

It's time to gear up for MURA's Annual Business Meeting



Ruth Tofle

Dear MURA members,

HAPPY 2022! MURA continues as a vibrant and successful organization as it adapts to the pandemic era. Programs, whether in-person or online, are motivating. Communications, whether by newsletter, biweekly email or website, are engaging.

Please mark your calendar to attend the Thursday, **March 17, MURA Annual Business Meeting** to participate in the election of officers. We have a wonderful slate of volunteers stepping up for leadership roles. There is no cost to attend, and no registration is required.

Staff member at large, **Art Jago** will present findings of the recent member survey with longitudinal analysis as many of the questions were also asked in 2018.

The featured program will be a research update on TigerPlace with **Marilyn Rantz**. We are also grateful to TigerPlace for being the official sponsor of the Annual Meeting. Further details will be provided in MURA Bi-weekly Update emails.

| MURA VOLUNTEERISM | |
|-------------------|--|
| focus on: | |
| ▶ | Environmental quality & sustainability |
| | Health & wellbeing |
| | Learning & enrichment |
| | Community |

This year, the MURA News theme will focus on volunteering. A special inside section will highlight four themes of volunteer efforts: environmental quality and sustainability; health and well-being; learning and enrichment; and community.

Each of these four areas is addressed by **Jim Preston**, assistant executive director of Advancement at MU Extension and Engagement.

This issue of MURA News highlights MURA members as volunteers promoting environmental quality and sustainability. Two volunteer pro-

grams, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, which are co-sponsored by University of Missouri Extension, are highlighted. The article "MURA volunteers contribute talents, energy to favorite causes" provides an overview of ways to contribute and the value of contributions.

We are spotlighting the volunteer work of **Ed Kaiser, Susan Flader, Robert Broz and Leslie Palmer**. There is also an index of organi-

zations devoted to environmental quality and sustainability.

The year 2022 promises to be an active one for MURA members. Thank you for all you give to MURA, the university and our wide community.

— Ruth Tofle, MURA President

TigerPlace supports MURA and sponsors annual business meeting

We are pleased to have TigerPlace sponsor the MURA Annual Business Meeting on March 17. The meeting will feature a research update about TigerPlace by Marilyn Rantz, MURA member and Curators' Professor Emerita.

TigerPlace is an aging-in-place community living facility for seniors in Columbia. It is a unique collaboration between Americare and the University of Missouri-Columbia Sinclair School of Nursing. MURA acknowledges this sponsorship in announcing the annual meeting with its tiger tail logo.

MURA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 17 • Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
9:30 to 10 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. to noon, meeting
 Election of officers, member survey report, TigerPlace research update program by Marilyn Rantz.
 SPONSORED BY

RETIREMENT LIVING BY AMERICARE
 IN AFFILIATION WITH MU HEALTH
TigerPlace™

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mura-missouri.com

Meet the nominees for MURA's leadership roles

NOMINEES FOR 2022-23 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS have been selected by the MURA Nominating Committee.

Voting will occur at MURA's Annual Business Meeting set for Thursday, March 17. New officers begin their terms on July 1. The officers' terms are staggered to provide continuity in the leadership.

The president-elect serves as chair of the Program Committee and then moves into the position of president. The treasurer serves for two years and is the chair of the Finance Committee, handles funds for the association and prepares financial reports.

The at-large board members represent staff and faculty at the quarterly board meetings and support MURA's work through committees and other assignments. These positions are for three years.



Ina Metzger Linville, for MURA president

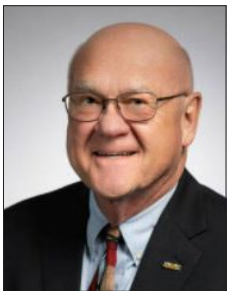
INA LINVILLE retired in September 2017 from directing the MU Extension 4-H Center for Youth Development after a 38-year career that included field positions (Troy, Mexico), state faculty position and statewide program leadership for 4-H. Ina came to MU earning a B.S. and M.S. in animal sciences (applied genetics) and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. Her work with colleagues laid the theoretical foundation and

rationale that launched the national 4-H afterschool initiative. She served as the School-Age Specialist for the 4-H USDA/Army project serving U.S. military installations around the world before focusing on creating opportunities for both Missouri youth and adults to grow and thrive.

Ina enjoys fiber arts and usually has quilting, rug hooking, knitting and crocheting projects in the works. She and husband, Mike, enjoy cycling together on the Katy Trail and on organized bike rides across Missouri and Iowa.

"I look forward to continue the good work accomplished before me to communicate the value retirees bring to UM/MU, to provide members with opportunities to learn about the university and community and opportunities to connect with each other. With this commitment, hopefully, MURA will continue to grow in membership and continue to be a valued asset for UM/MU."

Ken Dean, for president-elect and program chair



In addition to almost 40 years as a member of the Law School faculty, **KEN DEAN** has served successfully in numerous leadership positions at MU. His time at the School of Law has included terms of service as director of continuing legal education, associate dean, acting dean and interim dean. His teaching included courses in evidence, administrative law and legislative process. The university has also called upon him for leadership roles, including interim associate provost, deputy provost,

senior associate provost and interim provost.

In these crucial roles, he has provided thoughtful and steady guidance. He has served on several key committees for The Missouri Bar and has had articles published in the Journal of The Missouri Bar. He is secretary/treasurer of the University of Missouri Law School Foundation and a member of the MU Flagship Council Board.

Ken says he has failed at full-time retirement, as he returned to MU in April 2019 as a (part-time!) special advisor to the provost. He and his wife, Charlotte, live in Columbia. Their three children are all MU alumni: Justin, BA '96, JD '99; Andrea, BA '02; and Megan, BS HES '02, MPA '04.



Donna Johanning, for second term as MURA treasurer

DONNA JOHANNING is a University of Missouri graduate who majored in accounting. After graduation, she worked for the university in the investment department and the Controller's Office. She and her husband, Danny, are long-time season ticket holders for MU football and men's basketball. She is a member of St. Thomas More Newman Center and has served on the Finance

Committee and the Parish Council.

Donna retired in 2017 as director of Financial Information Systems. She keeps busy in retirement by traveling to see grandchildren in Utah and spoiling a granddaughter who lives in Columbia.

Donna is currently serving as MURA treasurer. This would be her second two-year term.



Debbie Allen, for MURA Member at Large Staff

Recent MU retiree **DEBBIE ALLEN** capped her 35-year career in higher education, spanning three universities, in October 2021. Debbie devoted the final 15 years of her rewarding career at MU, the first two years in the university's Advancement Office as the Jefferson Club's event coordinator. Beginning in February 2009 until her retirement, Debbie mentored doctoral

students as the graduate life sciences initiatives coordinator in the Bond Life Sciences Center and Graduate School. In this role, Debbie administered the interdisciplinary Life Sciences Fellowship program, directed graduate student recruitment efforts, led NIH training grant projects and coordinated campuswide events benefiting graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. By far, working with graduate students was the highlight of her career.

Debbie earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in educational policy and evaluation research (higher education administration emphasis) from the University of Illinois at Chicago, her native city.



Art Jago, for second term as MURA Member at Large Faculty

ART JAGO is Professor Emeritus of Management in the Trulaske College of Business. He retired from MU in 2017.

He is a former chairperson of the Department of Management and a former member of the Executive Committee of the MU Faculty Council.

He is currently completing his first term as faculty member at large for the MURA Board of Directors and is its representative to the MU Faculty Council.

This will be his second three-year term as allowed for in the MURA Constitution. Additionally, he is currently a member of the MU Budget Committee.

Since retiring, he has published articles in *Academe Today* – *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and several commentaries in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* and the *Columbia Missourian*.

— Betsy Garrett, Nominating Committee chair; Nominating Committee members are Jo Turner, Margie Sable, Dick Otto and Mark Banks

Nominate volunteers for Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards

By Mary Jo Herde, Awards Committee Chair



Mary Jo Herde

Do you know someone who has made a major contribution through their volunteer efforts since retiring from the staff or faculty of the University of Missouri? Now is the time to nominate them for the recognition they deserve – The Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Award.

Every spring, MURA recognizes two outstanding retirees – one staff member and one faculty member – who have made

significant contributions to the university or community since their retirement. These individuals are recognized with a Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Award, which includes a \$1,000 check, their names on a plaque in Jessie Hall and presentation of the award by the chancellor.

To be eligible for this award, retirees must have made noteworthy contributions through community or professional voluntary service since their retirement. All candidates must have retired prior to Jan. 1, 2017. The nomination materials, consisting of an application form and three letters of support, must be submitted by March 1, 2022. A copy of the nomination form and letter requirements are found at the MURA Website (MURA-missouri.com). Simply go to the website, click the "About" category and find the Chancellor's Volunteer of the Year information at the bottom of the page. A list of previous recipients of this award's winners is also included on this site.

Nominees will be eligible for award consideration for three years. Those selected for receipt of the award will be notified in late March or early April. If you have questions or need more information, don't hesitate to contact Mary Jo Herde at Herdem@missouri.edu or call 573-446-5525.



2022 Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards

Awards will be presented by Dr. Mun Choi on Tuesday, April 12, during MURA's Spring Social.

BEGUN IN 1990, the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards focus on the accomplishments of former employees after their retirement. These accomplishments may involve volunteer service to the University, civic and welfare services, career and professional activities or other noteworthy achievements. Accomplishments prior to retirement are not considered in the selection process. Two awards will be given: one to a faculty member and one to a staff member. Each award includes a plaque and a \$1,000 check. Previous nominees not selected are kept in the pool for two more years.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION:

- Nominees must have retired from the University of Missouri before Jan. 1, 2017.
- Nominees must have contributed volunteer service to their communities, university or professional and civic organizations following their retirement.
- Retiree Advisory Committee members are not eligible

NOMINATION PROCESS:

1. Complete the nomination form below.
2. Prepare a letter with the following information:
 - a. Nominee's extraordinary accomplishments since retiring.
 - b. Personal and background information about the nominee.
 - c. Summary – most important reason(s) why you believe the candidate should receive one of these awards.
3. Attach three letters of support from others who know the nominee.

NOMINATION FORM

Candidate's name: _____

☐ Faculty ☐ Staff Year of retirement: _____ MU department/ position at time of retirement: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator: _____ ☐ Faculty ☐ Staff ☐ Student ☐ Alum ☐ Retiree ☐ Community

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Nominator's signature: _____ Date: _____

QUESTIONS? Call 573-446-5525 • **PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION MATERIALS BY MARCH 1, 2022, TO:**
University of Missouri, Ashley Rhode, 210 Whitten Hall, Columbia, MO 65211, Rhodea@umsystem.edu



HO, HO, HO and holiday spirits abound at MURA holiday luncheon

MURA members turned the atrium of the Holiday Inn into a chorale as members sang carols of good cheer during the holiday event on Dec. 1. Good cheer and generosity prevailed throughout the event as President Ruth Tofle opened and closed the event with her wit and charm.

More than 70 attendees took a moment to reflect on the founder and foundation on which our organization is built with a toast to **Ray Schroeder** that was presented by **Gary Smith**. Schroeder is responsible for many of the retirement benefits members appreciate.

The Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship fund is growing to provide scholarships for children of MU staff employees. **Marty Townsend** shared information about the awardees and what disciplines the recipients are studying.

A fun trivia challenge with a twist was led by **Dick Otto**. Missouri was the subject, and facts about the state was the challenge in honor of the state's bicentennial.

Members tried their luck to take home one of the multitudes of amazing gift baskets with proceeds supporting Tiger Pantry. The fun of winning was led by **Kee Groshong** and **Dick Otto**.

Kate Whitmore, student director of Tiger Pantry, shared what the donated \$800 plus dollars would do to help food insecure students, staff and faculty.

The MURA Program Committee and friends of **Ina Linville**, **Clyde** and **Cecile Bentley**, **Betsy Garrett**, **Kee Groshong**, **Ken Hutchinson**, **Nancy Johnson**, **Linda Lorenz**, **Judy Maseles**, **Jack and Darlene Miles**, **Dick Otto**, **Barbara Schneider**, **Judy Nolke** and **Jo Turner** organized the event.

— **INA LINVILLE**, MURA president-elect and program chair

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The Missouri School of Journalism contingent – Maggie Walter, Brian Steffens and Marty Steffens – was decked out in red and black ensembles.



Kim Dude and Suzette Heiman chat as they wait for lunch to be served.



A humorous moment passes between past president Marty Townsend and current president Ruth Tofle.



From left, Jim Lay, Nancy Johnson, Sandra Lay (sitting), Caroline Davie, Lanelle Baskett and Brenda Hanson gather for a photo op.



Barbara Schneider and Kee Groshong take a turn working at the registration table.



Gary Smith and Mary Anne McCullum chat for a bit before selecting a table.



Darlene and Jack Miles passed out nametags and were avid salesperson for the raffle tickets to win the gift baskets. About \$800 was raised.



Ina Linville walks through the dining room, checking to see that everything is ready for the luncheon.



Kate Whitmore, director of Tiger Pantry at MU, says thanks to all who bought tickets for the raffle; proceeds of about \$800 were donated to the pantry.



Betsy Garrett and Ken Hutchinson lead the singalong of holiday seasonal songs. They were joined by a group of other carolers.



Connie Loveless provided lively accompaniment to the singers on a grand piano in the lobby of the Holiday Inn. Her husband, Jim, assisted her as the page turner.



Shoppers check out the many gift baskets.

Photo credits:
Nancy Johnson and
Ina Linville



MURA volunteers contribute talents, energy to favorite causes

Broad range of MU Extension programs rely on volunteers



By James Preston

MU Extension and Engagement Advancement, assistant executive director

FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS providing leadership in counties, to 4-H chapter leaders and Master Gardener members working in their communities, the vitality of MU Extension runs through volunteers.

Joan Hickman, who recently joined MURA, is a perfect example. She retired from MU Extension at the end of 2002 after a career as a 4-H Youth Development Specialist in Andrew and Buchanan counties. Hickman began serving a volunteer term on the MU Extension Cabinet on Philanthropy in 2021.



Joan Hickman

In addition to keeping up with family, Hickman stays busy in the St. Joseph community focusing on helping youth through Rotary and leading entomology 4-H projects in Clay County.

MURA is full of lifelong doers and learners like Joan. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (Osher@Mizzou) is an MU Extension program that provides continuing education classes taught by volunteers, many of whom are retired professors, teachers and other community leaders. Volunteers help in other ways to keep the program going, doing everything from answering phones to serving on the

advisory council.

The vision for Osher is to grow beyond mid-Missouri, but that will require more volunteer instructors. **Jennifer Erickson**, director of Osher@Mizzou, says: "We appreciate our volunteer instructors who give their time and share their passion for education with adults who have a passion for learning. When you teach for Osher, you contribute to a thriving lifelong learning program for Missourians."

Volunteers are the backbone of Extension, according to **Marshall Stewart**, vice chancellor for MU Extension and Engagement. "Our volunteers connect with and fulfill the land-grant vision of citizens empowered by research-based programs, resources and education. They support and do the work that is helping Missourians in every corner of the state."

This year, MURA leadership will put a spotlight on the importance of and opportunities for volunteerism. MU Extension and Extension retirees exemplify that spirit of volunteerism. Articles highlighting the four themes of environmental quality and sustainability, health and well-being, learning and enrichment, and community will be featured and include ways Extension is involved. You will learn more about volunteering through Extension in your community and read examples where retirees are making a difference through their connection with Extension.

Whether you get involved through Extension or are inspired to serve through your church, charities or other opportunities in your community, your life will be enriched as it enriches others through volunteerism.

If you are interested in teaching for Osher@Mizzou, please contact the Osher staff at osher@missouri.edu or 573-882-8189.

Promoting environmental quality and sustainability attracts many volunteers

By Ruth Tofle, MURA president

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY relies on the talent and energy of people putting in the work. This work might be "boots on the ground" or alternatively applying a skill set for an organization.

Some of the "boots on the ground" might include picking up trash, whacking honeysuckle or showing up on Saturdays to help with Hazardous Waste Collection. Applying a skill set for the "backbone" of an organization's board of directors at local, state and national levels helps organizations with fiscal, legal, graphic, website, journalism, grant writing and operational experiences.

Enjoying recreational features at a Missouri State Park can lead to being more alert and wanting to sustain the park's natural beauty

and value for future generations. Volunteering at a park offers us an opportunity to develop new skills, build on existing experience or knowledge and to do this with the camaraderie of like-minded friends.

Retiree **Jan Weaver** leads in advocacy roles and enjoys being in the great outdoors as she eradicates bush honeysuckle from the Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Jan adopted a quarter-mile section in an Adopt-A-Trail program.

Imagine the gathering of birders engaged in the Christmas Bird Count and the migratory bird count in the spring. As **Betsy Garrett**, a volunteer with the Columbia Audubon Society, explains: "Many of us enjoy being citizen scientists as we enter the birds we see

— continued next page



Promoting environmental quality and sustainability attracts many volunteers — continued from p. 6

into the eBird database.” A First Friday bird walk is held each month at the 3M Trail that branches off from the Katy Trail just off Forum Boulevard.

Being part of a larger effort to protect and preserve our environment reflects our “pride of place,” and these are good incentives to volunteer. A municipality such as Columbia, benefits from this citizen involvement and lists opportunities on its [website](#).

MURA members also join civic service organizations. For example, **Clyde Bentley**, education/breakfast co-chair for MURA, is also president of the Kiwanis Club of Columbia. It is working to eradicate invasive honeysuckle in Kiwanis Park. Bentley is also a city Park Patrol volunteer.



Robert Broz

Environmental improvements can be made to benefit both personal property and that of other organizations. **Robert Broz**, a volunteer for his church, has increased recycling, installed several native flower and pollinator plots and completed an energy assessment of the church and buildings. He also completed an outside audit for energy efficient landscaping to reduce the need for heating and air conditioning.

Broz explains: “Each of us can do something – regardless of how big or small that will help the environment and our community.”

In some cases, volunteers show up, and instructions are given on-site to begin tasks. In other situations, reading self-study manuals and attending training webinars along with testing and attending field days are required. These types of certification and continuing education are part of both the Master Naturalist and Master Gardener programs.

The University of Missouri Extension offerings of Missouri Master Naturalist and Master Gardener are two of the best places to start because of their long-standing success, comprehensive training and camaraderie.

This training is valued by **Brenda Peculis** as she explains, “I completed the Master Gardener class, which helped me learn more, but more critically, provided some credentials for the practical knowledge I’d gained working with the City.”

Brenda works with the City’s TreeKeepers and also works on Saturday mornings at the Household Hazardous material collection site. “I like interacting with people for the traffic, but the paint party is messy-fun!!!” she said.

Clearly, many volunteer opportunities are available to promote environmental quality and sustainability. Furthermore, as Jan Weaver explains, “Retirees are hugely important in these initiatives and efforts. They have experience with people, administration and money, flexible time schedules, and they aren’t daunted by setbacks.”



Clyde Bentley, education/breakfast co-chair for MURA, is also president of the Kiwanis Club of Columbia, which is working to eradicate invasive honeysuckle in Kiwanis Park. Bentley is also a city Park Patrol volunteer.



Betsy Garrett, past-president of MURA and a longtime volunteer with the Master Naturalist Program, also participates in other related volunteer groups focused on outdoor activities.



Jan Weaver takes on advocacy roles.



Gardeners work to master skills, educate others about plants

HELPING OTHERS LEARN TO GROW is the mission of the Missouri Master Gardener Extension Program. The Master Gardener program provides in-depth horticultural training to individuals throughout Missouri, who, in turn apply what they have learned to help others in their communities to learn about gardening and environmental education.

The Master Gardener program promotes and raises public awareness of the University of Missouri Extension as a source of unbiased, research-based gardening information.

Through activities such as MU Extension hotlines or answer services, workshops, speaker's bureaus, garden show booths and demonstration projects, Master Gardeners provide gardening information to thousands of Missourians each year.

The Master Gardener program is a national program available in most states. Missouri began its program in the early 1970s at the Missouri Botanical Gardens.



Donna Puleo

Donna Puleo, a Master Gardener, explains that the Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners program started in 1991 as a means of educating the public on the best used gardening methods, based on research developed by the University of Missouri and other research institutions.

Members have a love of gardening. They receive 30 hours of education on soil quality, plant

growth and disease, trees and shrubs, herbaceous perennials, landscape design, houseplants, plant propagation, integrated pest management, pesticide safety and turf. This may vary from class to class, dependent on instructors. Certification is maintained by volunteering 30 hours annually in addition to completing six continuing education hours annually.

The program's core project is volunteering at Jefferson Farm and Garden, a 67-acre educational farm designed to engage the community in experiences about food and agriculture.

Puleo enthusiastically explains: "We have demonstration gardens, a native butterfly house, pollinator cafe and a wildflower meadow that we have developed and maintain."

During her volunteer hours, **Brenda Peculis** applied her knowledge in landscaping for Habitat for Humanity houses.



Brenda Peculis has completed the Master Gardener course, and she works with the City's TreeKeepers and the Household Hazardous material collection site. With her at left is her husband Frank Schmidt, MURA member at large faculty.



To learn more about the Master Gardener program in mid-Missouri, go to <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/boone/master-gardener>.



For more information about the Boone's Lick chapter of The Missouri Master Naturalist program, contact MURA member Lori Ann Johnson at johnsonlo@health.missouri.edu.

Naturalists work to save Missouri's resources

By Lori Ann Johnson, Boone's Lick Chapter vice president

THE MISSOURI MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM is a community-based natural resource education and volunteer service program sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri Extension.

Its mission is to "engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service. Missouri Master Naturalist volunteers support conservation efforts and natural resource education in their local communities."

To become a certified Master Naturalist, the requirements are to complete an initial training course and eight hours of advanced training and then contribute 40 hours of natural resource-related volunteer service through a local chapter.

There is a varying fee for initial training courses, which last 12 to 14 weeks with class sessions one night per week and three to four Saturday field sessions.

Boone's Lick Missouri Master Naturalist Chapter, covering the mid-Missouri area, was formed in 2004. In 2020, local members volunteered a total of 6,156 hours. They partner with many other organizations during their volunteer projects at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Several MURA members are also Missouri Master Naturalists. For **Leslie Palmer**, being a Master Naturalist means "I can use my strengths to contribute to something larger than myself and to give my life meaning and purpose. ... I am passionate about learning more through volunteering and advanced training activity so that I can not only become a better steward of Missouri's natural resources but also help engage others in this science-based education and community service program."



Leslie Palmer, far left, works with fellow Master Naturalists at Columbia Audubon Society Nature Sanctuary nest box trail. They are monitoring, maintaining and collecting nest box data as well as reporting data to Missouri Bluebird Society.



Ed Kaiser takes a turn working at the Household Hazardous Waste collection site on Lakeview Avenue in Columbia.

Ed Kaiser: Environmental Safety Volunteer

EDWIN KAISER, a chemistry professor retiree, is a public servant well-known for his work with household hazardous material collection by the City of Columbia. Before Kaiser retired, a City of Columbia fire captain asked Ed to attend an inspection with the fire department of a local business that sold chemicals.

The top floor of the building was the home of hundreds of different chemicals, many were flammable and/or poisonous, none were stored in a systematic manner. A fire could have been disastrous as three public schools were located within a few blocks of the building.

In another example, Kaiser was involved in an annual report required of local county government about hazards facing the area as thousands of trucks on Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 63 carrying potentially dangerous chemicals passed through the city.

These experiences led to providing early training to firefighters throughout Missouri. Columbia-Boone County fire departments started providing formal responses to hazardous materials incidences using a U-Haul truck and a couple of 55-gallon drums.

Kaiser carried a pager, answered to the radio number, Car 90, was called "Dr. Death" and had the only black fire helmet in Boone County.

The Household Hazardous Waste collection, developed by Kaiser, accepts materials from 8 a.m. to noon every first and third Saturday mornings, April through November, at the Grissum Building, 1313 Lakeview Ave.

Kaiser continues to volunteer, and he was honored as the January 2021 Volunteer of the Month by Volunteer Columbia.



Susan Flader

Policy issues, leadership fuel retired history professor's volunteer efforts

SUSAN FLADER, a retired MU history professor, wears multiple hats in her retirement as environmental educator, scholar and advocate. With a focus on non-profit organizations impacting environmental policy, she dedicates her efforts to a select four associations in leadership roles.

Since the 1970s, Susan has been involved with the Audubon Society. Over the years, she has served on the national board and then with Audubon Missouri and Audubon Center at Riverlands, realizing that to care about birds is to care about habitats for all wildlife and the preservation of natural forests and parks.

Susan's volunteer efforts include being a founder and president of the Missouri Parks Association. Seeing the need for better public understanding of Missouri's parks, she teamed up with lifelong conservationists to author "Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites: Exploring Our Legacy" (2016).

Less visible but of major significance nationally, she has had ongoing leadership roles on the board of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, fostering care for land and community through land ethics and social justice. Flader participated in a documentary film about Leopold's legacy and was instrumental in securing a major national grant to digitize and make accessible worldwide the Leopold archives.

Also less visible but of major significance at the state level, Flader has served 25 years on the board of the L-A-D Foundation, begun by Leo Drey to preserve outstanding natural, scenic and cultural resources. The L-A-D Foundation properties include twelve designated Missouri Natural Areas, three state parks, 35 miles of frontage on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways and a 144,000-acre demonstration working forest, all of which are open to the public for research and recreation. Flader is the current president of the L-A-D Foundation.

Index of Organizations in Environmental Quality and Sustainability

MURA MEMBERS, including **Betsy Garrett, Susan Hazelwood, Lori Ann Johnson, Cecil Moore, and Leslie Palmer**, are involved in the Boone's Lick Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists program. They participate in a variety of local volunteer opportunities involving local trails, waterways, community gardens and Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and partner with many organizations listed below.

Aldo Leopold Foundation – aldoleopold.org

City of Columbia Volunteers – como.gov/volunteer

Adopt-A-Spot Beautification

Adopt-A-Trail Program

Adopt-A-Spot Litter Control

Cleanup Columbia

Waste Reduction and Litter Control

Park Patrol—Park and Trail

Sign Sweepers

TreeKeepers

Columbia Audubon Society – columbia-audubon.org

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture – columbiaurbanag.org

Conservation Federation Missouri – confedmo.org

Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid Missouri – greenbeltmissouri.org

Grow Native – grownative.org

Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park – friendsofrockbridgemsp.org

L-A-D Foundation – ladfoundation.org

Missouri Birding Society – mobirds.org

Missouri Bluebird Society – missouribluebird.wordpress.com

Missouri Department of Conservation – mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage/volunteer-opportunities

Missouri Environmental Education Association – MEEA.org

Missouri Habitat Organization – showmehabitat.org

Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force – moinvasives.org

Missouri Master Gardener – extension.missouri.edu/programs/master-gardener

Missouri Master Naturalist State Program – mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/love-nature-become-master-naturalist-mdc

Missouri Native Plant Society – monativeplants.org

Missouri Prairie Foundation – moprairie.org

Missouri State Beekeepers Association – mostatebeekeepers.org

Missouri River Relief – riverrelief.org

Missouri State Parks – mostateparks.com/page/57872/volunteer-parks-program

Missouri Stream Team – mostreamteam.org

Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever – missouripfqf.org

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – www.fws.gov/volunteers

Sierra Club Missouri Chapter – sierraclub.org/missouri

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation – xerces.org

Race, justice and citizenship form the research pillars at the Michael A. Middleton Center at the University of Missouri



S. David Mitchell

S. DAVID MITCHELL, professor of law and co-director of the center, outlined the mission, history, vision, goals and activities in his presentation, “Conversations at the Crossroads,” at MURA’s February breakfast meeting.

Mitchell, an interdisciplinary scholar, leads the center and its research scholars drawn from several areas at MU. Their research addresses race, citizenship and justice as independent or intersectional topics.

Mitchell says he hopes to add more researchers to the roster as the center grows. For now, work with the center is not a “full-time gig,” and the researchers wear many hats.

The hope of the multi-disciplinary approach — social, legal, psychological, religious and others — is aimed at authentic understanding of the complex issues rather than uninformed action, he said.

The center also hopes to help close the gap of misinformation by being a state resource and a national contributor to the conversation on race, citizenship and justice, he said.

Stephanie Shonekan is co-director of the Middleton Center with Mitchell.

The center is named in honor of Michael A. Middleton, a former interim UM System President. He is also an MU alumnus with degrees from the MU College of Arts and Science and the MU School of Law. In Middleton’s 50-plus years relationship with MU/UM, he has served as a university faculty member and MU deputy chancellor. He has worked as a civil rights attorney and was instrumental in the development of Black Studies at MU, according to an UM System News report.

Both Middleton and his wife, Julie, are members of MURA.

The breakfast was sponsored by Central Bank and Central Trust Company

— Ina Linville, MURA president-elect and program chair

MURA’s fiscal position holds steady

By Donna Johanning, MURA treasurer

THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the MU Retirees Association as of Jan. 31, 2022, reflects a cash balance at \$6,345.63. Receipts are at 53% of the projected budget, but most disbursements remain under budget as the organization cautiously returns to in person social events and meetings.

There has been a buildup of cash on hand the last two years due to the limited events and meetings that were held. The finance committee met in November of 2021 to review the cash position and propose actions for the distribution of these excess funds. The recommendations were presented to the MURA Board at the January 2022 meeting and were accepted as follows:

- a. \$4,000 donation to the University for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund.
- b. \$4,000 to be transferred to the Vanguard investment fund to increase the balance held in the fund, which will result in an increase in the annual income to the organization. This income is the main source of revenue supporting the yearly expenditures of the organization and provides stability to the annual budget.

The cash balance after these two recommendations were met is at a level consistent with our balances in 2018 and 2019.

Upcoming events at the Michael Middleton Center for Race, Justice and Citizenship

- **March 9** – “Women’s History Month” with Dr. Jerome Adams, former U.S. surgeon general, as the keynote speaker.
- **March 16** – “A Campus to Call Home: A Conversation on Identity, Belonging and Space at Mizzou” with Julie Middleton, Mary Beth Brown and Caleb Sewell.
- **April 6** – “Race and Religion” with Sahar Azis, “The Racial Muslim”; Daive Dunkley, “Women and Resistance in the Early Rastafari Movement”; and Rabia Gregory.
- **April (to be determined)** – “Race and Opera” with Noah Stewart, opera singer.

Middleton Center short-term goals:

- Secure a strong financial footing;
- Provide support and visibility for faculty, graduate and undergraduate students to grapple with these topics;
- To close the gap and counter misinformation about the topics; and
- Be a statewide resource, regional center of excellence and a national contributor to the conversations about race, citizenship and justice.

Middleton Center long-term goals:

- Secure a physical space for the center;
- Continue to impact the conversations in the state, the region and nationally;
- Secure grants for research;
- Attract nationally endowed renowned scholars to the university.

UM Benefits Office now on Frankie Drive

THE OFFICE OF UM SYSTEM HR is now located at 1105 Carrie Franckie Drive off Stadium Boulevard adjacent to A. L. Gustin Golf Course.

If you have questions about locating the office, please contact the HR Service Center at 573-882-2146.



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DON'T MISS the informative bi-weekly MURA Update emails!

Please provide any
email address updates
to Barb Harris, MURA
Communications chair, at:
harrisb@umsystem.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| 2022 | EVENT | TIME* | LOCATION |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Tuesday, March 1 | Breakfast - Samantha Moog, MA, LCSW, director of Refugee Services at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri; "Recent Evacuee and Refugee Resettlement in Mid-Missouri" | 8 a.m. for in-person meeting, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. for Zoom | Country Club of Missouri and Zoom |
| Thursday, March 17 | Annual Business Meeting with election of officers, member survey report, TigerPlace research update program by Marilyn Rantz. Sponsored by TigerPlace | 9:30 to 10 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. to noon, meeting | Country Club of Missouri and Zoom |
| Tuesday, April 5 | Breakfast - Pete Millier, director Landscape Services & Mizzou Botanic Garden, "The story of the Mizzou Botanic Garden" | 8 a.m. for in-person meeting, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. for Zoom | Country Club of Missouri and Zoom |
| Tuesday, April 12 | Spring Social - hosted by President Mun Choi; recognizing Chancellor's Staff and Faculty Retirees of the Year, MURA Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Awardees and retirees' contributions to UM/MU | 4:30 p.m. | Walsworth Columns Club, Memorial Stadium |

* Food service begins at 8 a.m. and program at 8:30 a.m. for Breakfast Series.

Welcome to new MURA Life Members!

Please join us in welcoming 32 new MURA Life Members in 2021.

Debbie Alviso
Jeffrey Belden
Steven Borgelt
Mun Choi
Brian Dabson
Julie Deering
Felicity Dykas
Kevin Fritsche
Debra Gayer
Jere Gilles

Debra Harms
James Harms
Suzette Heiman
Joan Hickman
Tim Hickman
Silvia Jurisson
Eileen King
Janet Kline
Dudley McCaw
Judith Miller

Susan Mills-Gray
Cee Jay Pecorak
Brenda Peculis
Johanna Reed
Adams
Mary Schutte
Zoe Smith
Theodore Tarkow
Daniel Turban
Kathleen Unrath

Lisa Wallace
Lisa Wimmenauer
Patti Wright



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facebook

Manage Follow Settings

- Search for MURA; select "MU Retirees Association—MURA"
- Then give us a thumbs up!
- To make sure you see all MURA posts, look for the "Manage Follow Settings" icon or the three dots at the top or bottom of the MURA Facebook page.
- Set your "follow settings" to be Favorites. Then change notifications settings to Standard rather than Highlights for posts and videos. You may also "turn on notifications" for this post.

[MU Retirees Association - MURA | Facebook](#)

MURA News is published by the MU Retirees Association.

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