



# nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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## Free Kennedy Woods Nov 7

Randy Korotev  
charter member, SAKWAG

I'm seeking volunteers to help cut honeysuckle in the Kennedy Forest of Forest Park for 2 hours on Sunday, November 7. Think of it as a great opportunity to wreak havoc, get some exercise, and do something worthwhile.

Here's the story. As some of you know, my avocation is birding. The Kennedy Forest (alias, Kennedy Woods) is a great migrant bird trap and I go birding there often during the spring migration. Most of "Forest" Park was cleared of forest for the 1904 World's Fair. The Kennedy Forest is the remaining remnant of the old forest and there are some very old trees in there. The problem, one that I have seen worsen over the past 20 years, is that the old trees are dying and few new ones are taking their place. The main reason is that the understory has been invaded by an aggressive non-native species, bush honeysuckle. The honeysuckle is insidious because it begins to leaf in early March and is still green in early December. By the time an acorn sprouts in May, there's not enough sunlight available to make it grow because the honeysuckle shades

everything. This problem is not unique to the Kennedy Forest, it's a problem all over St. Louis. (Next March, drive Lindbergh south from Plaza Frontenac and look at the wooded areas on either side of the road. Every green thing *continued on p. 2*

## Nov. 12 General Meeting

Doug Corbett

"What do we really know about the New Madrid Fault and what could be ahead?" Our November speaker is Dr. Robert B. Herrmann, Professor of Geophysics at St. Louis University. He has worked in Seismology for 35 years and will present a discussion on the New Madrid Fault. This will include a history of local earthquakes and an examination of the Advanced National Seismic System initiative that promotes safety, good design, and good science. Please join us on Friday, November 12 at 8:00 PM at the St. L. Co. Library on Lindbergh. See you there! ☺

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## Free Kennedy Woods cont.

you see is bush honeysuckle.)

I and a few birder friends (the Self-Appointed Kennedy Woods Advisory Group = SAKWAG) have been voluntarily removing honeysuckle (with the Parks Department blessing and approval and some help from the Missouri Department of Conservation) for several years, but it's an uphill battle. We can see the improvement in the areas we've hit hard, but there are many more areas. So, we're organizing an event, "Free the Kennedy Woods." The plan is to get dozens of people in there at once for a massive assault. My buddies expect me to provide my share of the volunteers. We're also going to be seeking volunteers among most of the environmental organizations in the St. Louis area. We're hoping for 60+ people.

The most effective way to get rid of the honeysuckle would be to burn the understory, but the Parks Dept. won't let us do that. The next best thing is to cut the honeysuckle. There's a right way and a wrong way to do that. If all you do is cut, it comes back from the roots the next year with 10 times as many stems. The trick is to paint the stump, using a paintbrush, with a liberal dose of the herbicide Roundup right after you cut. This procedure works best in late fall when the sap is being withdrawn from the stems. The Roundup get sucked in and the roots are killed. The same procedure in spring is not nearly so effective.

Our plan is to send many 3-person teams into the woods to cut and paint. You'll need a pair of gloves. We'll supply the Roundup, but if you've got a saw or clippers, please bring them. We're (SAKWAG) going to go around the woods a few days earlier and spray paint the honeysuckle orange so it's easier to identify.

If this sounds like fun (I've found that it is therapeutic, at least), please contact me. Right now I'd like to hear from people who'd be willing to lead a 3- or 4-person team. It will only take a couple of hours. The present plan (I think) is to mount one attack from 10 AM to noon and another from noon to 2 PM. (It can be strenuous enough work that 2 hours is all we expect from any one person.) ∞

## Membership Renewals

Linda Virga

If you haven't yet paid dues since receiving your renewal envelope in the June issue, please send your \$15 to:

Randy Korotev, Treasurer  
800 Oakbrook Ln.  
St. Louis 63132.

Please do this at your earliest convenience, lest you miss any issues because of a tardy renewal. If you have decided not to renew, let me know with a postcard or call. ∞

## Y2K Warning:

## WGNS to Enter the 1990's Just in Time for Year 2000

Randy Korotev

Sometime in the next few months WGNS will switch its mailing list and label-printing operation for *Nature Notes* from an old Apple computer that has been doing the job for 12+ years to a modern PC. In making the transition we are trying to use the standardized address preferred by the post office, which includes the Zip+4 numbers and which affects other things such as the way apartment numbers are handled and which city is actually listed on the label. We are also going to include the expiration date of your membership. Presently, membership information exists on three different computers, and it's not all self consistent. We will be using the name(s) you submitted on your renewal envelope this past summer, if we've received the envelope. Putting this all

together, there are lots of ways we can make mistakes. Although we have made much effort to insure a smooth transition, almost certainly there will be some problems. So, if sometime in January you realize that you haven't been getting *Nature Notes* for a while, the address label still contains the name of your divorced spouse, or we've moved you from O'Fallon, MO, to O'Fallon, IL, contact Randy Korotev at 993-0055.

Also, we will soon be contacting many life members as well as persons and organizations receiving complimentary copies of *Nature Notes* to determine if they still wish to receive it. Because life members do not pay dues, there are several life members from whom we have had no contact in years. We are uncertain of addresses for several. ∞

### Orchard Farm Christmas Bird Count

Randy Korotev

The Orchard Farm Christmas Bird Count will be held on Monday, January 3. Forget your Y2K worries and come help us count some birds. If you've never done it before, we'll show you how. This year is the 100th anniversary of the first Christmas Bird counts, which were held on Christmas Day in 1900. The CBC has become the largest and longest-running wildlife survey ever undertaken. There is probably no better example of nonprofessionals (45,000 people in 1700 counts last year!) contributing information which is of value to science.

Please contact me at 993-0055 (home), 935-5637 (work), or rlk@levee.wustl.edu for more information. I'd appreciate hearing from you by at least Dec. 15. As before, the National Audubon Society requires that we collect \$5 from each person to help support the cost of publishing the results.

To learn more about CBC's, see the following web sites:

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html> <http://www.mbr.nbs.gov/bbs/cbc.html>

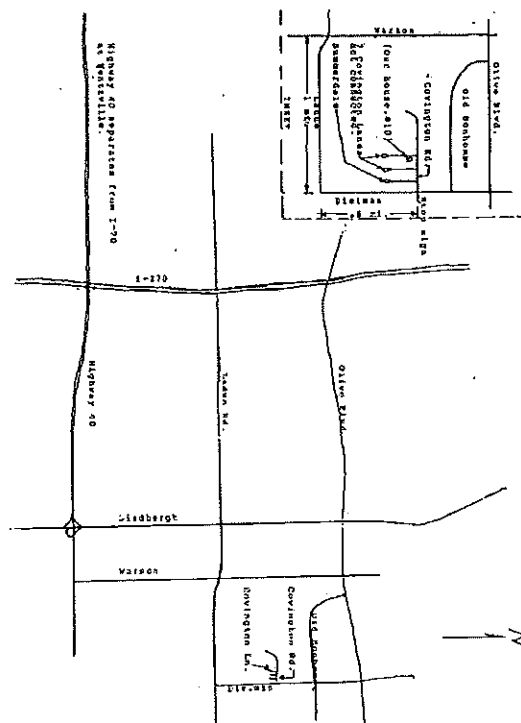
### Busch Xmas Count

The annual Christmas bird census will be held on Jan. 1 at Busch in St. Charles Co. MO. Meet at the new headquarters at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call: Tom Parmeter 921-6017, home or 837-1360, work. Fee \$5. ∞

### Moths of Missouri at Entomology Meeting, Sunday, November 21

Marshall Magner

Our November meeting will be 7:00 PM at Winkler's, 10 Covington Ln. (993-1652). Note date change to avoid Thanksgiving weekend. George will discuss progress in his effort to collect representative specimens of all the moths of Missouri. Quite a goal!



**Next Deadline: Nov. 5**

## My Yard List

Peter Hoell

Responding to Randy's call for yard lists: my total is 131. I've been at my rural Eureka residence for 18 years and I'd characterize my yard as large. Some nice birds seen from my yard include White-winged Crossbill, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Hooded Warbler. If you count looking up—and we do—Bald Eagle, White Pelican and Double-crested Cormorant are included. PS. Add Black-throated Blue Warbler! ∞

## WGNSS/St. Louis Audubon Bird Walks for Nov.

Charlene Malone

*Saturday Nov 6, 1999*

8 AM–noon, Horseshoe Lake State Park, Madison County Ill. This walk will focus on waterfowl, gulls and sparrows wintering in the St. Louis area. Most birding will be from the car, but there will also be some hiking through muddy fields, so dress for weather and wear waterproof boots. Bring binocs, scopes and field guides. All levels of birders welcome. We will also bird the area of Horseshoe Lake/borrow pits near the Gateway Race Track. Contact Paul Bauer (314/921-3972) or Jim Malone (636/536-1119) for more info. See p. 68–70 in the "Birds of the St. Louis Area" by Alwood, Bauer, et al, for more info about HSL. For directions see p. 13 of *Nature Notes*.

*Sunday Nov 21, 1999*

8 AM–noon, Riverlands Environmental Demo. Area, St. Charles County Mo. Target birds for this walk will be migrating waterfowl, which could include Trumpeter or Tundra swans, loons and grebes. Also we will be looking for various sparrows, gulls, raptors and wintering eagles. Riverlands can be rather windy and we will be spending much of the time outside, so please take this into consideration when

dressing for the weather. A scope is a must for this trip, but looks through others' scopes will be provided. Depending what birds are being seen at the time, we will bird both sides of the River. All levels of birders welcome. Contact Paul Bauer (314/921-3972) or Jim Malone (636/536-1119) for more info. We meet at the Teal Pond parking lot. See p. 36-39 in "Birds of the St. Louis Area" by Alwood, Bauer, et al, for more info about REDA. For directions, see p. 13. ∞

## September 1999 Birding Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

About 2500 White Pelicans and 2 Franklin's Gulls appeared at Mark Twain NWR on 9/18 (HW). An American Bittern was found at Carlyle Lake on 9/18 (J&CM). A Least Bittern was a good find at Little Creve Coeur on 9/12 (T Be). About 480 Great Egrets were seen near Jefferson Barracks Bridge on 9/12 (JZ, YH). On 9/12, there were 150 Great Egrets and 75 Snowy Egrets at the Mel Price Dam (FH). A somewhat early blue-phased Snow Goose was found at the JB Bridge on 9/12 (P&BJ). On 9/16 at Horseshoe Lake, there were 12 Green-winged Teal, 45 Blue-winged Teal and a Ruddy Duck (FH). Eight Turkey Vultures were eating stranded fish near the JB Bridge on 9/12 (T Be). Three migrating Bald Eagles and 7 Osprey were counted at Tyson on 9/21 (MP, DR). A Cooper's Hawk was seen at Busch CA on 9/4 (J Mo) and 2 were seen on the South Levee Road on 9/16 (JZ). Many Broad-winged Hawks were observed on 9/21 in the Kirkwood/Webster Groves area (MR, MH) and 182 were counted at Tyson (MP, DR). Two Red-shouldered Hawks, both juveniles, were observed along the South Levee Road on 9/16 (JZ). On 9/16 an immature Merlin was seen perched on a wire on the South Levee Road (JZ) and one was closely observed at Busch/Shorebird Area on 9/29 (J Mo). Two

local immature Peregrine Falcons were seen at Riverlands in late September (CA et al.).

On 9/12, 2 King Rails and Sora were seen at Watershed Park in Edwardsville (Irene Mondhink). The week of 9/12 Soras were seen area-wide. An immature Common Moorhen was observed at Little Creve Coeur on 9/25 (JM) and 3 were observed the next day (PJ). Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, 4 Am. Golden Plover, 1 juvenile Ruddy Turnstone, and 10+ Baird's Sandpipers were present near the JB Bridge on 9/11 (BK, T Bo, CA). Four Sanderlings were present at the Volcano/Mark Twain NWR on 9/19 (CM). Bill Ford located 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers on a mudflat near the JB Bridge on 9/13 and 1 was seen at the Volcano/Mark Twain NWR on 9/25 (P&BJ). Also on 9/25 there were 6 Long-billed Dowitchers at Riverlands (G&TB) and 1 was seen at Little Creve Coeur (MT). After Hurricane Floyd, 2 Jaegers appeared within days of each other at Carlyle Lake: a Parasitic Jaeger was found on 9/18 (J&CM, m. ob.) and a Long-tailed Jaeger was found on 9/22 (DK, m. ob.). These are remarkable finds for our area. A Franklin's Gull was seen at the Borrow Pit/Horseshoe Lake on 9/20 (T Be) and 8 Forster's Terns were observed at Horseshoe Lake on 9/6 (FH). A Barred Owl was observed by many in Tower Grove Park on 9/11 (T Bo et al.). Paul & Barbara Johnson had the high count for Nighthawks - 1,000 on 9/18 at Hwy. 40 and Mason Road.

There was a report of 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Busch CA on 9/14 (CD, YH). Wilma Kennell reported a Hairy Woodpecker in University City on 9/6. Twenty-five + Flickers were observed in Tower Grove Park on 9/29 (T Be). The earliest report of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was from Carlyle Lake on 9/23 (J Mo). Reports of *Empidonax*

Flycatchers were scarce. A Willow Flycatcher was seen in Tower Grove Park on 9/9 (T Be) and a Least Flycatcher and 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen there on the same day (JZ). Dan Kassebaum reported that he had no Empids this fall. Three hundred Tree Swallows were a good number on Red School Road on 9/8 (J Mo).

This is an irruption year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, with numerous sightings throughout the area. Torrey Berger found Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets on 9/29 in Tower Grove Park and Wilma Kennell also had them in her yard that day. Winter Wrens were first reported on 9/26 at Horseshoe Lake (FH) and many were observed in Tower Grove Park on 9/30 (JC, BK). Thirty Catbirds were seen in Tower Grove Park on 9/29 (T Be). The thrush migration was very slow, with just a scattering of reports for Swainson's Thrush throughout September. A Wood Thrush was reported on 9/15 in Tower Grove Park (BK) and 2 were seen there on 9/27 (T Be). Vireos were also scarce this fall, with 2 Blue-headed Solitary Vireos in Tower Grove Park on 9/21 (DR) and 2 Philadelphia Vireos in Jefferson County on 9/26 (MP). Two male Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen in the area: one on 9/9 at Tower Grove Park (JZ, JC, Mary Ann Auer) and the other on 9/29 in Eureka (PH). A somewhat late Prairie Warbler was found on 9/1 in Tower Grove Park and a Kentucky Warbler was found in Tower Grove Park on 9/10 (T Be). There was a Canada Warbler in DuSable Park on 9/2 (J Mo) and one in University City on 9/4 (RK). A Hooded Warbler was a very good find at his home on 9/17 (PH). Ovenbirds were steady throughout the month, but Black-and-whites were slow. On 9/10 a good species count included Blackburnian, Yellow-throated, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Black-throated Green, Cape May and others at the Stump Lake Access Road

(CM). Two Palm Warblers were seen at Parking Lot 3/Carlyle Lake on 9/18 (T Bo). On 9/25, Mike Thelen got a good look at a Connecticut Warbler at Little Creve Coeur - this warbler is rarely seen here in fall migration. The week on 9/12 several Scarlet Tanagers were seen across the area. On 9/29, 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were observed in Tower Grove Park (T Be). A Vesper Sparrow, somewhat early, was found at Carlyle Lake/Parking Lot 3 on 9/18 (T Bo). On 9/24, Kent Lannert flushed a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the same location.

Carlyle Lake (Dan Kassebaum): 15 species of warblers, Hazlet SP, on 9/12; Black-throated Blue Warbler (female) seen by Keith McMullen around 9/12; Dickcissel, Indigo Buntings and a few sparrows on 9/18; Yellow Warbler on 9/18; 2 Red Phalaropes at the Pavilion on 9/18; 5 Red-necked Phalaropes on 9/25 seen by Myrna Deaton; 15 Ruddy Turnstones, a fly-over, on 9/18; a tundra Peregrine Falcon on 9/18 (m. ob.); Merlin, Am. Pipit, and Savannah Sparrow on 9/18 seen by Leroy Harrison; and a possible immature Mourning Warbler on 9/25.

*Comments:* This fall's migration of landbirds has been exceptionally slow in most of the area. Many species were underrepresented or absent. Red-breasted Nuthatch is having a banner year. Eurasian Collared Doves are showing up in our area; according to Ken Kaufmann, they interbreed with Ringed Turtle Doves to produce hybrids. Very large Ringed Turtle Doves with darker primary feathers singing atypical songs have been reported. Jim Moorman had a Woodcock in his backyard for one and a half weeks in mid-September. Margie Richardson observed hummingbirds mating in her backyard in early September; it is unusual for any bird to mate out of season. Please report any albino hawks or unusual hawks to this column; also please

report any warblers, vireos, tanagers, etc. seen after Oct. 15 (except Yellow-rumps).

"Lastly, while strays may be interesting, what is really important is resident breeding populations and their conservation." Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg, referring to butterflies, but his comment is equally relevant to birds.

*Contributors:* Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, Torrey Berger, Tom Borman, Jean Cook, Cheryl & Don Delashmit, Peter Hoell, Frank Holmes, Margot Holsen, Yvonne Homeyer, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Bob Kleiger, Randy Korotev, Jim & Charlene Malone, Jeannie Moe, Mark Peters, David Rabenau, Margie Richardson, Mike Thelen, Helen Wuestenfeld, Jim Ziebol, many observers. ☺

## **Conservation Committee Report**

Yvonne Homeyer

Thanks to all of you who sent in the letter you found in last month's newsletter addressed to the Corps of Engineers urging them to strengthen their proposed revisions of regulations governing wetlands. We will keep you posted as to the outcome.

There is still time to voice your opinion concerning the Corps of Engineers' New Madrid Floodway project in southeast Missouri that would result in the destruction of 30,000 acres of wetlands, the largest tract of wetlands remaining in Missouri. Although the Corps will make the final decision, the Department of Conservation will give its input on the project. It is therefore important that we contact the Department of Conservation and let them know that we want to SAVE OUR WETLANDS. WGNSS wrote a letter to Mr. Conley, director of MDC, and received the following response: "I assure you that we will continue to monitor the project with an eye toward minimizing all impacts, should the project go forward. While the Conservation Commission has not taken a position for or against it, they feel that flood control for East Prairie can be

achieved without great harm to the wetlands and have urged the Corps of Engineers to study other alternatives." Please address your letter to:

Mr. Jerry M. Conley, Director  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P. O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102-0180

Wetlands are so important and are disappearing so fast that the National Audubon Society has created a Wetlands Campaign to stop their destruction. Check out their web site at:  
<http://www.audubon.org/campaign/wetlands>  
Nearly all waterfowl live in wetlands, and about 3/4 of them breed only in wetlands. Wetlands help control flooding along rivers and coasts by storing excess water; they also clean the water by removing pollutants and trapping sediment. "The loss of wetlands, as well as degradation, have greatly diminished our nation's wetlands resources; as a result, we no longer have the benefits they provided. The increase in flood damage, drought damage, and the declining bird populations are, in part, the result of wetlands degradation and destruction."

EPA,  
<http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/wetlands/vital/status.html>

Missouri and Illinois are 2 of 7 states that have lost more than 80% of their original wetlands.

Our new Legislative Task Force will be headed up by Dianne Benjamin. We are continuing to look into the problem of the millions of birds killed each year during migration by flying into lighted buildings or into towers and to see what can be done at a local level. This and other new projects are in the works. We are also reaching out to other groups to combine forces. Bill Brizzard of the Sierra Club attended last month's meeting. Bill is chair of the Conservation Committee of the Eastern

Missouri Group and a new WGNSS member.

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Yvonne Homeyer's, 1508 Oriole Lane in Brentwood (963-7750, email at [homeyer@postnet.com](mailto:homeyer@postnet.com)).

## Summer Botanizing

Carl Darigo

The regular Thursday Botany Group outings continued throughout the summer season, with the following attending one or more weeks, Father James Sullivan, Linda Barteau, Adrienne Biesterfeldt, Leonard Blake, Marvin Boisseau, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Jane Deschu, Elaine Fortner, Pat & Jack Harris, Karen Hencel, Sandra & Nels Holmberg, Judy Hunter, LuAnn Hunter, Dane Jespersen, Dottie Kroenung, Barbara Lawton, Joy & Rick Moll, Louise Langbein, Betty & Bob Nellums, Elaine Niederbremer, Tom O'Gorman, John Oliver, Martha Riley, Suzy & Dick Russell, Al Seppi, Jan Surbey, Kathy Thiele, Mark Tolcou, James Trager, Linda Virga, Bob Wells and Scott Woodbury.

June 3, Arnold Strawberry Creek Nature Area, Jefferson County—without researching the records, the 21, including newcomers LuAnn Hunter and Elaine Niederbremer, who toured the property owned by the city of Arnold on a summery 80° day, probably set a new botany trip attendance record. WGNSS member Mark Tolcou, who lives nearby, explained the history of the site before leading the tour. Abundant in various locations were *Penstemon digitalis* (smooth beard tongue), *Tradescantia ohiensis* (smooth spiderwort), *Verbesina helianthoides* (yellow crownbeard), *Bromus commutatus* (hairy chess) and *Carex hirsutella* (hirsute sedge). Appropriately named path rush (*Juncus tenuis*) covered the trails in many places. Some other interesting finds were *Lathyrus*

*hirsutus* (Caley pea), *Triodanis perfoliata* (perfoliate Venus' looking glass), *Cryptotaenia canadensis* (honestwort), *Phlox pilosa* (prairie phlox), *Agrostis hyemalis* (hair grass), *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *A. purpurascens* (purple milkweed) and *Thalictrum revolutum* (wax leaved meadow rue), the latter's identity still not positive after lengthy discussions. James Trager spotted a nest of exotic sidewalk ants (*Tetranorium sp.*) and Father Sullivan identified tortoise beetles (*Plagiometriona clavata*) on a *Physalis sp.* (ground cherry) plant plus colorful orange and black beetles (*Languria bicolor*) decimating *Cacalia atriplicifolia* (pale Indian plantain) leaves, which Jack Harris promptly named "two-tone beetles".

June 10, Ozark Trail, Claybaugh Creek Trailhead, Iron County—narrowly avoiding a late afternoon thundershower, 12 people traveled close to 100 miles to walk a portion of the Ozark Trail, which luckily was mostly shaded, alleviating the 85° muggy heat. Elaine Fortner, John Oliver and Linda Virga were welcomed back after long absences. Father Sullivan immediately spotted one of his favorite plants, *Scutellaria elliptica* (hairy skullcap). Some other interesting plants seen were *Lysimachia lanceolata* (lance leaf loosestrife), with flowers always facing the ground, *Thaspium barbinode* (hairy jointed meadow parsnip), *Ceanothus americanus* (New Jersey tea), *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive fern) and *Gillenia stipulata* (Indian physic), whose lowest leaves are much more pinnate than the upper leaves. Two grasses abundant along the trail were Bosc's panic grass (*Panicum boscii*) and forked panic grass (*P. dichotomum*). Pat Harris discovered the dried flower of *Aristolochia serpentaria* (Virginia snakeroot), hidden below the leaves, while back in the parking lot, Father Sullivan demonstrated the crown-like pointed lobes

below *Securigera varia*'s flower pedicels, source of the plant's common name, crown vetch.

June 17, Victoria Glade, Jefferson County—another large crowd of 19, including new attendees Linda Barteau, Karen Hencel and Martha Riley, toured this Nature Conservancy preserve in perfect 70° weather. French grass (*Orbexilum onobrychis*) was blooming near the entrance gate and along the entrance road were found Ohio horse mint (*Blephilia ciliata*), yellow crownbeard (*Verbesina helianthoides*), thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*) and prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*). Among plants seen on the glade were pasture rose (*Rosa carolina*), Missouri primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*), tickseed coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), finger coreopsis (*C. palmata*) and round-fruited St. John's wort (*Hypericum sphaerocarpum*). Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*) was in good form, some plants having unusual multiple flowering spikes. Three milkweeds were seen, butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), green milkweed (*A. viridiflora*) and whorled milkweed (*A. verticillata*). Meanwhile much discussion ensued concerning pale purple coneflower's (*Echinacea simulata*) recent name change.

June 24, Shaw Arboretum, Franklin County—19 persons, including first-timers Dane Jespersen and Dottie Kroenung, assembled to walk trails in vicinity of the Trail House on a pleasant 80° day. James Trager pointed out new American columbo (*Swertia caroliniensis*) leaves and explained that blooming would take 10 years, after which the plants die. Duplicating last week's trip, nice displays of pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea simulata*) and the same multi-spiked purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*) were seen. Other plants found included marbleseed (*Onosmodium molle*), wild potato vine (*Ipomoea pandurata*),



rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*), prairie dock (*S. terebinthinaceum*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) and hoary skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*).

July 1, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—eight people keyed a raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) plant brought by Dick Russell, in the visitor center, while waiting out a rain storm. On the paved trail near the old visitor center was found a grove of pawpaw trees (*Asimina triloba*), actually bearing fruit. Good displays of great Indian plantain (*Cacalia muhlenbergii*) and wood mint (*Blephilia hirsuta*) were seen. When some Ohio horse mint (*B. ciliata*) was found, Father Sullivan explained the difference in leaf structure of the two species. Later on, Father Sullivan spotted the shiny green Teucrium flea beetle (*Kuschelina gibbitarsa*) on wood sage (*Teucrium canadense*) plants.

July 8, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—14 hardy devotees braved 90°+ heat and confusing road construction to walk the trail southwest from the Pitman Hill Road access point. The hot day was perfect for bugs and butterflies, as Father Sullivan found heliopsis bugs (*Lygaeus turcicus*) on their favorite ox eye plants (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), while Jack Harris along with John Oliver spotted a great spangled fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*) butterfly and silver spotted skippers (*Epargyreus clarus*). Some interesting plants seen were good stands of *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), an enormous *Polymnia canadensis* (small flowered leaf cup) and a large flowering *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper) vine creeping over a broken black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) branch; Virginia creeper is not frequently seen in a flowering state. Father Sullivan pointed out the pulvinus mechanism on *Cercis canadensis* (eastern redbud) petioles, which turn the leaves away from direct sunlight, while Pat Harris

successfully identified a “test” peltate moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*) leaf. Trailside blackberries (*Rubus sp.*) proved a tasty treat, as well as riverbank grape (*Vitis riparia*), the fruits being enjoyed while the plant was being keyed.

July 15, Lone Elk Park, St. Louis County—13 persons, including Judy Hunter who joined the group for the first time, traversed parts of the Chubb Trail on a sunny day with temperatures in high 80's. Near the trail's beginning was a nice stand of *Vernonia baldwinii* (Baldwin's ironweed), and two *Cirsium* species, bull thistle (*C. vulgare*) and field thistle (*C. discolor*), which were compared in detail. The hairy, orange buds of prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americana*) drew comment, as well as *Viburnum rufidulum* (black haw) and *V. prunifolium* (southern black haw). Some other plants seen were *Geum canadense* (white avens), the less common *G. virginianum* (pale avens), *Hypericum perforatum* (common St. John's wort), *H. punctatum* (spotted St. John's wort), *Impatiens capensis* (spotted touch-me-not) and *Scutellaria incana* (downy skullcap). The group sampled very tasty blackberries (*Rubus pensilvanicus*), while Father Sullivan pointed out the small but noisy snowy tree cricket, which detects temperature changes.

July 22, Whiskey Creek Sheep Farm, Franklin County—eight people took advantage of Sandra & Nels Holmberg's invitation to tour their farm, in continuing hot, 90° weather. Near their property are numerous sandstone bluffs along St. John's Creek. Among plants seen were hog peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*), green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), prairie alum root (*Heuchera richardsonii*), hairy hawkweed (*Hieracium gronovii*), small flowered St. John's wort (*Hypericum mutilum*) and the non-native black bindweed (*Polygonum*

*convolvulus*). Ferns were especially numerous with the following being spotted, ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), rattlesnake fern (*Botrychium virginianum*), marginal shield fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) and common polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*). Non-plant finds were pearl crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes tharos*) and netwing beetle (*Calopteron terminale*). Nels asked about a tiny black and white beetle which he has seen on dogwood (*Cornus sp.*) leaves. Father Sullivan identified the insect as *Psyllobora vigintimaculata*, a common member of the lady beetle family (Coccinellidae), but could not determine what the insect was eating on the dogwood leaves.

July 29, Missouri Botanical Garden—temperatures approaching 100° lured eight people to a short outdoor walk, then the cool confines of the Ridgway Building to view the art show provided for the International Botanical Congress meeting. Plants seen included glorious daisy (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), the very rare groundnut (*Apios priceana*), the spiny Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*), related to our Hercules' club (*A. spinosa*) and a "test" fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), successfully identified by Jack Harris. Some native Missouri plants represented in the paintings were green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*), the common groundnut (*Apios americana*), trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), bur oak acorns (*Quercus macrocarpa*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).

August 5, Buder "Ladera" Property, Jefferson County—11 WGNSS members were led by Ben Knox and Dennis Hogan of St. Louis County Parks Department on a hot, 85° day, in conducting a plant survey of this property; three Open Space Council

personnel were also present. The 843 acre tract on Highway FF, southwest of the Young Conservation Area, is being investigated by several environmental agencies for possible purchase to save from development. Among interesting plants seen, mainly in the LaBarque Creek bottomland, were *Mimulus alatus* (sharpwing monkey flower), *Phlox paniculata* (perennial phlox), *Alisma subcordatum* (southern water plantain), *Carex lurida* (sallow sedge), *Stachys tenuifolia* (thinleaf betony), numerous leaves of *Saxifraga pensylvanica* (Forbes' saxifrage) and the uncommon *Mnium thomsonii* (small-cell woodsy moss). Higher on a ridge, Scott Woodbury saw walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) covering a sandstone ledge and Pat Harris spotted a fruiting ginseng plant (*Panax quinquefolius*).

August 12, Pickle Springs Natural Area, Ste. Genevieve County—four persons were lured by the rumor of plentiful rattlesnake plantain orchids (*Goodyera pubescens*) to tour the trail in 95° heat. The orchids were indeed present, as Jack Harris estimated at least 100 flowering plants being seen. Other significant finds were smooth false foxglove (*Aureolaria flava*), pineweed (*Hypericum gentianoides*), St. Andrew's cross (*H. hypericoides*) and American spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*) with large fruiting spikes and berries turning a shiny, translucent reddish color. Among the many ferns observed were resurrection fern (*Polypodium polypodioides*) and cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*).

August 19, Meramec State Park, Franklin, Washington & Crawford Counties—10 participants, accompanied by seasonal naturalists Bill Miles and Kelly Wells, traveled the Tri-County Trail along the Meramec River bottomlands on a pleasant 85° day. This trail offers access to three counties (Franklin, Washington and

Crawford) within a short walking distance. Bill showed the group a very large praying mantis while Father Sullivan pointed out a milkweed leaf beetle (*Tetraopes tetraophthalmus*), also aptly called “four-eyed beetle”. Nice displays were seen of *Verbesina virginica* (white crownbeard), *Rudbeckia laciniata* (goldenglow), *Hedyotis nigricans* (narrow leaved bluets), *Helenium flexuosum* (purple headed sneezeweed) and *Agalinis tenuifolia* (slender gerardia). Also found were *Desmodium cuspidatum* (longleaf tick clover), *Amphicarpaea bracteata* (hog peanut) the slender blossoms of *Euphorbia cyathophora* (painted leaf), the large *Tradescantia subaspera* (wide leaved spiderwort), *Oenothera laciniata* (cut-leaved evening primrose), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Panicum anceps* (beaked panic grass) and the still unripe fruit of *Prunus munsoniana* (wild goose plum). Near Beaver Spring Lake, foundation excavation for the defunct Meramec Dam, a mudflat harbored common cattail (*Typha latifolia*), narrow leaved cattail (*T. angustifolia*), tall burhead (*Echinodorus berteroi*), water purslane (*Ludwigia palustris*) and annual spike rush (*Eleocharis ovata*).

August 26, Lower Meramec Park, St. Louis County—13 people were pleasantly surprised to find good plant diversity, including many natives, while touring this bottomland site for the first time, on a warm 85° day; the group welcomed Kathy Thiele, part-time naturalist at Busch Conservation Area. Plant-of-the-day honors went to *Smallanthus uvedalius* (bearsfoot), with huge plants growing in abundance at one point along the trail. This species had recently been removed from the state Rare & Endangered list. Lush conditions accounted for several enormous plants, including 15 foot tall giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), as well as 12 foot horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*) and field

thistle (*Cirsium discolor*). Among many good finds were *Lobelia silphilitica* (blue cardinal flower), *L. cardinalis* (cardinal flower), *Ammannia coccinea* (longleaf toothcup), *Scutellaria lateriflora* (mad dog skullcap), *Spermacoce glabra* (smooth buttonweed), *Strophostyles helvula* (trailing wild bean) and *Samolus parviflorus* (water pimpernel). Some interesting sedges and grasses were *Carex frankii* (Frank’s sedge), *C. grayii* (spaceship sedge), *Paspalum repens* (horsetail paspalum) and *Dulichium arundinaceum* (three-way sedge). Father Sullivan’s plastic cards were useful for identifying pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) and hackberry (*Asterocampa celtis*) butterflies.

Thanks to Pat & Jack Harris for helping with this article. ∞

## **Ecuador Educator Trip - Exploring The Tropical Rainforest**

Jim Jordan

June 22 - July 5; appropriate for teachers of grades K-12, nonformal educators and interested adults. Trip cost—including round trip air fare from St. Louis: \$2,200. \$200 deposit requested by December 1st.

The Saint Louis Zoo, through Save The Rainforest and Fundacion Jatun Sacha, is offering a two-week travel program into one of the most diverse forest in the world. Jatun Sacha is a research station at the foot of the Andes Mountains on the banks of the Rio Napo River—head water tributary to the Amazon. The late Dr. Alwyn Gentry (MBG) recorded over 246 species of trees species per hectare at Jatun Sacha. Biologists have recorded 120 species of amphibians and reptiles, 485 species of birds and 765 butterfly species at the site.

This trip combines first hand experiences and encounters in the tropics with information and activity ideas that can

be incorporated into your curriculum to bring the global community closer to your students. Participants will learn about Jatun Sacha's conservation program, which encompasses community outreach, ethnobotany, reforestation and the expansion of the reserve. Participants will visit a Quichua Indian village for an overnight stay. Quichua guides will explain how they hunt, fish and garden in the forest. Demonstrations of the use of blowguns and local culture round out our stay.

The course begins with an incredibly scenic bus ride from Quito, Ecuador's capital, through a 13,000 foot pass in the Andes. There we'll see many spectacular waterfalls as we descend into the upper Amazon. Daily treks into the reserve's rainforest allow us to study of birds, insects, orchids, amphibians and reptiles, trees and other forest plants will be conducted during the course. The last two days of the course will consist of a leisurely return to Quito with stops at hot springs, views of volcanos and visits to highland Indian villages in the Andes.

Accommodations are at an adjacent ecotourist lodge with double occupancy rooms, facilities have electricity and indoor baths. Accommodations on the overnight visit to the Quichua Indian Village are simpler in a dormitory style lodge. Meals combine native cuisine with traditional American dishes. Transportation over the Andes Mountains by private bus to Jatun Sacha. A boat ride up the rivers and then a hike will take participants to the Quichua Indian village.

Three pre-trip meetings will be set up based on participant's schedules. Group size is limited to 20 participants. For more information and registration materials contact Jim Jordan at 781-0900, ext. 340. Jim Jordan, Associate Curator of Education Saint Louis Zoo

One Government Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
314-781-0900, ext. 340  
Fax: 314-768-5457 ~

### *St. Louis* nature line

Call 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Connie Alwood, 524-8111. ~



### **Next Deadline: Nov. 5**

Because November begins on a Monday, we have only two weeks between the day you receive *Nature Notes* and the next deadline. As I hope you know by now, *Nature Notes* is folded, labeled, etc. on the third Monday of each month, excluding June and July. The deadline for submissions is ten days prior to that. This allows time for typing, fomatting and copying.

Submissions may be handwritten, typed, or on disk—PC or Mac. Computer wizards: Thanks for sending a printout along with your disk. Send yours to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122. Or e-mail:

**[finearts@mail.stjosephacad.com](mailto:finearts@mail.stjosephacad.com)**

Last minute change? Short article? Call me: 965-8091; voice mail 965-7205, ext. 527 ~



### **our website**

<http://levee.wustl.edu/~rlk/wgnss/>

## *need directions?*

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### **Horseshoe Lk State Park**

- Take I-55/70 east to Hwy 111 exit.
- Turn left onto Hwy 111 and follow road to the entrance of the park on the left.
- Meet at the first parking lot to the right, just past the entrance.

### **Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area**

- From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Hwy. 367 north to Alton.
- Turn right into Riverlands at the Fisca service station, just before the approach to the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi River.
- Usual meeting place is Teal Pond parking lot.

### **St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters**

- The membership meets on the second Friday of the month, at 8:00 pm.
- All are welcome. Bring a friend!
- 1640 South Lindbergh in Frontenac. We usually meet on the East Rm.
- Take 40 to Lindbergh south, left at the second light into library.

### **West Co. Shopping Center**

- Located at 270 & Manchester.
- Meet at the south (lower) parking lot, near Penney's, at lamp post #1. ∞

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### **1998-9 WGNSS Board**

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# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

## meetings

### **Wednesday, Nov. 3**

7:15 PM Board meeting at Magner's:  
516 Bacon Ave., Webster Groves, 961-4588. All members welcome.

### **Friday, Nov. 12**

8:00 PM General meeting at St. Louis Co. Library HQ, Lindbergh just south of Clayton Road, in the West Meeting Rm: Dr. Robert B. Herrmann, Professor of Geophysics at SLU. He will present a discussion on the New Madrid Fault

## conservation

### **Tuesday, October 20**

7:00 PM at Yvonne Homeyer's, 1508 Oriole Ln. in Brentwood, 963-7750. Any member welcome.

### **Wednesday, Nov. 17**

7:00 PM at Yvonne Homeyer's.

## entomology

### **Sunday, October 24**

7:00 PM at Magner's, see above. Rich Thoma and Ted MacRae will discuss "The New Field of Biotechnology—Good or Bad?"

### **Sunday, November 21**

7:00 PM at Winkler's, 10 Covington Ln. (993-1652). Note date change to avoid Thanksgiving weekend. George will discuss progress in his effort to collect representative specimens of all the moths of Missouri.

## Nature Notes deadline

### **Nov. 5**

Send articles, announcements to: A McCormack, 587 Andrews Ave, St. Louis MO 63122 (965-8091) or: finearts@mail.stjosephacad.com

## botany

### **Thursdays in Oct. & Nov.**

Beginners welcome. Bring lunch, weather gear. Field trips usually meet at 9:30 AM; trip is normally 3–5 hr. plus travel time. Led by Fr. James Sullivan. Call Catherine Filla, 481-5298, after 5 PM Wed. for location.

## birding

Open to all. Bring binoculars. Call David Becher 576-1146 for more info.

### **Thursdays in Oct. & Nov**

8:30 AM West County shopping center, south lower lot behind Penney's, lamp post #1. Not on Thanksgiving.

### **Sat. Oct. 23, Nov. 6, 20 and Dec. 4**

8:00 AM Riverlands; meet at Teal Pond parking lot. Bring lunch.

### **Saturdays Oct. 30, Nov. 13, 27 and Dec. 11**

8:00 AM West County center (above).

### **Saturday, Nov 6**

8 AM–noon, WGNSS/Audubon trip to Horseshoe Lake State Park, Madison County, Ill. Contact Paul Bauer 314-921-3972 or Jim Malone 636-536-1119 for more info.

### **Sunday, Nov 21**


8 AM–noon, WGNSS/Audubon trip to Riverlands Environmental Demo. Area, St. Charles Co. Mo. Contact Paul Bauer or Jim Malone (above) for more info.

### **Saturday, Dec 11**

9 AM WGNSS/Audubon, Horseshoe Lk.

## wgnss website!

<http://levee.wustl.edu/~rlk/wgnss/>

 Webster Groves  
Nature Study Society  
PO Box 190065  
St. Louis MO 63119

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Membership: Linda Virga, 9734 Antonia Dr., St. Louis MO 63123

The objectives of the society are: To stimulate interest in nature study on the part of adults and children; to cooperate with other organizations in nature study; to encourage amateur research in the natural sciences; to promote conservation of wildlife and natural beauty. Open to all with an interest in nature.

**established in 1920**