



Nature Notes

314-935-8432

Call the Nature Line for meeting times and bird sightings.

www.wgnss.org

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

February 2004 Vol. 76, No. 2

Greater Prairie Chicken in MO: Feb. 13 Meeting with St. Louis Audubon

Mitch Leachman

Mark the calendar for Fri., Feb. 13, 7:30 PM at Creve Coeur Community Center.

Sharron Gough and Larry Mechlin, Mo. Dept. of Conservation biologists, will discuss the current status and conservation strategies for the Greater Prairie Chicken in Mo. With a population of less than 1,000, the state declared the bird endangered in 1998. However, with less than 10% of its original range remaining—and 97% of that on private land—coordinated efforts through groups like MDC and the Missouri Grassland Coalition will be vital to its survival.

Sharron Gough has been with MDC for 14 years, focusing mainly on the Prairie Chicken. Prior to joining the Department, she worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the

Peace Corps. Larry Mechlin has conducted research across the country, including Oregon, N. Carolina, and N. Dakota before settling in Missouri. Prior to joining MDC, he worked at the Northern Prairie Waterfowl Research Center for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is our annual joint meeting with the St. Louis Audubon Society, so you will have twice the people to meet and twice the opportunities to discover. The meeting is open to all, members or not. Refreshments will be available.

From I-270 and Ladue, go east on Ladue, left at the light at Ballas, go 1 mile north to the Creve Coeur Govt. Center at 300 N. New Ballas. Community Center is in the basement. Questions, call Mitch

Leachman at 314-739-5112. 🐦

Frost Heaves & Frost Flowers

David Rabenau

The first time I saw a frost heave was near the summit of Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County, just north of the Golden

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Club news.....	2
Important Bird Areas, Gustafson.....	5
Bird Report, Homeyer & Ziebol.....	6
Off-Road Vehicles, Homeyer.....	7
Fall Botanizing, Darigo.....	8
WGNS events.....	12

"If it is true that the sun, the seasons, the waters, and human life itself go in cycles, the inference is that 'there is time for all things,' something different to be done at each stage of the cycle... Only when we realize that nothing is new can we live with an intensity in which everything becomes new." Northrop Frye

Why do I forget how surprising Nature is?

Dates for '04 Meetings

✿ Inclement weather? Call St. Louis County Library Headquarters 314-994-3300 to ask if the meeting has been cancelled. For board meetings, call Powder Valley, 314-301-1500.

✿ Feb. 13 -joint meeting with St. L. Audubon at Creve Coeur Govt. Center 7:30 PM
Topic: Prairie Chickens, presented by Mo. Dept. of Conservation. Note different time and place of this meeting.

✿ All the rest of these dates are 1st Thursday:

✿ March 4 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM

✿ April 1 - East Room St. L. Co. L-HQ 7:00 PM

✿ Sept. 2 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM

✿ Oct. 7 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM

✿ Nov. 4 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM

St. Louis Area Lists for 2003

Joe Eades.....	286
Torrey Berger.....	267
Rose Ann Bodman.....	247
Dick Coles.....	231
Paul Bauer.....	204

Did you keep a year list last year? Send your total, or your nomination for Bird of the Year to Anne McCormack at 314-965-8091 or

<amccormack@stjosephacad.org>.✿

Bird of the Year

Torrey Berger

My bird of the year is the Pacific Loon at Horseshoe Lake, Dec. 4. I had seen 1 other in breeding plumage in Alaska, but it was so long ago that it was still on my life list as an Arctic. Makes me wonder how many other latent defects are still in there.

Happy New Year. ✿

Winged Migration Wins!

Pat Brock Diener

The winner of a readers' poll for Best Picture of 2003 in *The Christian Science Monitor* is the French film, *Winged Migration*. Those of us who saw it multiple times agree that it was outstanding! Also, we rejoice that a nature documentary received the recognition it deserved. Ed. Note: If you missed this film in the theatre, it's now available on DVD. ✿

How To Create A Bird & Butterfly Garden 3/10 at Powder Valley

Yvonne Homeyer

WGNSS members are invited to attend a program entitled "How to Create a Bird & Butterfly Garden," sponsored by the St. Louis Chapters of NABA (North American Butterfly Association) and the Missouri Native Plant Society. Richard and Susan Day, backyard habitat specialists and a professional photography/writing team, will present their talk on Wed., March 10, 2004 at 7:30 PM at Powder Valley Nature Center. The Days have created spectacular gardens at their home in Alma, Illinois. Their slide presentation will show you how to get started landscaping your yard—from decks to large lots—for birds and butterflies. They'll talk about hummingbird gardening, butterfly gardening, the use of water, and much more. Susan will also be available to autograph copies of her latest book, *The Wildlife Gardener's Guide to Hummingbirds and Songbirds from the Tropics*. March is an excellent time to start planning your garden, so please join us on March 10 for this outstanding program. ✿

Saturday Botany Walks Planned

This spring our Botany Group Co-Chair, Jeannie Moe, will lead some weekend wildflower walks to add to our regular Thursday walks. On March 20, the destination will be Robertsville State Park to see the Harbinger of Spring in bloom. Meet at the park at 10 AM. April 10 is the next Sat. walk, at a time a location to be announced. Please join us! ✿

Steyermark Revisited

Jim Adams, WGNSS historian

A long-time WGNSS member, Katherine Pickens Frein, called to provide additions to the WGNSS author list that I have been compiling. The information was so interesting that I felt it should be shared with *Nature Notes* readers.

Katherine added two books to my list. One was a botany book written by Julian Steyermark in 1940, *Spring Flora of Missouri*. The second, *Behind the Scenes*, was written by Julian's wife, Cora—now also deceased—and describes life with her botanist husband. Julian's book has an interesting dedication. It is dedicated to

Edith Glatfelter, described as Julian's science teacher at Soldan High School in St. Louis. In the dedication, Julian credits Ms. Glatfelter with arousing his interest in the field of science and botany in particular. Edith, according to Katherine, was a WGNSS member as well. Julian, former Chair of the WGNSS Botany Group, often held committee meetings at the home of Katherine's parents.

Cora's book, written in 1984, is dedicated to Julian. A curious aspect of the book is that Julian is never referred to by his name, but is simply called "XY," an interesting genetic moniker. Reportedly, Julian met Cora through WGNSS activities.

Katherine had other interesting experiences to relate. For example, she helped proofread the manuscript of Phil Rau's 1933 book, *The Jungle Bees and Wasps of Barro Colorado Island*, and knew Rau quite well.

I am grateful to Katherine for the above information. As stated in last month's Nature notes, I want to continue expanding the list of books by WGNSS authors, hopefully including more books written during the early years of WGNSS. Please call me at 314-961-2494 if you can add to the list.

Next month I will start publishing a list of journal and magazine articles by WGNSS authors. If you have information about such articles, please call. 🐾

Frost Flowers cont.

Gate Bridge and San Francisco. Some hiking buddies and I had stopped to lunch on homemade sandwiches and when I sat down on the ground I heard a strange crunch underneath me and the ground felt momentarily spongy. I knelt and inspected the ground more closely and saw that the leaf litter had been raised about an inch off the ground by slender fingers of ice. The moisture under the leaves and in the top of the soil had frozen the night before and as it did so, the water expanded as it turned to ice and pushed the leaves up and away from the ground so that the leaves were resting on a fragile scaffolding about an inch above the soil's surface. It was fascinating. I cut away a clean cross-section and the ice itself was bright white and clean, as if the water was filtered through sand. It had a 3-dimensional corru-

gated effect like that of the paper party decorations I remember from my childhood. Even in the bright sun and the noon hour, the ice remained solid—the leaves probably insulated the ice from the sun's warmth.

I showed this to my friends and their reaction was somewhat less than expected. Decidedly ho-hum. It was just a frost heave to them. I had never heard that term before, much less seen one, but then again I wasn't a native Californian and hadn't ever hiked this mountain until that day. I ate my lunch lying prone on the trail, looking at their elaborate labyrinths and crevices alongside the trail.

I decided they must be the product of special atmospheric conditions and those conditions were, in my mind, a damp or outright wet soil surface (there were puddles of water all along the Mt. Tamalpais trail as it had rained that week) and, obviously, a temperature below freezing. Since I only found the Mt. Tamalpais frost heaves along the edges of the trail and in the clearing where we ate our lunch in the sun, and not in any of the surrounding fir or oak forest, I decided that another condition was that the soil must be exposed, that there needs to be radiational cooling of some kind—that how the soil froze was probably just as important as the freezing temperature itself.

At least now I knew what a frost heave was. To me they remained rare. They weren't the kind of thing you go out looking for, like a Cerulean Warbler or Short-eared Owl. You just happen upon them and only upon seeing a frost heave do you even remember them. They are utterly forgettable, even to me, a person who never found a frost heave that I didn't find fascinating.

And so it was, as I was walking down the Flint Quarry trail at West Tyson County Park, a couple of miles out I-44 southwest of St. Louis. It was mid morning and I was finishing up walking my dog. I paused to look at some Cedar Waxwings and watch the flocking robins scurry down to the creek for a quick drink. Above the trail, one robin sang a spring song even though it was still early December. It was a sunny, peaceful morning and I was in no hurry to get back to the car.

I had walked the trail in reverse, that is, clockwise. And so the end of the trail this time

was a plateau or ridge between one valley and another below it. The creek ran flatter here although at the edge of the plateau it began to cut deeply into the soil, and then rock, carving out a rock gorge. Near the sculpted gorge the plateau becomes a ridge that drops off sharply to the next valley below. The trail meanders along that ridge and it's one of my favorite spots. In the fall the young sugar maples gather to themselves all the yellow, orange and red glory. You also have a beautiful view up the valley.

That's why I was disappointed when I saw white tissue paper along the trail. My first thought wasn't pretty. Someone had used the trail and not the bathrooms at the trailhead. For some reason—I don't know why—I looked at it more closely. It wasn't toilet paper after all. I wasn't sure what it was. The large piece I was looking at enveloped a small twig sticking up out of the ground, like it had been blown by the wind and caught against it, wrapping itself around the twig. I got down on my hands and knees and looked more closely at it. It was striated and there were intricate curls and folds in it. For a second I thought that maybe it was some sort of insect casing. Looking up I saw that there was another, then another, and one over there. I stood up and saw little white spots dotting the ridge. There were probably a hundred of them. After looking at a second one in full sunshine, I saw that it reflected light. Only then did I touch it and discover its powdery texture melted beneath my fingers, that it was ice. My dog's curiosity could no longer be restrained and he nosed his way into one. It broke apart in thin sheets. Holding one up to the sun, it looked like sedimentary rock in that it looked to be formed of tens of horizontal layers.

No two were alike. Some folded back on themselves like cupped hands. Others waved in ribbons like a rippled flag. Others were a combination of both. I guess you could call them frost heaves. But they all had one thing in common: they all formed at the base of a small twig of one particular plant species. I decided that, like other frost heaves, the moisture source was the stem of this plant, which wicked and released moisture along its length. Maybe the water froze along the surface of the twig and expanded, then more water wicked

up and froze and pushed the previous ice out, until there were varied ribbons and shells. Further up one tall twig you could see the beginning ridges of ice that simply petered out.

I then looked for some of these same plants that didn't seem to have these formations at their base, but when I uncovered a leaf or two, I found that they, in fact, all had an ice formation, every single one of them, even if only a meager one. And I checked dozens of them all along the ridge

It turned out that it was the largest one that first got my attention. Just here in this one spot on this one cold morning I happened upon an unimaginable frost heave.

Why do I forget how surprising nature is?

— — —

I sat in the kitchen and held a small sprig of the plant that produced such beautiful ice formations. Jack Harris was on the other end of the telephone line and before I could finish the story of my discovery, he said, simply, "We call them frost flowers around here. It's Dittany. Did you want to know the Latin name?"

"Well, sure."

"*Cunila orgianoides*. It is in the mint family."

Jack asked me if the stem was thin and wiry. I was looking at the stem in my hand and wasn't sure that what he called thin and wiry was what I was looking at. But then he said that only two plants in the area produce frost flowers—the other one, White Crownbeard (*Verbesina virginica*), had a stem as thick as a finger. Ok, so it wasn't that. It must be Dittany, and so I described it to him: opposing leaves that were long and pointed, almost like a stretched out heart shape. Little stems originated where the leaf joined the main stem and on top of these little stems sat the seeds. He said if I looked closely the seeds should have a little white dot on the top of them. They did. It was Dittany.

Apparently, Dittany usually likes dolomite areas, which, I suppose, is what you have in abundance on that little ridge at West Tyson. White Crownbeard, on the other hand, is usually found in bottomland areas.

Frost flowers, huh? I was amazed that he even had a name for it.

And why is that? Why is it that when I first find something, I assume it's rare, only because I haven't encountered it before? Not only did

Jack have a name for it, he had Dittany planted in his garden for the very reason that they do produce frost flowers. He had gone out to check his garden that same day and, sure enough, his Dittany had spouted frost flowers just like those I had found.

Okay, so they weren't frost heaves exactly. Isn't this kind of thing amazing, even if others already not only know about it, but have domesticated it?

Yet, I wouldn't be surprised to happen upon something else entirely unexpected and unimagined some other day in some other place. Only then would I remember again what I'd forgotten. 🐾

Missouri Launches Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program

Andy Forbes, IBA Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that the nomination period for Missouri's Important Bird Area (IBA) program is now officially open. The IBA nomination form, directions, and frequently asked questions about the IBA program are posted on the Audubon Missouri website at <<http://www.audubon.org/states/mo/mo>>. Hard copies of the IBA forms are available through WGNSS or your local Audubon chapter. This is an excellent opportunity for birders to contribute their local knowledge of bird distribution and abundance to a meaningful effort to conserve birds and their habitats.

To nominate a site for designation as an IBA, fill out the IBA nomination form and return it to the address shown on the form. Nominations will be reviewed by the IBA technical committee, and sites that meet predetermined scientific criteria (see nomination form and directions for a more detailed explanation) will be designated as IBAs. These sites will provide Audubon and other conservation partners, including state and federal agencies, with a map of the highest priority sites for birds in Missouri, along with a detailed plan for the best way to accomplish their conservation.

The Missouri IBA program is part of a global effort initiated in Europe in 1981 by BirdLife International to identify, monitor, and protect the areas that are the most important to bird populations, in the face of increasing habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation.

The National Audubon Society, in partnership with BirdLife, began implementing the IBA program in the United States in 1995. The IBA program is unique among conservation planning efforts in that it takes a two-tiered approach to defining its focus areas. Like many other bird conservation planning efforts, we have enlisted the help of ornithologists from universities, biologists from state agencies, and other experts to identify IBAs and set the scientific background for the program. However, the IBA program also builds upon the grassroots process of site nominations by local birding groups and birders. This provides the IBA program with "on the ground" strength unique among bird planning efforts.

By defining the areas that are most important to bird populations, and strategically focusing efforts on those areas, we can have a far greater positive impact with the limited funds that are available for bird conservation. As a testament to the effectiveness of this approach, the IBA program has been adopted as a key tool in the planning processes of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, the US Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.

Again, this is an excellent opportunity for birders who care about the continued survival of bird populations to make a real difference in their conservation. By helping identify IBAs, you will be taking part in the first phase of stepping down a globally recognized program here in Missouri. If you're interested in participating, you can either download the forms from the above website and fill them out as an individual, or better yet, work together with other birders as a group to identify sites in your area.

If you have any questions about the IBA program, you can contact Andy Forbes at 573-447-2249 or <Andrew.Forbes@mdc.mo.gov>. You can also find more information about IBA on National Audubon's IBA website at <<http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html>>. 🐾



Nature Notes is printed on recycled paper.

December 2003 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

CSP = Castlewood State Park

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

SNR = Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Introduction: On the 24th, Gail Ahumada reported up to 150 Crows on Laclede in the Central West End. She had not seen more than 10 there in the past 2 years. She also commented that Chickadees are extremely rare in her area of the city. Christmas Count data from 2002 in Illinois shows a decline of Black-Capped Chickadee by 15%. It was very nice indeed to see the large flocks of Crows in the St. Louis area this winter.

Sightings: The bird of the month was a beautiful Pacific Loon seen on 12/4, along with 2 Common Loons, at HL (T Be, m. ob.). A Common Loon was seen at REDA on 12/20 (CA) and on 12/27 (CM). A Tundra Swan was present at REDA on 12/19 and 12/20 (m. ob.). Thirty-eight Trumpeter Swans were reported at REDA on 12/29 (KP, J Mo). Joe Eades found 2 Surf and 2 Black Scoters at REDA on 12/7. On 12/12, Charlene Malone reported 2 White-winged Scoters at REDA and a Black Scoter there on 12/27. The Johnsons saw 3 Oldsquaws at REDA on 12/6. Sixty + Hooded Mergansers were seen at Heron Pond, REDA, on 12/7 (YH, JJ). As many as 4 Black Ducks have been seen this month at REDA (m. ob). Eighty + Bonaparte's Gulls were found at HL on 12/3 (JZ). On 12/2, a first-year Thayer's Gull was observed at REDA (JU). A first-year Glaucous Gull was found at HL on 12/21 (FH). Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen at BCA on 12/20 (CA, T Bo) and on 12/21 (JZ).

Red-shouldered Hawk sightings included 1 at Watershed Park, Edwardsville, on 12/4 (J Ch and Th. Group), 4 at CSP on 12/7 (MB), an immature at HL on 12/7 (FH), one along Hwy. 94 on 12/20 (CA, T Bo), and 5 at BCA on 12/21, along with 6 Turkey Vultures and 2 N. Harriers (JZ). Turkey Vultures have been reported from BCA through the end of the month. Paul Bauer found 10 Turkey Vultures near the Alton

grain elevators on 12/20. The Harlan's Hawk at the Levee Road, the Harlan's Hawk at Sand Prairie Lane and a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk on the Levee Road all had returned to their usual winter territories. Jeannie Moe sighted a dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk on Dwiggins Road on 12/23. On 12/28, Jim Ziebol watched the female Merlin wintering at Lakewood Park Cemetery eating a Junco. On 12/28, Mike Brady flushed 10 to 15 Long-eared Owls at an undisclosed location in St. Louis County.

On 12/29, a large flock of Am. Crows was seen at Spanish Lake Park (PB). On 12/18, the Thursday Group observed Flickers, 2 Pileated, Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers at CSP. A Winter Wren was a nice find at CSP on 12/7 (MB). Kathy and Kenneth Thiele observed a Brown Thrasher at BCA on 12/31. LeConte's Sparrows were found near HL on 12/4 (T Be) and on 12/7 (FH); however, they were not seen on the Collinsville Circle Christmas Count. On 12/24, as many as 33 Purple Finch were observed at BCA (JU, JE); this is the highest number reported in many years. A flock of 67 Meadowlarks was seen at the Levee Road near Hwy. B on 12/21 (JZ). Alex & Brien Meilleur found a Pine Siskin at Portage de Sioux on 12/31. Great-tailed Grackles continued to be reported, with 60 being seen on 12/7 at Hwy. 79 and Old Monroe Road in Lincoln Co (JE). Rusty Blackbirds are becoming harder and harder to find in the St. Louis area but 5 were reported at BCA on 12/14 (JU) and 1 was reported at Portage de Sioux on 12/31 (A&BM). On 12/25, 3 Redpolls were first observed at the home of Joe and Trish Friedel in East Alton, IL. The Redpolls continued to delight local birders as of the date this report was prepared in early Jan.

A typical day at HL on 12/2 included 8 Horned Grebes, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 2 Common Loons, 1000+ Ring-billed Gulls, 20 Herring Gulls, 5 Red-tails, 2 Kestrels, Mallards, Gadwalls, N. Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Mergansers, 20 Common Mergansers, 1 LeConte's Sparrow, 8 Savannah Sparrows, 22 Am. Tree Sparrows, 4 Song Sparrows, Swamp Sparrow, 500+ Am. Crows (PB).

Comments: Pat Lueders reported a Red-breasted Nuthatch at her home on 12/14 and

David Becher observed one at his home on 12/28. Pat Lueders also commented on the importance of putting out fresh water for the birds in freezing weather. On 12/13, a Hermit Thrush was seen at the feeders in CSP; a Cooper's Hawk and Screech Owl have also been seen there (MB). An American Tree Sparrow, always a good yard bird, joined the Juncos and White-throated Sparrows at Kraig Paradise's home on 12/14. Margy Terpstra reported visits by Pine Siskins at her home, starting on 12/14. A dead swan was observed in Heron Pond at REDA; the head was missing. Brian and Alex Meilleur heard a Barred Owl in their Webster Groves neighborhood for about 2 weeks. Three White-crowned Sparrows visited Jurek Majka's feeders in Afton throughout Dec.

Christmas Count Highlights:

Dec. 20, *Pere Marquette*: Long-tailed Duck, Least Sandpiper, 6 Snipe. Dec. 27, Collinsville Circle: 16 White Pelicans, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, good numbers of ducks, including 2000+ Gadwall, 120 Green-winged Teal, and 500 Ring-necked Ducks, 2 Trumpeter Swans, and 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Jan 1, *Orchard Farm*: Inca Dove, White Pelican, Harris's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbirds, Western Meadowlarks, Great-tailed Grackles, several Barred and Great Horned Owls, and a *richardsonii* Merlin.

Jan. 3, *Busch Conservation Area*: 9 Turkey Vultures, good numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks, 11 E. Towhees, 1 Spotted Towhee, 1 Hermit Thrush, 1 Marsh Wren and 74 Eurasian Tree Sparrows.

Contributors: Gail Ahumada, Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Joe Eades, Mike Grant, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Jim Jackson, Dan Kassebaum, Sherry McCowan, Jim & Charlene Malone, Alex Meilleur, Brien Meilleur, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, John & Nancy Solodar, Kathy Thiele, Josh Uffman, 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>. 🐾

Forest Service Attempts to Expand Off-Road Vehicle Usage in Mark Twain National Forest

Yvonne Homeyer

The US Forest Service, steward of the Mark Twain National Forest in the Ozarks, has proposed adding significantly to the number of miles of off-road vehicle (ORV) trails in the forest. Under the guise of a "study," the Forest Service has invited written comment on its proposal to greatly expand the usage of ORVs in the Mark Twain. **February 20** is the deadline for submitting your comment (see details below). It's your forest, too! Tell the Forest Service how you want Missouri's natural resources managed.

Two areas of the Mark Twain National Forest are already open to ORV use and serious problems have been created. In fact, just four months ago, the Forest Service stated that it would have to close some existing ORV trails because of soil erosion and damage to vegetation! To see photos of damage caused in the forest by ORV usage, go to this web site: <www.mmor.com/tr0303.htm>.

The comment period ends on **February 20**. I would encourage you to submit a comment letting the Forest Service know how you feel about additional ORV trails in the Mark Twain National Forest and how you feel about their pretend "study" of a subject that has already been well documented. It is difficult to understand why the Forest Service needs to sacrifice new, undisturbed areas to conduct a "study" of the impacts of ORVs when the impacts from existing usage are well known (soil erosion, destroyed vegetation, destroyed habitat for ground-nesting animals and birds, disruption for wildlife, interference with other people's usage of the forest). Wouldn't it be better to conduct any such study in an area where ORVs are already allowed?

An additional concern is the decision by the Forest Service not to conduct an environmental review prior to opening the new trails. A federal law known as NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) requires an Environment Impact Statement (EIS), yet the Forest Service has stated that no EIS will be prepared.

You can send your comments to:

Katie Stuart
District Ranger
Potosi Ranger District
P.O. Box 188
Potosi, MO 63664

Or you can submit your comment by email:

<comments-eastern-mark-twain-potosi@fs.fed.us>. If you want more information, feel free to call me at 314-963-7750. 🌿

Fall Botanizing

Carl Darigo

Except for Thanksgiving week, the Botany Group continued their Thursday outings throughout the fall season, with the following attending one or more times, Father James Sullivan, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Pat & Jack Harris, Martha & Rex Hill, Nels Holmberg & grandson David Jespersen, Del Johnson and grandson Shawn, Ann Kettler, Donna & Bob Kirschenmann, Louise Langbein, Jeannie & Jim Moe, Tom O'Gorman, Nathan Pate, John Ruprecht, Marge & Jim Ruschill, Susie & Dick Russell, Bruce Schuette, Pete Seale, Bob Siemer, Kathy Thiele, Bob Wells, Kristin Williams & baby son Owain and George Yatskievych.

September 4, Victoria Glade, Jefferson County—eight persons turned out on a nice fall day to tour this Nature Conservancy site. Four goldenrods, tall (*Solidago altissima*), Gattinger's (*S. gattingeri*), stiff (*S. rigida*) and elm leaf (*S. ulmifolia*) slightly outnumbered three asters, blue wood (*Aster cordifolius*), spreading (*A. patens*) and arrow leaf (*A. urophyllus*). The orchid family was represented by *Spiranthes lacera* (slender ladies' tresses). Other plants of interest included *Agalinis skinneriana* (pale gerardia), *Baptisia australis* (blue false indigo), *Brickellia eupatorioides* (false boneset), *Croton capitatus* (woolly croton), *Echinacea simulata* (pale purple coneflower), *Heliotropium tenellum* (slender heliotrope), *Liatris aspera* (rough blazing star), *Onosmodium molle* (marbleseed), *Psoralidium tenuiflorum* (scuffy pea), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower) and *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (prairie dock).

September 11, Young Conservation Area, Jefferson County—a sizable group of 15 turned out on a sunny, 85° day to hike portions of the Taconic Trail. Prior to starting, Na-

than Pate brought a grass from his yard, which turned out to be *Leersia virginica* (white grass). Wayne Clark ventured only a few feet into a waist-high grassy meadow adjacent to the parking lot, emerging with a good crop of *Desmodium sp.* (tick clover) "sticktight" covering his trousers. Nels Holmberg's two year old grandson, David, after finishing his Cheerioats, proved the edibility of the tiny beans tucked inside *Desmodium* fruits, by consuming several. Abundant along the meadow trail were *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass) and *Bidens aristosa* (tickseed sunflower), on which Father Sullivan found a soldier beetle (*Chauliognathus pensylvanicus*). Among other plants seen here were *Artemisia ludoviciana* (white sage), *Gaura parviflora* (velvety gaura), *Panicum anceps* (beaked panic grass), *Desmodium paniculatum* (panicked tick trefoil), *D. illinoense* (Illinois tick clover) and *Salvia azurea* (blue sage). Near the bridge over LaBarque Creek were found *Aster drummondii* (Drummond's aster), *Strophostyles helvola* (trailing wild bean), *Lobelia siphilitica* (blue lobelia), *Mimulus alatus* (sharpwing monkey flower) and *Iresine rhizomatosa* (bloodleaf). Close by, Jack Harris spotted the fruits of woolly pipevine (*Aristolochia tomentosa*).

September 18, Castlewood State Park, St. Louis County—on a pleasant and sunny, 80° day, 15 persons toured the park roads and a portion of the lower River Scene trail, sharing the facilities with bikers, hikers, runners, dog-walkers, horse riders, a bevy of 50 red shirted elementary school kids, a WGNSS birding group and a birdwatcher from Alberta, Canada. Interesting plants seen were *Solidago juncea* (early goldenrod), *Verbena urticifolia* (white vervain), *Bidens frondosa* (beggar ticks), *Amphicarpaea bracteata* (hog peanut), *Iresine rhizomatosa* (bloodleaf), *Spermacoce glabra* (smooth buttonweed) and *Artemisia annua* (sweet wormwood). Kathy Thiele spotted pawpaw fruits (*Asimina triloba*), but unfortunately not ripe enough to harvest, while a summer grape vine (*Vitis aestivalis*) sported numerous grape bunches, which were not as sweet as expected. Abundant along the river trail were *Laportea canadensis* (wood nettle) and *Ratibida pinnata* (grayhead prairie coneflower). Father Sullivan found a colorful red and black bush cricket (*Phyllopalpus sp.*), and in a picnic area, Jack

Harris came up with the tiny blue flowers of *Mazus pumilus* (Japanese mazus). Pat Harris spotted her favorite *Carex*, *C. grayii* (spaceship sedge) and later successfully answered a test on leaves of *Hydrophyllum virginianum* (water-leaf). Kathy brought a jug of "Rhus juice" lemonade, made from smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) fruits, for the thirsty hikers.

September 25, Audubon Trail, Ste. Genevieve County—enjoying a pleasant, 70° day, nine persons traveled 90 miles to hike portions of the Audubon Trail along Bidwell Creek, in the Mark Twain National Forest. Grasses plentiful along the roadside were *Panicum virgatum* (switch) and *Chasmanthium latifolium* (spangle). Jack Harris satisfied the trip's main goal, finding rough leaf goldenrod (*Solidago patula*) in a marshy area near the creek; a distinctive feature of this species is the angled stem. Blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), elephant's foot (*Elephantopus carolinianus*) and woody awn grass (*Brachyelytrum erectum*) were abundant along the trail. Other interesting plants seen were *Eupatorium perfoliatum* (boneset), *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (sweet coneflower), *Oxypolis rigidior* (cowbane), *Mimulus alatus* (sharpwing monkey flower), *Prenanthes altissima* (tall white lettuce), *Ludwigia alternifolia* (bushy seedbox) and leaves of *Smallanthus uvedalius* (bearsfoot). *Taxiphyllum deplanatum* (plane scale-leaf moss), fairly uncommon in the state, was found growing on bark at a tree base.

October 2, Valley View Glades, Jefferson County—a cool 50° day was on tap, as 16 persons trekked the hills and valleys in search of asters and goldenrods. Eight asters included many rayed (*A. anomalus*), azure (*A. oolentangiensis*), blue wood (*A. cordifolius*), prairie (*A. turbinellus*), New England (*A. novae-angliae*), smooth (*A. laevis*), white heath (*A. pilosus*) and oblong leaf (*A. oblongifolius*). Goldenrods were not as numerous with four being listed, downy (*Solidago petiolaris*), old field (*S. nemoralis*), elm leaf (*S. ulmifolia*) and Gattinger's (*S. gattingeri*). Other plants of note were *Liatris cylindracea* (blazing star), *Helianthus occidentalis* (western sunflower) and pale gerardia (*Agalinis skinneriana*). Three species of ladies' tresses orchids spotted, unfortunately not quite flowering, were slender (*Spiranthes lacera*), oval (*S. ovalis*) and Great Plains (*S. magnicamporum*).

October 9, Cuivre River State Park, Lincoln County—Naturalist Bruce Schuette led seven soggy people on an abbreviated hike along parts of the Blazing Star Trail during a steady 65° drizzle. The park sported nice fall leaf color, with bright red sumacs leading the way; two identified along the trail were *Rhus copallina* (dwarf) and *R. aromatica* (fragrant). Other interesting plants seen included *Aster lateriflorus* (white woodland aster), *Liatris pycnostachya* (button snakeroot), *Euthamia gymnospermoides* (grass leaf goldenrod), *Solidago nemoralis* (old field goldenrod), *S. speciosa* (prairie goldenrod), *Spiranthes cernua* (common ladies' tresses) and *Monotropa uniflora* (Indian pipe). Among grasses spotted were *Leersia oryzoides* (rice cut-grass), *Agrostis hyemalis* (hair grass) and *Panicum anceps* (beaked panic grass). The latter was of special note, being the first report of this species in the state, north of the Missouri River.

October 16, Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles County—after a short look at the Visitor Center trail, 15 participants, including new member Rex Hill and Jeanne Clauson's daughter Kristin Williams with baby son Owain, enjoyed pleasant 65° weather while checking out the Ellis Island access road. Yellow flowers of *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (camphor weed) were abundant; other flowering plants seen were *H. camporum* (prairie golden aster), *Polanisia dodecandra* (clammy weed), *Gnaphalium obtusifolium* (sweet everlasting), *Ludwigia peploides* (floating primrose willow), *Spermacoce glabra* (smooth button-weed) and *Ipomoea lacunosa* (small white morning glory). Some interesting fruiting species were *Cuscuta cephalanthi* (buttonbush dodder), *Physalis pubescens* (downy ground cherry), *Sporobolus cryptandrus* (sand dropseed) and the variety *major* of *Setaria viridis* (wide leaf green foxtail). Father Sullivan pointed out the pitted leaves of *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo) and Pat Harris spotted the rare *Echinochloa walteri* (salt marsh cockspur grass); this grass, which is state listed-S1 (critically imperiled), has been found only once previously, at nearby Dresser Island.

October 23, Onondaga Cave State Park, Crawford County—seven people enjoyed a sunny, 70° fall day, while touring the Blue Heron Trail and nearby park road. Still blooming were *Vernonia gigantea* (tall iron-

weed), *Aster cordifolius* (blue wood aster), *A. drummondii* (Drummond's aster), *A. oblongifolius* (aromatic aster), *Hedyotis nigricans* (narrow leaf bluets), *Gaura longiflora* (large flower gaura), *Hypericum sphaerocarpum* (round fruited St. John's wort), *Solidago drummondii* (Drummond's goldenrod) and even a very late *Phlox paniculata* (perennial phlox). Jack Harris

pointed out the similar-appearing winged fruits of *Dioscorea villosa* (wild yam) and *Ptelea trifoliata* (common hop tree), while Father Sullivan dissected the round fruit of cupseed (*Calycocarpum lyonii*) to reveal the cup-shaped seed. Other colorful displays were pink berries of wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) and coral berry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), red spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*) fruits, aptly-named blackberry lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*), whose stone-like fruits resemble blackberry segments, and black fruits of bristly greenbrier (*Smilax hispida*). A picnic area box elder tree (*Acer negundo*) hosted an abundance of red and black box elder bugs (*Leptocoris trivittatus*); these bugs apparently do not damage the tree, but are indeed unsightly.

October 30, Lower Meramec Park, St. Louis County—14 persons turned out on a sunny and windy, 70° day to walk portions of the Meramec River Trail. Marge Ruschill's keen eyesight spotted the "plant of the day," a tiny oval ladies' tresses orchid (*Spiranthes ovalis*), partially hidden in leaves alongside the trail. Other flowering plants seen were *Prunella vulgaris* (self heal), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Aster ontarionis* (Ontario aster), *A. lanceolatus* (tall white aster) and a possible *Tragopogon dubius* (goat's beard). Father Sullivan found abundant growths of *Ricciocarpus natans* (mudflat liverwort) in a muddy, recently-wet depression; this plant floats on the water surface, then forms green rosettes on mud after the water recedes. *Ilex decidua* (deciduous holly) displayed many bright red berries and the *Smallanthus uvedalius* (bearsfoot) seems to have become well established. The non-native Chinese yam (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*) was seen twining on a tree; the plant reproduces through potato-like tubers growing in the leaf axils. Some of the troops had no luck in trying to shake ripe persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*) from a tall, stout tree. Jim Ruschill pointed out small, fragile pin oak (*Quercus pal-*

ustris) acorns while Jack Harris scored on two tests, *Sicyos angulatus* (bur cucumber) and *Lobelia inflata* (Indian tobacco). Back at the parking lot, Father Sullivan spotted a Halloween lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*) crawling on the bulletin board; this non-native species has gained ill-fame for infesting houses during October.

November 6, Rock Hollow Trail, St. Louis County—on a trip arranged by George Yatskievych of the Missouri Flora Project, Ranger Dennis Hogan led 14 enthusiasts along Rock Hollow Trail, a new St. Louis County Park site, on a chilly, 40° day. The trail, a former rail bed, starts in Glencoe, goes east bordering the Meramec River, crossing the Glencoe miniature railroad tracks several times. Flowering plants still in evidence were *Polymnia canadensis* (pale leaf cup), *Clematis terniflora* (Japanese virgin's bower), *Allium stellatum* (pink wild onion), *Rudbeckia triloba* (brown-eyed Susan), *Solidago drummondii* (Drummond's goldenrod), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), *Ipomoea hederacea* (blue morning glory) and *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (showy partridge pea). *Iresine rhizomatosa* (bloodleaf) and *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam & Eve orchid) displayed tiny fruits, while the bright orange berries of *Celastrus scandens* (American bitter-sweet) were easy to spot. A number of ferns were seen, including *Asplenium rhizophyllum* (walking), *Cystopteris bulbifera* (bulblet), *Pellaea atropurpurea* (purple cliff brake) and *Woodsia obtusa* (blunt lobe cliff).

November 13, Route 66 State Park, St. Louis County—on a 45°, although sunny day, 15 persons, including new member Martha Hill, checked out trails along the Meramec River. In the Visitor Center before starting the walk, park staff member Michelle Neubauer gave a short presentation on the history of the park and adjoining area. A tree with "witches' brooms" defied identification, although osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) was a likely candidate; later a real osage orange tree was seen, with the large, yellow-green fruit spheres covering the ground. Jack Harris spotted the only flowering plant, brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*) and also found a large English ivy vine (*Hedera helix*) climbing a tree; berries of the latter plant, a member of the same family as ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), are poisonous. Nels

Holmberg was able to convince everyone that a huge tree-hugging vine was not poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), but instead Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), due to the characteristic fruit hanging high above ground. Martha, who works for Missouri Botanical Garden's Kemper Center, was first to call attention to several huge plume grass (*Miscanthus* sp.) clumps; later checking proved the species to be *M. sinensis*. Several other grasses, these species native, were *Andropogon gerardii* (big bluestem), *Panicum anceps* (beaked panic grass), *Paspalum laeve* (two-row bead grass) and *P. pubiflorum* (four-row bead grass). Father Sullivan identified *Artemisia ludoviciana* (white sage), whose crushed fruits have a pleasant, "sagey" aroma. Some of the group feasted on delectable ripe grapes, probably summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*).

November 20, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—a sunny day which started chilly but quickly warmed to 70°, was enjoyed by an assembly of 15, who trekked southwest from the Weldon Spring trailhead, amid thunderous reports from a nearby firing range and under several big grackle flocks. Still flowering were *Aster pilosus* (white heath aster), *A. lanceolatus* (tall white aster), *Lamium purpureum* (dead nettle), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower) and a good display of *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane). Father Sullivan demonstrated how a "beanshooter" could be made from *Equisetum hyemale* (common scouring rush) reeds, by boring out the nodes with a box elder (*Acer negundo*) twig. Rex Hill and Jim Ruschill collaborated in successfully answering a *Morus rubra* (red mulberry) twig test. Jack Harris identified *Lactuca floridana* (Florida lettuce), using a fruit key, and spotted tiny clumps of *Cheilanthes feei* (slender lip fern), high up on a rock face. Nels Holmberg discovered a "winter" *Carex normalis* (spreading oval sedge), then found the uncommon *Leskea obscura* (blunt slender moss) on a downed electrical pole. The group was pleased to find that leopard leaf (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*) was still present just past the Little Femme Osage Creek bridge. On the way back to the cars, Father Sullivan identified an inch long, black blister beetle crawling on the trail surface; a beetle is of the *Meloe* genus.

Special thanks to Pat & Jack Harris and Rex Hill for furnishing information to fill gaps in this article.

Correction: the zebra butterfly at Weldon Spring Conservation area in St. Charles County on June 19 ("Summer Botanizing," December 2003 *Nature Notes*) was actually the zebra swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*) and not the *Heliconius* as reported. 🌿

Next Deadline: February 6

Nature Notes publishes 10 issues a year, each mailed on the third Monday of the month. To allow time for layout, printing, etc., the deadline is always 10 days prior to the third Mon.

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

Call the Nature Line!

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area and dates & times of WGNSS events. 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. 🌿

Nature Notes Deadlines & Mailings

We meet at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood or at Missy Choteau's to attach mailing labels. We could use your help! Call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974.

mailing party	NN deadline
Tues. 2/17, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 2/7
Mon. 3/15, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 3/5
Mon. 4/19, 10-1 Choteau's	Fri. 4/9
Mon. 5/17, 10-1 Choteau's	Fri. 5/7
No mailings in June or July.	
Mon. 8/16, 10-1 Choteau's	Fri. 8/6
Mon. 9/20, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 9/10
Mon. 10/18, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 10/8
Mon. 11/15, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 11/5
Mon. 12/20, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 12/10



Nature Classes at Community College

- HORT: 765: 650** Creating a Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden Tues., Feb. 10, 7-9:30 PM. Held at Kirkwood HS, fee \$7.50
- HORT: 720: 600** Missouri Native Plants Fri., April 30, 9 AM-1. Held at Meramec CC. Fee \$12.
- BIOL: 722: 550** Be a Birdwatcher Wed., April 21 & 28, 7-9 AM, and Sun., May 2, 8-11 AM. Held at Flo. Valley CC. Fee \$21.
- BIOL: 704: 550** Spring Butterflies Tues., April 20, 7-9 PM. Held at Flo. Valley CC. Fee \$21.
- BIOL: 704: 600** Identification of Bryophytes Fri., April 23, 9 AM-5, & Sat., 4/24, field trip to Pickle Springs. Sponsored by Mo. Native Plant Society. Held at Meramec CC. Fee \$52.
- BIOL: 709: 600** Bird Conservation: How You Can Help Mon., April 26, 7-9 PM, and Sun. 5/2 field trip to Little Creve Coeur Lake. Held at Meramec CC. Fee \$15.
- BIOL: 715: 600** Local Butterflies Fri., Wed., April 21 & 28, 7-9 PM & Sun., 5/2, field trip. Sponsored by No. American Butterfly Association. Held at Meramec CC. Fee \$21.
- BIOL: 709: 601** Identification of Spring Birds by Sight and Sound Tues., 7-9 PM April 13 & 20, & Sat., 5/1, field trip. Held at Meramec CC. Fee \$35.

Many others... Visit <www.stlcc.edu>. Register by calling Continuing Education Florissant Valley CC, 314-513-4444, or Meramec, 314-984-7960. *

Native Plant Workshop

Mo. Dept. of Conservation's Grow Native program, Mo. Botanical Garden, American Society of Landscape Architects and others are sponsoring a workshop on landscaping with native plants at Maritz headquarters on Thursday, February 12. The cost is \$35. Register by sending your name, address, and phone to Shaw Nature Reserve, PO Box 38, Gray Summit, MO 63039. For more information, call 636-451-3512. *

Lectures at St. Louis Zoo

"Making Science Accessible to All People" Free, co-sponsored by the Saint Louis Zoo and the Academy of Science of St. Louis. All seminars will be held in The Living World, north side of Zoo, free parking in north lot, Wednes-

day evenings (unless noted), 7:30-9:00 PM. Free, unless noted.

February 4, "CSI: St. Louis Zoo," Dr. Mary Duncan discusses post-mortem investigations, \$5 fee, \$3 student. Register at 314-768-5450.

February 18 "Plate Tectonics on the Early Earth: How a Record Got Preserved in Northern China," Timothy M. Kusky, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, St. Louis University.

Tuesday, March 23, "More than Fun and Games," Ingrid Porton, curator of Mammals-Primates discusses activities that keep zoo animals interested, \$5 fee, \$3 student. Register at 314-768-5450.

March 24 "Evolution of Modern Humans: What Genes Really Tell Us," Alan Templeton, Ph.D., Prof. of Biology, Washington U. *

Key to WGNSS Calendar

birding field trip

each Thurs. 8 AM (8:30 starting Oct.) — call

Jackie Chain 314-664-5998

most Sat. 8 AM: 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 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

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

Nature Notes deadlines

10 days prior to 3rd Mon: call Anne
McCormack 314-965-8091
amccormack@stjosephacad.org

Big Day birding competition

May 8

Spring Banquet

May 13, 2004 at Eden Seminary, Webster

membership expires/renewal due

Aug. 31


© Copyright Statement

All articles in *Nature Notes* are printed with the author's permission. Persons or organizations wishing to reprint articles should obtain the author's permission and list credit to *Nature Notes*, Webster Groves Nature Study Society.

Contact the editor 

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 

2003-04 WGNSS Board

President and Conservation Chair:

Yvonne Homeyer
1508 Oriole Ln.
St. Louis MO 63144
314-963-7750
homeyer@earthlink.net

1st Vice President & Interim Env. Ed Chair:

Mike Flieg
6803 Nashville
St. Louis MO 63139
314-645-3356
gmflieg@aol.com

2nd Vice Pres: Pat McCormick

1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin MO 63021
636-225-0264

Treasurer: Randy Korotev

800 Oakbrook Ln.
St. Louis MO 63132
314-993-0055
rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu

Secretary: Jim Adams
35 Tulip Dr.
St. Louis, MO 6311-4660
314-961-2494

dadams5084@aol.com

Membership Chairperson
vacant

Editor: Anne McCormack
587 Andrews
St. Louis MO 63122-5722
314-965-8091

amccormack@stjosephacad.org

Ornithology: David Becher
12829 Mariner's Pt Ct.
St. Louis MO 63141
314-576-1146

Co-chair Ornithology: Kent Lannert
1258 Ruppel Ln.

O'Fallon IL 62269-7167

618-624-4464

klannert@charter.net

Botany: Fr. James Sullivan
1607 Ville Maura Lane
Hazelwood MO 63042-1054
314-291-7885

Botany Co-Chair: Jeannie Moe
2419 Mayer Dr.
St. Charles, Mo. 63301-1379
636-946-9802


Entomology: Marshall Magner
516 Bacon Ave
Webster Groves MO 63119
314-961-4588

Member at Large: Ann Earley
1425 Bobolink Place
St. Louis, MO 63144-1128
314-963-0103
aee623@prodigy.net

Member at Large: Tom Parmeter
2270 Love Ln.
Florissant MO 63031
314-921-6017

tksp@charter.net

Member at Large: Mike Thelen
943 Morehouse Ln.
St. Louis, MO 63130-2158
314-862-6642

Take your  to www.wgnss.org

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

CALL 314-935-8432 FOR THE LATEST BIRD SIGHTINGS IN ST. LOUIS.

Meetings

Wednesday February 4

7 PM Board meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center. All members are welcome. No board meeting in December. Inclement weather? For board meetings, call Powder Valley, 314-301-1500.

Friday February 13

7:30 PM Joint meeting with St. L. Audubon at Creve Coeur Govt. Center, New Ballas Rd. The topic is Prairie Chickens, presented by Mo. Dept. of Conservation. Note different time and place of this meeting.

Botany

Thursday January-March

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>.

Saturday March 20

10 AM Robertsville State Park to see the Harbinger of Spring in bloom.

Entomology

Sunday January 25

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. The Status of the Appalachian Eyed-Brown Skipper in Missouri; A Two-Year Study, presented by Rich Thoma.

Sunday February 29

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Rare Butterflies of Southeastern Missouri, presented by Phil Koenig.

Birding

Thursdays January-March

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Questions: call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998. No meeting on Thanksgiving.

Saturday January 24

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with Rad Widmar.

Sunday January 25

9 AM Clarence Cannon Wildlife Refuge. Meet at HQ, with Torrey Berger.

Sunday February 1

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with Bill Rowe. We'll eat at fast food, or bring your lunch.

Saturday February 7

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 576-1146.

Sunday February 8

8:30 AM Caryle Lake. Meet at Carlyle McDonald's with Kent Lannert.

Saturday February 21

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Sunday February 22

8 AM WGNSS Busch Wildlife Area, St. Charles Co. Meet at Headquarters with Tom Parmeter.

Sunday February 29

8 AM WGNSS Meet at Winfield Dam with Bill Rowe. Trip will proceed to Clarence Cannon by 11 AM. Bring lunch. Back to Winfield by 3 PM.

Saturday March 6

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 576-1146.

Sunday March 7

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with Tom Parmeter.

Saturday March 13

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Sunday March 14

8 AM Horseshoe Lk. with Kent Lannert. Meet at first parking lot on right as you enter from Rt. 111.

Saturday March 20

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 576-1146.

Saturday March 27

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 576-1146.

Saturday April 3

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 576-1146.

Saturday April 10

8 AM WGNSS Busch Wildlife Area, St. Charles Co. Meet at Hampton Lk. David Becher 576-1146.

Saturday April 17

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 576-1146.

Sunday April 18

8 AM Meet at Lost Valley (Busch) trailhead with Dale & Nancy Delaney.

Saturday April 24

8 AM WGNSS Tower Grove Park. Meet at Gus Foyt site, just west of the stables. David Becher 576-1146.

Sunday April 25

8 AM Meet at Busch headquarters with Rad Widmar.

Saturday May 1

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

Sunday May 2

8 AM Meet at Gaddy Bird Garden in northwest corner of Tower Grove Park with Kent Lannert.

Saturday May 8

Big Day birding competition.

Saturday May 15

8 AM WGNSS birding at Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum), Gray Summit, with David Becher. Small fee. Meet at entrance to Brush Creek Trail. Bring a lunch to carry.

Sunday May 16

8 AM Meet at Gaddy Bird Garden in northwest corner of Tower Grove Park with Sherry McCowan.

Saturday May 22

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 576-1146.

Sunday May 23

8 AM Meet at Hillsboro Rd. parking lot of Forest 44 Conservation Area with Sue Gustafson & David Rabenau.

Saturday May 29

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 576-1146.

Sunday June 6

8 AM Meet at Busch headquarters with Anne McCormack.

Sunday June 13

8 AM Meet at Wildwood trailhead on Al Foster Trail along the Meramec River with Sue Gustafson & David Rabenau.

Join WGNSS

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

Nature Notes deadline February 6

WEBSTER GROVES
NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

Non-profit Org.

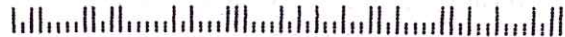
US Postage Paid
St. Louis MO
Permit #690

address service requested

exp: 31-12-2099 [0/L]

Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct
Ballwin MO 63021-7549

63021+7549 32



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

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 Oak-
brook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132
Please make check payable to: Webster
Groves Nature Study Society