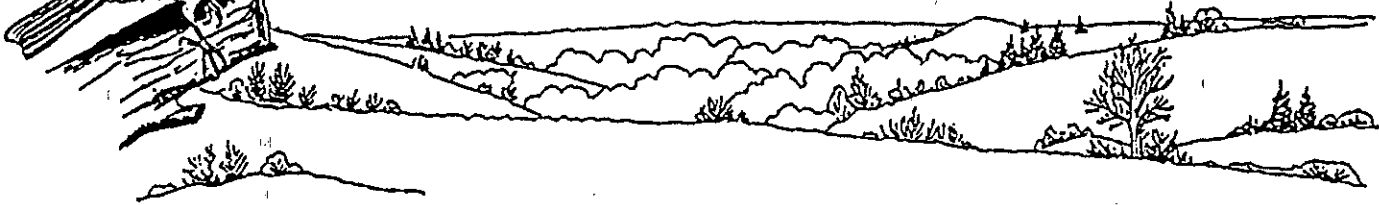




# Nature Notes



**314-935-8432** Call the Nature Line for meetings and bird sightings. [www.wgnss.org](http://www.wgnss.org)  
*Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society* May 2003 Vol. 75, No. 5

## May 1st Banquet

Yvonne Homeyer

Please join us for our Annual Banquet on Thurs., May 1 at Eden Commons. Jack and Pat Harris will be our featured speakers that evening. Their topic, including a slide presentation, is glades and glade plants. At the banquet, WGNSS will present a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award to Dorothy Heinze, one of WGNSS's founding members, who worked tirelessly for nature all her life. Albert Heinze, her husband, will accept the award. Two of Dorothy's major achievements are the preservation of Victoria Glade and the creation of Mastodon State Park. Contact Pat McCormick for reservations. Pat is, as always, doing a wonderful job of making the arrangements so we know everything will be fabulous! (See p. 2). ♡



## Coordinator's Report on Heritage Night

Jim Adams

As coordinator, I can report that Heritage Night, held at the Creve Coeur Community Center on Friday night, April 11, exceeded my expectations in every respect. I'm very grateful to the members of the WGNSS board and others who helped make the evening such a big success. The weather was perfect, and we had a record crowd. Pat McCormick and her helpers, Ann Earley and Marjorie Richardson, tended a well-stocked goodie bar and no one left hungry.

Mayor Welch of Webster Groves was present and presented a proclamation by the City Council which congratulated the Society on its 83rd birthday and stated that, "The society's members have made contributions of immeasurable value by documenting the flora, fauna, and other natural phenomena of the state

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Spring Banquet

May 1

Eden Seminary Commons

in Webster Groves












**WGNSS Spring Banquet on May Day!**

Pat McCormick

May Day was historically a phrase of celebration, the welcome of flowers and the promise of renewal. We're planning to celebrate the return of flowers on May 1, 2003, at the annual Webster Groves Nature Study Society Spring Banquet in Eden Seminary Commons, Lockwood and Bompert Avenues in Webster Groves. A plant sale will begin at 5:45. Orders for butterfly/ hummingbird plants have already been placed, but there will be a limited number of plants—including Mexican Sage—for you impulse buyers. Social hour will begin at 5:45 PM with a buffet served at 6:45 catered by Hendri's.

Pat and Jack Harris, well-known botanists and members of our society, will present slide photos of Missouri glades and talk about the significance of this unique Missouri landscape.

-  5:45 social and plant sale
-  6:45 dinner buffet
-  8:00 Pat and Jack Harris, speakers
-  Reservations by April 25
-  Make checks payable to WGNSS
-  Cost: \$20 per person
-  Your check will confirm your reservation.
-  Tear off the slip on this page & send with your name & address to:
-  Pat McCormick  
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.  
Ballwin, MO 63021

**Reservations due 4/25.**







Spring Banquet reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$20 per person = \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Dates for '03 Meetings

-  Thurs., May 1, Spring Banquet Eden Seminary, Webster, 5:45 social and plant sale, 6:45 buffet
-  Thurs., Sept. 18, St. L. Co. L-HQ 7:00 PM
-  Tues., Oct. 7, St. L. Co. L-HQ 7:00 PM
-  Thurs., Nov. 20, St. L. Co. L-HQ 7:00 PM

## Butterflying Anyone?

WGNSS members are invited to a Butterfly Walk sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA-St. Louis) on Sunday, April 27, 11:00 AM at Valley View Glade. Ron Goetz will be the leader. Bring binoculars, field guide, water, and lunch. NABA uses sight identification techniques rather than netting or collecting. Option #1: From I-270 and Tesson Ferry Road (Hwy. 21), go south on Hwy. 21 for 26 miles to Hwy. B on the south side of Hillsboro. Turn right (west) onto Hwy. B at traffic signal and travel (west) approx. 5 miles to Valley View Glade parking lot on your right. Option #2: From I-270 and Gravois Road (Hwy. 30), travel south/west on Hwy. 30 for approx. 20 miles to Hwy. B. Turn left (east) at traffic signal onto Hwy. B. Continue for approx. 6 miles to Valley View Glade parking lot on your left. Special Caution: Do not turn onto Hwy. BB. Go past BB and look for B, which is the road you want. ☞

## Next Deadline: May 9

Submissions—handwritten or typed, e-mail, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or amccormack@stjosephacad.org

Incidentally, if you're doing your article on a computer anyway, and it's more than one page in length, why not send me the disk or e-mail it so I don't have to retype? ☞

## International Migratory Bird Week Celebration

### May 4–11, 2003

The following is a listing of the special events that are happening around the St. Louis area in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Week. Some of the programs require reservations. All programs are free of charge. Bring binoculars to bird walks, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for spring weather conditions. Walks are geared at all experience levels, and beginning birders are especially encouraged to attend.

### Sunday, May 4

Birding in Tower Grove Park, St. Louis Audubon 7:30 AM

Tower Grove Park is historically known as one of the best migrant "traps" in the urban area and offers views of numerous species of warblers. Meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden at the northwest corner of the park. Call Jim Malone at 636-536-1119 for more information. All ages and beginners welcome.

### Thursday, May 8

Bird walk at the Green Center 8:30 AM  
The bird walk will explore The Green Center's learning/demonstration gardens, a half-acre prairie, a restored wetland, and the 26-acre Ruth Park Woods. Meet in front of The Green Center's 1932-era home in University City's Kaufman Park at 8025 Blackberry Avenue 63130. Park in front of Kaufman Park's tennis courts. To register or for more information contact The Green Center by mail at the above address, by e-mail at info@thegreencenter.org, or call Dianne Benjamin, Program Director, 314-725-8314. Ages 10 and older recommended.

### Friday, May 9

Bird Walk at Washington University's Tyson Research Center 8:30 AM  
Come explore the meadows and oak-hickory woodlands of this hilly karst-dominated landscape in southwest St. Louis County. A series of springs and constructed ponds provide aquatic habitats. Meet at the gatehouse entrance located at the northwest corner of the Beaumont-Antire exit off of I-44. For more in-

formation, contact Dave Larson, Field Station Manager, at 314-935-8433.

### **Saturday, May 10**

Migratory Bird Discovery Day Zoo's Living World Center 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM sponsored by St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Audubon, Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Do you want to know more about wild birds, birding, and bird awareness? Activities and demonstrations feature bird identification, birds' adaptation to their habitats, best locations to see birds, feeding and housing for wild birds, proper care for injured and orphaned wild birds, a chance to meet live birds from the zoo, and bird activities for kids. No reservations required; stop by anytime. For more details, call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166.

### **Saturday, May 10**

North American Migration Count, various starting times

Every year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of May, Partners in Flight sponsors the North American Migration Count. The goal is to monitor Neotropical migrant birds over the long term to look for trends in population, range, and migratory patterns. The count is very similar to the Christmas Bird Count. Our goal is to cover as many locations in St. Louis City, St. Louis Co. and St. Charles Co. as possible. The more volunteers we get, the more places we can count. For more information or to take part in one of the counts, contact St. Louis City compiler, Yvonne Homeyer - 314-963-7750, St. Louis County compiler, Zoe Geist - 636-467-5030, or St. Charles County compiler, Paul Bauer - 314-921-3972. See page 5.

### **Sunday, May 11**

Birding at Kennedy Woods, St. Louis Audubon & Webster Groves Nature Study Society 7:30 AM Kennedy Woods in Forest Park is one of the best places in the area to observe warblers and other spring migrants. Trails provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation make this area more accessible to groups. Help provided for beginners. Meet at the Kennedy Woods trailhead on Wells Drive (west of the south Zoo entrance). Contact Jim Malone at 636-536-1119 for more information. All ages welcome. ☺

## **Bird Fatalities & Lighted Buildings - Request for Volunteers**

Sue Gustafson

We're once again looking for volunteers to survey for bird fatalities related to collisions with lighted buildings during the peak of spring migration, the first two weeks of May. WGNSS and St. Louis Audubon members have surveyed downtown buildings for the last several years and fortunately have found a low number of bird fatalities, as compared to other large cities. Therefore, depending upon volunteer response, this year we may look at buildings in "downtown" Clayton or possibly at the bases of tall communication towers. This requires one or two mornings (6 AM to around 8 AM) during the two-week survey period. Members of the St. Louis Rainforest Advocates will also be volunteering with us this year. As in years past, our findings will be reported to the US Fish & Wildlife Service and will assist us in discussing this issue with building owners. For more information or to volunteer to participate, contact me at 314-968-8128 or at <smgustafson@juno.com> ☺

## **MDC Thanks WGNSS for Busch Breeding Bird Survey**

Yvonne Homeyer

John Vogel, Wildlife Management Biologist at Busch Wildlife, sent WGNSS the following thank-you letter for our ongoing bird survey:

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Webster Groves Nature Study Society for conducting the Breeding Bird Survey work on the August A. Busch Memorial and Weldon Spring Conservation Areas. Without assistance from groups such as WGNSS, our staff would have a difficult time completing Breeding Bird Surveys each year. Thank you for providing us with data from the past 4 years of survey work. I look forward to seeing the results from the upcoming season."

We appreciate MDC's comments and look forward to conducting the survey again this year. ☺

## **"Partners in Flight" Sponsors the N. American Migration Count**

Dear Birders,

Every year on the second Saturday of May, Partners in Flight sponsors the North American Migration Count. The goal is to monitor Neotropical migrants over the long term to look for trends in population, range, and migratory patterns.

This year, WGNSS and St. Louis Audubon are teaming up to make the PIF count the biggest one the St. Louis area has ever had. To do that, we need people to act as both count leaders and count participants. Our goal is to cover as many locations in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County as possible, so the more volunteers, the more places we can count.

The count date will be Saturday, May 10. This event will be promoted as one of the activities taking place during International Migratory Bird Week from May 4-11. The theme for this year's International Migratory Bird Week is "Birds: Catalysts for Conservation."

Leaders will be responsible for several things: 1) getting volunteers to help at that location—we will be working with you on this task; 2) organizing the volunteer participants on the morning of the count and explaining the count procedures; 3) preparing a form tallying the totals of the birds/species counted by the volunteers; and 4) turning in the count results for the whole location to the county compiler. The PIF Count is run the same way a Christmas Count is and the count reporting form looks similar, with volunteers being asked to keep track of party numbers, party hours by car, party hours on foot, etc. Participants would survey a part of the count area in cooperation with the count leader, who would assign territories. This could be worked out ahead of time or on the morning of the count.

*We would like to invite you to take part in the May 10 count as a count leader or a count participant.* Please list your top 3 location preferences and whether you would like to be a leader or a participant (see list below/on reverse). If several of you want to do a count at the same location, please make a note of that. Large areas like Busch need many volunteers.

We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. Contact any one of us if you have questions. Thank you!  
The NAMC Committee:

Yvonne Homeyer, City of St. Louis Compiler  
(314) 863-3321 office (314) 963-7750 home,  
<[homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net)>

Sue Gustafson, Int'l. Migratory Bird Week Coordinator, (314) 968-8128, <[smgustafson@juno.com](mailto:smgustafson@juno.com)>

Zoe Geist, St. Louis County Compiler, (636) 467-5030, <[zoebirding@aol.com](mailto:zoebirding@aol.com)>

Paul Bauer, St. Charles County Compiler, (314) 921-3972, <[bauerbird5511@msn.com](mailto:bauerbird5511@msn.com)>

**Count Locations – Leaders/Participants Needed:** Castlewood (Mike Brady, leader), Little Creve Coeur Lake, Creve Coeur Lake, Babler (Zoe Geist, leader), Rockwoods, Tyson, Forest 44, Spanish Lake Park (Tom Parmeter, leader), Riverlands (Mike Flieg, leader), Busch Wildlife & Weldon Springs (Paul Bauer and David Rogles, leaders; Paul & Barbara Johnson – Lost Valley Trail), Marais Temps Clair, the Orchard Farm area, Tower Grove Park (Jeannie Moe and Sherry McCowan, leaders), Forest Park (Randy Korotev, leader), Carondelet Park (Jim Ziebol, leader), Route 66 State Park (Blaine & Janet Ulmer, leaders).

*Many participants* will be needed for the larger locations such as Busch and Weldon Springs Conservation Areas. ♡

### **Call the Nature Line!**

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Sherry McCowan, 314-664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature Line recording. ♡

# March 2003 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LCCL = Little Creve Coeur Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

TGP = Tower Grove Park

**Sightings:** Horned Grebes, 2 Mute Swans and Bonaparte's Gulls were highlights seen by the WGNSS group at HL on 3/16 (JE, leader). On 3/30, Frank Holmes found an Eared Grebe at HL (photo; video JZ; m. ob.). About 150 White Pelicans were present at HL on 3/2 and about 300 were seen at Canteen Lake on 3/30 (FH). Anne McCormack saw two groups of White Pelicans in flight: 50 near I-270 and Dougherty Ferry on 3/18, and 150 over Meramec Community College on 3/23. Early heron/egret sightings included Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Wilson Park, Granite City, on 3/20 (FH), Black-crowned Night Heron near HL on 3/23 (FH), Little Blue Heron at Sauget Marsh and Frank Holten SP on 3/23 (KM), Great Egret at HL on 3/8 (SM), and Cattle Egret near HL on 3/23 (WGNSS Group, J&NS, leaders). A White-faced Ibis was first seen at Clarence Cannon on 3/23 (T Be, CA, T Bo). Jackie Chain and the Thursday WGNSS Group located a Sandhill Crane at Clarence Cannon, along with several N. Harriers. On 3/2, 6 Mute Swans were seen at Clifton Terrance (Tom Fuller); these swans may have been present in February at Winfield Lock and Dam (SS). The first Blue-winged Teal report came from Eagle Park on 3/7 (SM). On 3/8, Goeran Bylund and Jurek Majka found a Cinnamon Teal, along with hundreds of White-fronted Geese and thousands of Pintails, at Clarence Cannon. Three Greater Scaup were among the ducks seen at LCCL on 3/31 (MT). A Surf Scoter was reported at West Alton on 3/6 (G&TB) and one at REDA on 3/20 (CM). On 3/7, 2 first-winter White-winged Scoters were first seen at West Alton (JU, m. ob.). Margy Terpstra and Tina Weyman found one male and two female Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw) at REDA on 3/10. On 3/5 at HL, Torrey Berger counted 100+ White-fronted Geese, 1,000+ Mallards, 500+ Pintails, 200+ Gadwall, 9 Wigeon, 8 Red-head, 100+ Ring-necked, 4 Greater Scaup,

1,000+ Lesser Scaup, 25 Goldeneye, 8 Bufflehead, 100+ Common Merganser, 25 Red-breasted Mergansers, and 100+ Canvasbacks. Frank Holmes counted 185 White-fronted Geese, 450 Ruddy Ducks and many Coots at HL on 3/8. Indian Lake, formerly the Collinsville Rd. Golf course, is an excellent natural wetlands; on 3/31, there were 18 Hooded Mergansers, 100 Blue-winged Teal, 25 Green-winged Teal, and 15 N. Shovelers (T Be). About 750 White-fronted Geese were seen at Prairie Slough in early March (SS). First sightings for shorebirds included Am. Golden Plover in St. Charles Co. on 3/22 (JE), Killdeer on 3/2 (FH), Pectoral Sandpipers at REDA on 3/4 (JE), Lesser Yellowlegs at REDA on 3/15 (JU), Snipe at Winfield Lock & Dam on 3/13 (NB), and several Willets at REDA on 3/27 (Tom Fuller). On 3/31, Dan Kassebaum saw 3,000 Pecs, Dunlin, and Stilt Sandpiper at CL. He states that the habitat at CL is very good for shorebirds. On 3/30, Paul Bauer found 20+ Am. Golden Plover at REDA. In the past, Golden Plover had been seen in much larger numbers.

The white-winged nominate race of Iceland Gull was seen at REDA on 3/1 (JM et al.); this gull is rarely seen away from Greenland. Jim Malone also found an adult Thayer's Gull at REDA on 3/14. On 3/22, 2 first-winter Great Black-backed Gulls and 2 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls remained at REDA (DB, m. ob.). Gail Ahumada observed 2 Cooper's Hawks harassing a Great Horned Owl on 3/17 in TGP. On 3/25, an immature N. Goshawk was observed in FP (T Be). A Krider's Red-tailed Hawk was found at LCCL on 3/30 (J&NS, T Be). Several dark morph Red-tails were reported, including a rufous morph at BCA on 3/15 (MT), a Harlan's Hawk in St. Charles Co. on 3/16 (CM), a Harlan's at HL on 3/23 (J&NS), and a dark morph on the Levee Roads on 3/29 (JZ). Nick Barber observed several raptors in active migration over TGP on 3/15: 1 Bald Eagle, 1 N. Harrier, and 9 Red-tails including one dark morph individual. A Whip-poor-will at the home of Mark Peters on 3/24 was a very early migrant. A Pileated Woodpecker was a rare find at HL on 3/8 (FH) and Hairy Woodpecker seen on 3/31 in TGP is uncommon (SM). An E. Phoebe was reported near Elsay, IL on 3/2 (CA) and Phobes were seen across the area by 3/12. Early swallow

sightings were: Tree Swallow at HL on 3/8 (J&CM), N. Rough-winged on 3/20 at Castlewood (MB), Purple Martin on 3/22 at BCA (MT), and Barn Swallow at HL on 3/23 (JZ). Sherry McCowan reported Ruby-crowned Kinglet in FP on 3/24. The first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was reported at Castlewood on 3/24 (MB). A Fish Crow was found at Castlewood on 3/11 (G&TB). Charlene Malone observed a Loggerhead Shrike on Huster Road, St. Charles Co., on 3/24. A Gray Catbird was found at Sunset Park on 3/6 (KP). Kraig also found 9 Bluebirds and a Hermit Thrush at Spanish Lake Park on 3/7. Am. Pipit was first seen on 3/13 at REDA (JU) and 100 were seen on Bischoff Road on 3/14 (BW).

Early warbler reports included Black-and-White in Clinton Co., IL on 3/16 (DK), Yellow-throated at Castlewood on 3/30 (MB), Pine at Hawn SP on 3/9 (MAA), and Louisiana Waterthrush at Castlewood on 3/20 (MB). Sparrow sightings included LeConte's and Swamp on 3/12 and a Lincoln's on 3/16 at Epstein Prairie (MB), Chipping and a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Rockwoods on 3/15 (MT), Vesper at Clarence Cannon on 3/16 (DR), and up to 4 Harris's Sparrows at Weldon Springs' Blue Grosbeak Trail throughout the month (MT). Jack Cowan found a female Oregon Junco on 3/11 at TGP. On 3/12, Sherry McCowan found Towhees in TGP. Blackbirds seen in the area included Rusties in Chesterfield Valley on 3/9 (MAA), Rusty & Brewer's at REDA on 3/13 (NB), and Rusties at HL on 3/14 (FH). The WGNSS Group on 3/2 found Purple Finch, a female Towhee, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at BCA (MT, leader). On 3/22, the WGNSS Group observed Red-shouldered Hawk, Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Vesper Sparrow and Surf Scoter (DB, leader). On 3/23, another WGNSS Group found 2 Mute Swans, Cattle Egret, 16 species of ducks, Fish Crow, and melanistic Kestrel in the HL area (J&NS, leaders). The Kestrel was re-found on Bend Road on 3/25 (JZ).

A typical day at Riverlands and Horseshoe Lake on 3/15 included Loggerhead Shrike, 20+ Pipits, Brewer's Blackbirds, Killdeer, Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw), White-winged Scoter, Pied-billed Grebe, Tree Swallow, and 19 species of ducks (WGNSS Group, DB, leader). A typical day at Horseshoe Lake on 3/23 included 21 Horned Grebes, 30 White Pelicans, 8 Double-

crested Cormorants, 6 Black-crowned Night Herons, 1 Mute Swan, 20 White-fronted Geese, 300 Wigeon, 1,000+ N. Shoveler, 500+ Ruddy Ducks, 200 Lesser Scaup, 5,000+ Coots, and Fish Crow (FH, JZ). A typical day at TGP on 3/26 included 3 Brown Creepers, 5 Brown Thrashers, 18 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 27 N. Flickers, 4 Bluejays, 8 Fox Sparrows, 6 White-throated Sparrows, a Song Sparrow, 1 Towhee, 1 Hermit Thrush, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (T Be); Torrey did not observe a single Crow and the numbers of birds he did see are low except for the Sapsuckers.

*Comments:* Frank Holmes reported nesting Eurasian Collared Doves in Granite City and a Cooper's Hawk nest in Wilson Park. On 3/2, Jeannie Moe observed a Cooper's Hawk eating a Cowbird near her home. Connie Alwood saw a Great Horned Owl in his yard on 3/14. A Savannah Sparrow was an interesting bird in Jim Ziebol's back yard on 3/16. Dennis Bozzay found 2 Cooper's Hawks along River Des Peres Drive. Linda Yust identified a Hermit Thrush in her yard. Ron Goetz saw a male Oregon Junco in his yard most of the winter. On 3/7, Woodcocks were displaying near the home of Cheryl & Don Delashmit in Franklin Co. A Eurasian Collared Dove was present in Jack Cowan's yard during March. Wilma Kennell found Hairy Woodpecker and 3 N. Flickers in her yard. Paul and Barbara Johnson observed Phoebe, Brown Thrasher and Brown Creeper in their yard in March, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler visited their feeder throughout the winter. Paul Bauer saw a Eurasian Tree Sparrow building a nest in a wren house with a 1 1/8 inch hole. Clarence Zacher observed an apparent Ferruginous Hawk on 2/17 flying over his home in Webster Groves.

*Contributors:* Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Jack Cowan, Cheryl & Don Delashmit, Joe Eades, Frank Holmes, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Wilma Kennell, Jurek Majka, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Keith McMullen, Kraig Paradise, David Rogles, Scott Schuette, John & Nancy Solodar, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Bruce Wetteroth, Tina Weyman, Clarence Zacher, Jim Ziebol. An asterisk means "documented." Please submit sightings by the

last day of the month to Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or Yvonne Homeyer  
<[homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net)> ☞

## Report on Heritage Night

Continued from page one of Missouri, through field studies and observations, contributions which have been recorded in the numerous books and publications that have brought distinction to the society." Mayor Welch also invited those present to visit the Bird Sanctuary in Blackburn Park once the planned renovation is complete. The renovation, which will be financed by a \$10,000 gift from WGNSS, will honor Phoebe Snetsinger, a distinguished birder, WGNSS member, and Webster Groves resident. This proclamation will be on display at the WGNSS annual meeting on May 1.

Most of the living past-presidents of WGNSS were present and made brief comments. One past-president, Helen Hill (1966-67), traveled to the meeting from Bourbon, Missouri. Another, Jim Curtis (1985-87), sent his regrets from Fairfax, Virginia. Likewise, many of the authors of books on natural history subjects in recent years were present and introduced. A display of books by these writers attracted much attention and many expressed surprise there were so many books. Regrettably, we identified additional books by WGNSS writers after we went to press with the Heritage Night program booklet, so the list in the program booklet is not as complete as I would have liked.

A notable event of the evening was the "Reflections" speeches made by seven veteran members, representing in the aggregate possibly 250 years of WGNSS membership. These talks were intensely personal and heart-warming, largely biographical in nature. All speakers had interesting explanations of how, when and why they had joined WGNSS and the personal benefits accruing from a lifetime avocation of natural history observation and studies. The common denominator was that all of them began to make nature observations while very young and have continued this process of observation and learning to the present day.

With Marjorie Richardson and Father Sullivan it began with their curiosity about their

childhood surroundings, Marjorie in a rural location and Father Sullivan in an urban environment. Marjorie was hooked on birding early on. Father Sullivan, working slowly and systematically with the help of nature guides from a local library, used the structural keys to identify plants in the back yard of his home. It was a struggle at first, but the more species he identified, the easier it became. Later, he tackled entomology, using the same methodical approach, and acquired a second skill. He now heads up the WGNSS Botany Group, succeeding notables such as Julian Steyermark, and sometimes reports a new insect for Missouri at Entomology Group meetings. Karen Haller also began young and continued to pursue her interests in botany. She eventually wrote a successful book about wildflowers of the area and showed slides that she has taken along the way since joining WGNSS about 1965.

Dick Coles followed a different path, getting a formal education by earning a Ph.D. in Ornithology from Harvard, which eventually led to the formation, under his leadership, of Washington University's Tyson Research Center. He headed this Research Center for 20 years and recently retired. Introducing Dick, President Homeyer surprised him by telling him that because of his invaluable service to WGNSS over the years, the society has made a contribution to an endowment fund recently established by the Friends of Tyson in his honor. The income from this endowment fund will be used to provide scholarships for students in the natural science area.

Jim Jackson, a past-president, also developed an early interest in nature and has continued the process of self-education for many years, as he so eloquently told us. He has written several interesting and informative books about the makeup of trees and about rivers.

Walter Liddell lived on a farm in his early years and became interested in outdoor pursuits quite early, including hunting and bird watching. When he was quite young, he observed and photographed an owl that he identified from a bird guide as a Burrowing Owl, only to be told by knowledgeable birders that this could not be, because the Burrowing Owl isn't found in Missouri. He accepted this judgement without question because he respected his elders. Not until years later when he presented a slide show of birds photo-



graphed over the years, these respected elders, seeing his owl picture for the first time, conceded that he had seen a Burrowing Owl—the first sighting of this bird in Missouri since 1902. Walter has become an expert photographer of birds, photographing on most continents, including Antarctica.

Marshall Magner, the dean of the veteran speakers, became active with WGNSS in 1925. His participation was arranged with his parents by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Satterthwait, founders of WGNSS. The Satterthwaits, a childless couple with strong interest in young people, had heard the young Marshall was very interested in natural history and became his mentors. Marshall subsequently became the head of a WGNSS youth group that flourished under his leadership. With the passage of time, many of these young people paired up and married. Marshall married Ernestine and attended college, where he studied entomology and began a career with Monsanto. This led to his leadership of WGNSS Entomology Group, a position he has held for many years. During his long association with WGNSS, he has become knowledgeable in most areas of the natural sciences and has helped many individuals and organizations as a consultant.

At this point I'd like to interject some reminiscences of my own, prompted by the mention of Edgar Denison by several of the speakers. Edgar, a long-time WGNSS member and Kirkwood resident died fairly recently. Regrettably, he did not live long enough to appear on our speaker panel. He authored the widely-used field guide *Missouri Wildflowers*, several editions of which have been published by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. On two occasions during the mid-seventies, the Denisons and other members of the WGNSS Botany Group visited our country place in Madison County in the granitic St. Francois Mountains. In addition to the Denisons, the visiting group included some of the people present on Heritage Night. Those I can remember were the Nellums, the Molyneauxs (now deceased), Karen Haller, Father Sullivan, and the Liddells. The group visited our place because I had told John Molyneaux that we had some rare plants on the property, including the very rare purple fringeless orchid (*Habenaria peamoena*) and the uncommon pink-root (*Spigelia marilandica*). Fortunately the plants were in glorious bloom

when they visited, and all were happy and took many pictures. On the first visit, Edgar gave me a special thrill when he climbed up the face of a granite cliff in the Marble Creek shut-ins, located on the property, stood on a ledge, and yodeled loudly. After he descended he told the group that he had yodeled as a youngster in Switzerland and couldn't resist the urge. On the second visit, Edgar and I walked alone together through Marble Creek canyon because he wanted to do a little exploring. As we walked, he explained the geology of the area—he was an accomplished amateur geologist as well as botanist. At one point, I offered to help him climb over a large boulder blocking our path, but he declined, telling me that when he could no longer get along on his own, he would stop making trips like this. I admired the spirit of this wiry little man.

But "getting back to the ranch," a social period followed the talks by the WGNSS veterans, during the social period attendees socialized and looked at the displays of books by WGNSS authors and historical items illustrating the long history of WGNSS. There was also an attendance prize contest during this period in which attendees voted for the most decrepit hiking boots on display and the most used nature guide. These activities turned out to be very successful mixers, bringing together people who hadn't seen each other for a long time. Winner of the two first prizes were Blaine Ulmer and Yvonne Homeyer—to her surprise. Because of some generous donations, numerous lesser prizes were also awarded by drawing names out of a hat.

In spite of all that happened this evening, we successfully closed up shop and were out of the meeting room only five minutes after our permit expired at 9:30. It was a great evening, with both serious and fun components. I'm looking forward to the next such meeting, as I'm sure after seeing the enthusiasm demonstrated this evening that WGNSS will be around for many more years, tending our small piece of planet Earth. John Muir would have enjoyed this wonderful evening. ♡

## Call the Nature Line!

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Sherry McCowan, 314-664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature Line recording. ☞

## Key to WGNSS Calendar

### *birding field trip*

each Thurs. 8:00 AM— call Jackie Chain 314-664-5998

most Sat. 8 AM (not June or July):  
call David Becher 314-576-1146

most Sundays: call Kent Lannert 618-624-4464

### *summary of the latest bird sightings*

Call Tyson Nature Line: 314-935-8432

### *to report a bird sighting*

To include a sighting on the "Nature Line" phone message, call Sherry McCowan, 314-664-2381.

To submit a report to the *Nature Notes* bird column, call Jim Ziebol at 314-781-7372 or email Yvonne at [homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net) by the last day of the month.

### *board meeting*

1st Wed. 7 PM Sept.–May at Powder Valley:  
Yvonne Homeyer 314-963-7750

### *botany field trip*

each Thurs: call Fr. Sullivan 314-291-7885

### *conservation meeting*

3rd Wed: call Yvonne Homeyer 314-963-7750

### *entomology meeting*

last Sun: call Marshall Magner 314-961-4588

### *general meeting*

7:00 PM Mike Flieg 314-645-3356

### *mailing party for Nature Notes*

3rd Mon. (not June/July) 10 AM:  
call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974

### *spring banquet*

Thursday May 1 at Eden Seminary in  
Webster. Pat McCormick 636-225-0264

*Big Day birding competition* May 10

## Nature Notes Deadlines & Mailings

Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes Kirkwood

### *mailing party*

Mon. 4/21 10–1

Mon. 5/19 10–1

Mon. 8/18 ? Fri. 8/8

Mon. 9/15 10–1

Mon. 10/20 10–1

Mon. 11/17 10–1

Mon. 12/15 10–1

### *NN deadline*

Fri. 4/11

Fri. 5/9

Fri. 9/5

Fri. 10/10

Fri. 11/7

Fri. 12/5

### *Nature Notes deadlines*

10 days prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: call Anne  
McCormack 314-965-8091

[amccormack@stjosephacad.org](mailto:amccormack@stjosephacad.org)

### *membership expires/renewal due*

Aug. 31

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## Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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 ☞.

## 2002-03 WGNSS Board

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**www.wgnss.org**

# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area.

## Meetings

### Wednesday May 7

7 PM Board meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center. All members are welcome.

### Thursday May 1

6:45 PM Annual Banquet at Eden Commons, Lockwood and Bompert in Webster. Social hour will begin at 6 PM with a buffet served at 6:45. Register by April 25.

## Botany

### Thursday April–August

Field trips usually meet 9:30 AM. Beginners welcome. Bring lunch, weather gear. Trip is usually 3–5 hr. plus travel time. Call Fr. Sullivan 291-7885 after 1 PM Wed for location. E-mail is sent every Wed. advising when and where the field trip is scheduled. To receive, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris jahar@mac.com

## Entomology

### Sunday, April 27

11:00 AM at Valley View Glade—Butterfly walk sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. Ron Goetz will be the leader. Bring binoculars, field guide, water, and lunch.

### Sunday April 27

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Chris Brown will bring us up to date on the status of the Saline Spring Tiger Beetle in Missouri.

## Join WGNSS

Send \$20 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132

## Nature Notes deadline May 9

[www.wgnss.org](http://www.wgnss.org)

## Birding

### Thursdays April–August

8:00 AM Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Questions: call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998.

### Saturday April 26

8 AM Tower Grove Pk., meet at first picnic spot west of stables. D. Becher above.

### Saturday April 26

7:30 AM w St. L. Audubon at Shaw Nature Reserve/Robertsville SP. All-day hike. Entrance fee \$3. Jim Malone, 636-536-1119 or <stlaud@surfbest.net> for more info.

### Sunday April 27

8 AM at parking lot at Lost Valley (Busch) with Nancy and Dale Delaney.

### Saturday May 3

8 AM Castlewood State Park. Meet near boat launch. D. Becher 576-1146.

### Sunday May 4

7:30 AM–noon Tower Grove w/St. L. Audubon. Meet at Bird Garden, NW corner of park.

### Thursday May 8

8:30 AM Bird walk at the Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Ave. in University City.. Register by Calling Dianne Benjamin, 314-725-8314.

### Friday May 9

8:30 AM Bird walk at Wash. U's Tyson Research Center. Meet at the gatehouse, Beaumont-Antire exit off I-44. For more information, call Dave Larson, 314-935-8433.

### Saturday May 10

Big Day! Also, North American Migration Count Day. To volunteer, contact one of our members listed on p. 5.

### Saturday May 10

11–2 Activities at the Living World, north side of St. Louis Zoo. No reservations required.

**Sunday May 11**

7:30 AM-noon Forest Pk. Kennedy Woods w/St. L Audubon. All ages welcome. Take gravel road off Wells Dr. to meet at trailhead. Jim Malone, 636-536-1119

**Saturday May 17**

8 AM Gray Summit Arboretum (Shaw Nature Reserve). Meet at entrance to Brush Creek Trail. Bring lunch. D. Becher 576-1146.

**Sunday May 18**

8 AM Forest Pk. Kennedy Forest, parking lot off Wells Dr., with Randy Korotev.

**Saturday May 24**

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." Parking lot of HQ of Co. Library, Lindbergh, south of 40. Meet on N side. Bring lunch. David Becher 314-576-1146.

**Saturday May 24**

7 AM-noon w/St. L Audubon Marais Temps Clair. Hwy 94 through St. Charles Co. to Hwy H, then to Island Rd.

**Sunday May 25 and June 22**

7 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with Bill Rowe. 7:30 AM on 6/22 with Keith McMullen.

**Sunday June 1**

8 AM Tower Grove, meet at Bird Garden, NW corner of park, with Kent Lannert.

**Sunday June 8**

8 AM Busch Wildlife A. Meet at HQ, with Anne McCormack.

**Sunday June 22**

7:30 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with Keith McMullen.

**Sunday July 27**

8 AM Horseshoe Lake, meet at pavilion at end of causeway, with Frank Holmes.

**Sunday August 17**

7:30 AM Tower Grove, meet at Bird Garden, NW corner of park, with Bob Kleiger.

**Sunday August 24, September 21, December 7**


8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with Dave Rogles

**Sunday September 28**

9 AM Hawk Watch at Mark Peters, Imperial MO.

**Sunday October 19**

8 AM Horsehoe Lk. At pavilion at end of causeway with Frank Holmes

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Nature Study Society  
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# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Call the Nature Line at **314-935-8432** for meetings and bird sightings. [www.wgnss.org](http://www.wgnss.org)

Membership categories (circle one):  
Individual or Household:.....\$20  
for 1st class mail.....add \$8  
Student.....\$10

Please mail this form with check to:  
Treasurer: Randy Korotev,  
800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132  
Please make check payable to: Webster  
Groves Nature Study Society