



ANROSP Newsletter

www.nralliance.org

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This publication is a forum for members, partners, and other interested individuals to share news, events, articles, or updates, and to stay on top of what's happening with ANROSP.

If you would like to include any significant program updates and activities in the next newsletter, please send your information to Annabel Major no later than December 15, 2007.

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ANROSP UPDATES

Our Gratitude to Celeste Mazzacano

This e-newsletter is a transitional newsletter. One of ANROSP's shining stars, Celeste Mezzacano, has taken a new position. Celeste first came to us in the fall of 2004 at the first session of Missouri's 2nd pilot Master Naturalist Chapter in Columbia, MO. Celeste introduced herself as a biology professor with a PhD in Entomology. Celeste instantly became an enthusiastic member of the chapter and served as its first president. She was recruited to teach the ecological principles session for the following classes. When Missouri sought new leadership for the national initiative, Celeste was the first choice for the job. In May 2006 she left her teaching job to take on the role of coordinator. Not long after, ANROSP was officially formed. In September, 2007 she left ANROSP to take her dream job with the Xerxes Society. Our loss is most definitely their gain. Thank you for all of your time and efforts Celeste, and good luck on your new adventure!

Annual Conference

The 3rd Annual National Conference of ANROSP held in late October was a great success! We have all of you to thank. Stay tuned for the next e-newsletter for more details. Or, check out the website at <http://www.nralliance.org>.

Program Resources

Resources currently available include: a comprehensive list of FAQs; bibliography of publications on or about Master Naturalist-type programs; graphic presentation explaining member program structure, operation, benefits, impacts, and the role of ANROSP in program support; and potential program funding opportunities.

MEMBER PROGRAM UPDATES

The Illinois Steward Magazine Partners with Illinois Master Naturalist Program

With the publication of the summer 2007 issue, The Illinois Steward Magazine is now closely affiliated with University of Illinois Extension, home to the University's largest and most comprehensive extension and outreach effort and the Illinois Master Naturalist Program. The Illinois Steward will publish articles that will complement the Illinois Master Naturalist's formal training. Additionally, the efforts of program participants in preserving and maintaining natural areas will be highlighted. Given that the missions of The Illinois Steward and the Illinois Master Naturalist Program are nearly identical, this new alliance is a natural.

The Illinois Steward is an award-winning nature magazine that is grounded in the "land ethic" of Aldo Leopold. The Illinois Steward features articles about stewardship, conservation, preservation, and restoration of natural areas in Illinois. Article topics include native plants, wildlife, natural areas in Illinois, nature photography, and Illinois' historical past. To view The Illinois Steward Magazine online or purchase a subscription, visit: <http://ilsteward.nres.uiuc.edu/>.

Elizabeth Haynes
Illinois Master Naturalist Coordinator

Illinois Master Naturalist Program Gains Momentum

Since the Rock Island pilot of Illinois Master Naturalist began in spring 2005, University of Illinois Extension has received inquiries from hundreds of citizens, agencies, and organizations wanting to learn more about and participate in the program. In response to this great interest, Extension has hired Elizabeth Haynes as a full-time coordinator to facilitate the development of the program statewide in September 2007.

Haynes emphasizes that the Illinois Master Naturalist program cultivates active participation. "The opportunity for hands-on, science-based education is key," she says, "but the strength of the program lies in combining that education with engaged stewardship of natural resources, whether that stewardship is defined by work in the field or communicating an understanding of the natural world to a broader public." The program welcomes participants who are committed to life-long learning and stewardship of local natural resources. Haynes anticipates that the program will expand to ten more locales around the state over the next three years, and expects that the

program will be able to offer regional subject matter workshops along with as a variety of web-based resources as early as 2008.

Elizabeth K. Haynes
Illinois Master Naturalist Coordinator

Texas Cooperative Extension Update

Extension Soil & Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board have been busy developing a new educational program – the Texas Watershed Steward program. Designed as a one day training event, the Texas Watershed Steward program aims at educating local citizens about their watershed, potential impairments, and steps to improve and protect water quality for generations to come. The program is designed to help watershed residents enhance community water resources by getting involved in local watershed protection and management activities.

The day-long curriculum consists of 5 different modules and includes information on watershed systems, water quality regulation and monitoring, methods to improve water quality, and community-driven watershed protection and management. The training also provides the basic knowledge and tools needed to form a watershed action group, participate in and organize watershed activities, and become more involved in protecting and enhancing community water resources.

The Texas Watershed Steward program will become a vital part of current and future Watershed Protection Plans and Total Maximum Daily Loads in the state as a way of educating local citizens about their watershed and encouraging stakeholder involvement in each of these processes.

Extension Soil & Crop Sciences has also been involved in a watershed protection planning effort in the Plum Creek Watershed, a 400 square mile area of land that drains water to Plum Creek, a 52-mile stretch of water that flows to the San Marcos River near Austin. Plum Creek is widely used for fishing and other types of recreation, and provides valuable habitat for many types of aquatic plants and animals. These values are being threatened, however, due to high levels of nutrients and bacteria that have entered the waterway from sources including wildlife, humans, and agriculture. The Texas Watershed Steward program will kick off in the Plum Creek Watershed in the late fall.

For more information on the Texas Watershed Steward program, please visit <http://tw.s.tamu.edu>. To find out more information about the Watershed Protection Plan being written for the Plum Creek Watershed, visit <http://pcwp.s.tamu.edu>.

Jennifer L. Peterson
Texas Cooperative Extension

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program Description

OCVN Mission: To promote awareness and citizen stewardship of Ohio's natural resources through science-based education and community service.

Program Summary: As Ohio's population grows more urban, it is becoming more difficult for people to make the connection to nature that ultimately allows them to value and thus protect their local natural resources. In an effort to address this issue, the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) program was developed. This research-based scientific training program provides hands-on natural resource education coupled with community-based volunteer service.

OCVN has set out to reach new, non-traditional, diverse constituencies and has developed partnerships with local and statewide natural resource organizations. Interested individuals receive training in environmental issues, wildlife and other natural science areas. Upon graduation they provide volunteer service in their community.

The OCVN program is administered by Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with a state steering committee. The committee is made up of dedicated individuals from the following organizations: The Ohio State University Extension, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Sea Grant, Five Rivers Metro Parks (Dayton), Ohio Master Gardeners, Audubon Ohio, Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI), Hancock County Parks, and City of Dublin Parks.

Volunteer Naturalist Certification requires 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction, 40 hours of approved volunteer service projects, and 8 hours advanced training. After certification, participants are required to complete 20 hours volunteer service and 8 hours advanced training annually.

Program Topics include: Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program, Ecological concepts, Effective Education Practices, The Art of Nature Interpretation, Stewardship, Geology & Soils, Watersheds, Aquatic life, Plants, Forests, Insects and other macroinvertebrates, Reptiles and Amphibians, Birds, and Mammals.

Program Accomplishments in 2007 include: Draft manual completed, 8 Training programs completed, 150 individuals completed the course, Launch of the program website www.ocvn.osu.edu, and over 100 people on waiting list waiting to attend a training.

Program Plans for 2008 are the completion of the peer reviewed manual in spring, an annual conference being planned for February 2008, and 13 training programs scheduled for 2008.

Texas Master Naturalist Awarded

The Texas Master Naturalist Program has been named "Educator of the Year" by the Texas Association for Environmental Education. Check out the Texas Master Naturalist homepage at <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>.

Contributions to the ANROSP newsletter are welcomed! If you would like to share news, events, articles, or updates with our membership, please send your information to Annabel Major no later than December 15, 2007.

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