



The Midlands Naturalist

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Luna Moth Caterpillar (*Actias luna*)

Lee Morris

Message from our MMNA Chair

Hi Naturalists!

It is hard to believe it has been almost four years since I was elected Chair. It has been fun, and I'm proud of the work we have done during that time. Thank you all for participating in our service projects and trips! Our Nominating Committee (Dawn Catalano, Ed Neunlist and Alice Clark) has worked hard to create a great list of nominees to serve on the board for the next two years. Please find information on the slate elsewhere in the newsletter. It will be great to have some new folks involved in leading the organization.

Recently, it came to our attention that some folks are unaware that our Steering Committee Meetings are open to any member. We announce the dates of upcoming Steering Committees in our newsletter and we post them on our website. If you attend, you can provide input and make suggestions on the work we do. Plus, the time you attend counts as volunteer hours (the Program Service category). Meetings are generally less than 2 hours long and are held at the SC Wildlife Federation on Pickens Street in Columbia. If you'd like to be added to the email list that gets the agendas for this meeting, please email me at hwflamholtz@gmail.com.

Everyone, please keep suggesting ideas for association service projects and activities. Your energy and input will help the association continue to be successful.

Hope you are enjoying the Fall weather and getting out to explore nature. See you at our November quarterly meeting!

Hilda





Upcoming Quarterly Meeting - November 3, 2018 – Saluda Shoals Park

Our MMNA Quarterly Meeting will be held November 3, 10AM at Saluda Shoals Park in the Education Center. NOTE: You do not have to pay the normal admission fee to the park. Just tell them you are joining the Midlands Master Naturalist meeting in the Education Center.

Our speaker will be **Steve Bennett**, former State Herpetologist with the Department of Natural Resources. Steve made a fascinating presentation on the snakes of S.C. at our Feb. 2017 meeting. This time, he will focus on amphibians and non-serpentine reptiles.

Elections for Officers in 2019-2020 will be held at this meeting. See our slate of nominees on p. 3.

After the meeting, we'll explore Saluda Shoals Park with whoever wants to stay. Family and friends are welcome to attend all quarterly meetings but are not eligible to vote during the business portion.

Midlands Master Naturalist Association

Hilda Flamholtz	Chair
Ed Siggelko	Vice Chair
Anne Palyok	Recorder
Ellen Blundy	Treasurer
Dee Dee Williams	Activities Committee
Ed Neunlist	Activities Committee
Sara Green - SCWF	Advisor
David Groh	Newsletter Editor

We welcome your submissions to this newsletter! Send your: photos, trip/hike reports, citizen science reports, book or website reviews, or anything you think will interest your fellow naturalists to:

mmna.newsletter@gmail.com

Our Website:

<http://www.midlandsmasternaturalist.org>



mark your Calendar

- ☑ Quarterly Meeting:
November 3, 2018 at 10AM.
See details above.
- ☑ Steering Committee Meeting:
January 19, 2019 at 3PM.
215 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC.

Everyone is welcome to attend.
Attendance counts as program service.
We work on ideas for upcoming activities or various initiatives. We would love to have your attendance and input!
- ☑ MLK Day Service Project
January 21, 2019 from 10AM-1PM
Shealy's Pond HP or other location TBD.
(*more details on p.6*)
- ☑ Great Backyard Bird Count
February 16, 2019, 8-12 AM
Details TBD.

Nominees for the Board, 2019-2020

Elections of MMNA Officers for 2019-2020 will be held at the November 3, 2018 Quarterly Meeting.

Our Nominating Committee (Dawn Catalano, Ed Neunlist and Alice Clark) assembled the following list of nominees to serve on the board for the next two years.

- **Chair - Lee Morris:** Lee is a recent (2018) MMN graduate, but has a long history of studying nature. In addition to being an assistant professor of biology at USC Union, she also teaches marine science and is an amateur wildlife photographer.
- **Vice-Chair - Ed Siggelko:** A 2016 MMN graduate, Ed has done a great job as Vice-Chair in 2017-18, procuring speakers and scheduling cool field trips. Ed also is the Volunteer Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy.
- **Treasurer - Ellen Blundy:** A graduate of the first MMN class, Ellen has done a great job keeping track of our finances/budget as Treasurer. As a retired CPA, she has provided valuable advice on financial issues. She is willing to serve one more term.
- **Recorder - Alice Clark:** Since graduating from the MMN course in 2016, Alice has been an active member of our association and participated in many of our activities. Her background is in K-12 education (Montessori).
- **Activities Committee Chair - Anne Palyok:** A 2014 MMN graduate and 2015 Statewide MN, Anne has served as our Recorder the past two years. We appreciate all she's done to help make our records and communications successful.

[NOTE: This is not an elected position, but we do try to fill it concurrent with elections.] Anne would love to have some others to serve on the Activities Committee. There might be no meetings, just an email group. If you'd like to serve in this capacity, please let Anne know. apalyok@gmail.com.



Moth Night 2018

MMNA held a Moth Night for City of Columbia Parks at Granby Park on October 5. We had a range of visitors from adults, to college kids, to families with children. Those who came out stayed for a while to check out the exhibits.

John Taylor, a new MMN graduate from 2018, shared some of his collection of pinned moths and brought some large caterpillars actively munching on leaves for folks to find. Dee Dee Williams put up displays with photos/info and provided flashlights and jars to catch critters. Ginny Holt welcomed visitors and showed them around. Lee Morris helped identify stuff and captured photos. Everyone helped generate excitement about nature.

We gave out coloring books, luna moth activity sheets and information about how to help moths/cool facts. We had 2 lights and white sheets up to attract moths and other insects. And to top it all off, 1-2 bats were regularly flying low through our area in the park. In addition to the above folks, thanks also to Kathy Burriss and Becky Mace for helping create some of our displays/handouts.

It was a perfect night!

More photos on the next page.



**Moth Night
2018**
photos by Lee Morris





Volunteer Opportunity

Wood Magic Forest Fair, November 13-16, 2018

Lynches River County Park, Florence SC

VOLUNTEERING

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is seeking help in running the **Wood Magic Forest Fair (WMFF)** program at Lynches River County Park. Beth Foley and Matt Schnabel, the Forestry Commission coordinators of this program, are MN alumni and appreciate having master naturalists assist as: guides, instructors, and helpers. Each volunteer is given a t-shirt, lunch, and the satisfaction that they have helped provide the youth of our state an important pro-forestry experience.

To sign up, first visit the WMFF instructors' web site at <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/woodmagic.htm> to see what days and positions are available (this is updated weekly). You can also find lesson plans, driving directions, and other information at this site.

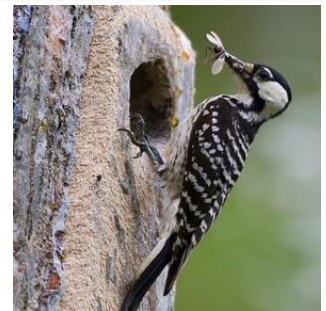
Then, contact Beth at bfoley@scfc.gov to let her know for which days and positions you would like to volunteer. (Please note the above website is not where you sign up, but where you see what volunteer slots are still needing to be filled.)

Volunteer Opportunity

21st Annual Working for Wildlife Volunteer Workday

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, McBee

Saturday, December 8, 2018, 9AM – 12PM



Friends, volunteers and staff of Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge along with the SC Wildlife Federation will host a workday at the refuge on Saturday, December 8, 2018. Begun in 1998, the workday is an annual project of the SC Wildlife Federation.

Plan to join us for a day of learning about refuge wildlife as you help conserve and protect valuable natural resources on our public lands! Anticipated projects include maintaining trails, installing trail and boundary signs, litter pick-up, and repairing boardwalks and kiosks. Participants should wear field clothes, comfortable shoes, and bring work gloves, drinks, and a snack.

Sign up to volunteer at:

<http://www.scwf.org/events/2018/12/8/carolina-sandhills-nwr-workday-y9snb-3z6jf>

Volunteer Opportunity

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Service Project

January 21, 2019, 10AM-1PM

The past two years, we've done a litter pickup at **Shealy's Pond Heritage Preserve** on this date. Do you have another idea for a short service project? Let us know at MidlandsMasterNaturalist@gmail.com. Otherwise, we will probably work on Shealy's again. It is a beautiful preserve, but there is always litter by the road.





Volunteer Opportunity

Brookland Brunch each Sunday from 10AM – 2PM

Cayce/West Columbia Riverwalk Amphitheater

Palmetto Outdoors is still seeking volunteers for the Brookland Brunch.

This event is held each Sunday 10-2 around the amphitheater for the Cayce/West Columbia Riverwalk. They would like to have a couple of naturalists bring out some items for show-and-tell to educate the public about nature.

If you have any interest in doing this one day, let us know: MidlandsMasterNaturalist@gmail.com. You can pick the Sunday that works for you. You don't have to be there the whole 4 hours. A covered tent and tables can be provided. We have a stockpile of show and tell items you can borrow.

VOLUNTEERING



ADVANCED
TRAINING

Advanced Training Opportunity

SCDNR Coastal Exploration Series – ACE Basin

The SCDNR started their Coastal Exploration Series in October, with six educational events running thru December as follows:

All events are free (unless noted otherwise) and open to the public. See the website for locations.

Registration is required for all events via the website and opens 30 days in advance.

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/NERR/seminarseries.html>

Topic	Date
King Tides	October 10th
Nature Sketching	October 22nd
Yawkey WMA	November 5th
Beaufort Jasper Sewer and Water Authority	November 13th
Nature Photography	November 17th
Winter Shorebird Workshop	December 14th

Once registered, participants will receive directions and further event details at least one week prior to the offering.

Please direct any questions to:

Lauton Sutley, SCDNR//ACE Basin NERR, 843-953-9354 or sutleyl@dnr.sc.gov



photo: Ed Siggelko
in West Columbia

Shieldback Katydid (*Atlanticus* sp.)

Named for the large shield-like plates that cover the tops of their thoraxes (the pronotum), the shieldback katydids are the “linebackers” of the katydid world, with robust bodies and a fierce demeanor (they may look mean, but like most katydids, they are harmless when handled). An extremely diverse group, there are 123 species of shieldbacks in North America, represented by 25 genera. Nearly all are western in distribution, with only 10 species occurring in the East, most being members of the genus *Atlanticus* (Eastern shieldbacks).

Shieldbacks are not picky eaters and consume a variety of plant matter and insects. They are found in forests and woodlands where they forage. Though they can't fly, their strong legs allow them to leap quite a distance when threatened. The high-pitched rattling trills of males can be heard as early as June in weedy fields and brushy woodland understories.

excerpted from “Songs of Insects” by Lang Elliot
<http://songsofinsects.com/shieldbacks>.

Indian Pipe, Ghost Plant (*Monotropa uniflora*)

Indian pipe is a nonphotosynthetic perennial herb of the heath family (Ericaceae), which lives in close association with a fungus from which it acquires most of its nutrition. The fungus, in turn, lives in association with neighboring trees found in mature, moist, shaded forests.

Indian pipe ranges in height from 2 to 8 inches tall. The entire plant is a translucent, “ghostly” white, sometimes pale pinkish-white and commonly has black flecks. The leaves are scale-like and flecked with black on the flower stalk.

As the Latin epithet *uniflora* implies, the stem bears a single flower. Upon emerging from the ground from early summer to early autumn, the flower is pendant (downwardly pointed). The fruit is a capsule. As the capsule matures, the flower becomes erect. Once ripened, seed is released through slits that open from the tip to the base of the capsule.



photo: Ed Siggelko
at Peachtree Rock HP

excerpted from: USDA website: https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/mycotrophic/monotropa_uniflora.shtml
Encyclopedia Britannica website: <https://www.britannica.com/plant/Indian-pipe>