbelless@illinois.edu](mailto:cbelless@illinois.edu)

Christine has been the Program Coordinator serving Fulton, Mason, Peoria, Tazewell Counties since 2011. She began her Illinois Extension career in 1994.

#### EDUCATION

B.A. Ed from Western Illinois University

#### JOB HISTORY

Fulton County SNAP-Ed instructor

Mason County 4-H Program Coordinator

#### EXAMPLES OF CHRISTINE'S EXTENSION EFFORTS

Master Naturalist program

Annie's Project

Tazewell County HCE

Private Applicator Testing



Photo by Anita Wilkinson, U of I Extension

#### FAVORITE MEMORY IN EXTENSION

“One of my favorite memories as a program coordinator for the Master Naturalist program, was when I was interviewing a recently retired gentleman for an upcoming Master Naturalist training. After sharing about the program and discussing the goals and expectations of the Master Naturalist applicant, the gentleman remarked “It sounds like camp for grown ups.” I had never thought about Master Naturalist training quite like that before, but now I include that phrase when I describe the Master Naturalist program.”