



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

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Endemic Birds of Argentina 4/1

Thursday, April 1, 7:00 PM at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters in Frontenac, Cintia Cornelius will present her research on the fragmentation of two species of birds in Argentina. Cornelius is the winner of WGNSS's Scudder Scholarship. Her study entitled "Reproductive Success and Genetic Structure of Two Endemic Birds of the South-Temperate Rainforest; Dispersal and Habitat Limitations in a Fragmented Landscape." This is our annual members meeting; we will elect officers.

A New Beetle for Missouri— With a Twist!

Ted C. MacRae

Of all the things that interest me about entomology (and there are many), the opportunity for discovery is my favorite. All things considered, we really know very little about insects—what's out there and what are they doing? While the discovery of a new mammal species in the remotest corner of the earth makes front-page news, hundreds of new insect species—including from well-studied areas—are described every year with little fanfare. Even in popular groups such as beetles, butterflies, and dragonflies the opportunities for discovery remain bountiful. It is satisfying to me to know that I need not hack through an uncharted forest thousands of miles from home to discover new species (although I will gladly do so if the opportunity arises).

Continued on page 12

Debra Shearwater to Speak at WGNSS Spring Banquet!

Yvonne Homeyer

We're keeping you in suspense as to the identity of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award winner, but we're not keeping secret the identity of our keynote speaker on May 13—Debra Shearwater of Monterey Bay, the pelagic expert who has conducted over 1600 birding trips off the coast of California. Debra is well known to many WGNSS members by reputation or in person, and quite a few WGNSS members have been on her tours, some more than once. Debra founded Shearwater Journeys in 1976 and her trips have produced many important records, most recently a Little Shearwater on 10/29/03 in Monterey Bay. We will have a chance to see her fascinating slide presentation "Seabirds and Marine Mammals of Monterey Bay" and hear about some of her ocean birding adventures. You'll also be able to chat with Debra during the reception preceding dinner and purchase her video. We are very pleased that Debra's busy schedule allowed her to come to St. Louis for our Banquet, which will again be at newly air-conditioned Eden Commons. This year we will be using a quality sound system. See Pat's article p. 3 about how to buy tickets and how to order plants, p. 15.

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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.

All of these (except May) are 1st Thursday:

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

May 13, Annual Spring Banquet at Eden Seminary in Webster

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

Officer Nominations

Pat McCormick

The nominating committee sought candidates for three WGNSS positions up for election this year: President, First Vice- President, and Second Vice- President. The committee spoke to many active members and now presents the following slate of candidates:

President..... Yvonne Homeyer

First Vice- President..... David Mendelson

2nd Vice- President. candidate being sought

The election takes place at the April 1, 2004, general meeting, 7 PM at the St. Louis County Library. Nominating committee members are Ann Earley, Jim Adams, and pat McCormick.

The committee is also seeking a Membership Chair, someone interested in celebrating WGNSS successes and pursuing strategies to attract new members. ☸

Last Minute Changes in WGNSS Events

Kent Lannert

Meeting times and places for events and bird walks are usually posted in *Nature Notes*. Occasionally circumstances require that the time and/or meeting place be changed or that the event itself be cancelled. Usually this occurs after the deadline for getting a revised notice into *Nature Notes*. Checking MObirds for schedule changes is a good idea. Another place to double-check whether you should drive to Carlyle or Clarence Cannon is to call the Tyson Nature Line at 314-935-8432. Event coordinators or trip leaders should call Sherry McCowan at 314-664-2381 to report any changes from the posted schedule. ☸

What is NAMC? How You Can Take Part in the Best Spring Birding Game

Paul Bauer

On May 10 last year, 185 species of birds were seen in St. Charles Co. This broke all previous records for any county in Mo! I have always believed that St. Charles had to be the bird birding county in the state, but it took 10 years to prove it. Now let me back up and explain.

NAMC stands for North American Migratory Count, which occurs all across American on the second Sat. of May each year. It is conducted somewhat like Christmas Counts but each count includes an entire county rather than one restricted count circle. Thus NAMC counts provide a one-day snapshot across each state indicating how many birds of that species are present. Downward trends in numbers of birds reported are important early warnings.

In Missouri, NAMCs started in 1992; I started a local count in 1993 for St. Charles. With Busch and Weldon Spring Conservation Areas, Marais Temps Clair, and Riverlands that county should have the biggest list in the state. Now I know that goal is to county actual numbers of each species seen, but you know how birders are—they want the biggest day list! In all of the prior years, we had only one or two parties covering all of St. Charles, but last year we have five parties and broke the record.

But there is more to this story. Our five NAMC parties in the field found 174 species. Another eleven species were found by other birders doing private Big Days, but being kind enough to report their special birds to the county compilers. Teamwork works! Can you help us this year? Please contact the person below for sighting in these counties:

St. Louis City: Zoe Geist, 1824 Raintree, Imperial MO 63052

St. Louis County: Yvonne Homeyer, 1508 Oriole Ln., St. Louis MO 63144

St. Charles County: Paul Bauer, 4 Club Grounds So., Florissant MO 63033

Lincoln County: Bruce Schutte, 303 Spring Church Rd., Troy MO 63379

The easiest way for Big Day birders to help is to photo copy your bird list and highlight the species seen in a specific county and mail that marked list to the county compiler. I think

NAMC is important; thanks for your help. ☸

Spring Banquet

May 13

Edeñ Seminary Commons in Webster Groves



Our annual banquet takes place in mid-spring this year and celebrates the return of birds and butterflies. The plant sale will begin at 5:45 along with a social hour. A buffet dinner by Hendri's Catering begins at 6:45 with a slide presentation by Debra Shearwater at 8 PM. Please order your tickers using the form printed below by May 5. Send your reservation with a check made out to WGNSS for \$21 per person. Mid-May should be a good time for planting native wildflowers, especially the species for hummingbirds and butterflies. We are offering a variety of natives from Bowood Farms including some prairie plants. The order form is on p. 15. Please order your plants by April 15. Plants will be picked up and paid for at the banquet.

Refund policy: A full refund of your banquet ticket cost of \$21 will be given if requested before May 5. After May 5, no refunds can be made. Plant orders can be cancelled before April 15. Contact Pat McCormick.

Tear off the slip on this page & send with your name & address to:

Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin, MO 63021

- 5:45 social and plant sale
- 6:45 dinner buffet
- 8:00 Debra Shearwater, speaker
- Reservations by Wednesday May 5
- Make checks payable to WGNSS
- Cost: \$21 per person
- Your check will confirm your reservation.

Reservations due 5/5.



Spring Banquet reservations for _____ persons @ \$21 per person = _____



Name _____

Name _____

Spring Butterfly Walks With NABA

Jim Ziebol

WGNSS is invited to join the spring butterfly walks sponsored by NABA-St. Louis (North American Butterfly Association). We can expect to see 5 species of Swallowtails, E. Comma, Question Mark, Goatweed, Mourning Cloak, Red Admiral, Spring Azure, Silvery Checkerspot, Pearl Crescent, Duskywings, Sulphurs, Falcate Orangetip, Great Spangled Fritillary, Roadside Skippers, Hayhurst's Scallopwing, and more. If we're lucky, we could see Juniper Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin, or Baltimore Checkerspot. Beginners are welcome. Jim Ziebol, Dennis Bozzay, Scott Marshall and Yvonne Homeyer will lead these field trips.

Sun. 4/11 Busch Wildlife
10:00 Parking lot/Butterfly Garden
At Visitor's Center

Sun. 4/18 Hilda Young C.A.
10:00 Parking lot

Sun. 5/16 Busch Wildlife 10:00
Parking lot/Butterfly Garden

Sun. 5/23 Tyson 12:00
Gatehouse (lunch first; co-sponsored by Friends of Tyson)

Mon. 5/31 Hilda Young C.A. 10:00
Parking lot

Call Jim Ziebol, 314 781 7372, for more information. ☎

Another Take on the Botany of Lewis and Clark

George Yatskievych

With the Lewis and Clark bicentennial getting into full swing this year, there are a number of opportunities for botany-minded members of WGNSS to learn about the botany of the expedition. The Corps of Discovery not only observed and collected a number of species, but over half of the plants they collected were later described as new to science, and these discoveries fueled a host of subsequent expeditions up the Missouri river for the next few decades. Lewis and Clark introduced the eastern United States to plants like the Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*), which were brought into cultivation from seeds collected in St. Louis.


Already this year, the big Lewis and Clark exhibit at the Missouri Historical Society has included information on artifacts and plants of the expedition, including a small selection of the actual pressed specimens that have survived through the last two centuries following the trip. The Missouri Botanical Garden also has had an exhibit of pressed specimens prepared by modern-day botanists Fay E. Benton and Steve Schaller representing Lewis and Clark plant discoveries (12 January through 14 March).

Coming up will be still more opportunities to learn about these plants. On Easter Sunday (11 April, 2PM) the Missouri Historical Society will host a free panel discussion on the plants and their uses chaired by Dr. Rick McCourt of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Another great opportunity will be at the Missouri Botanical Garden, from 12 April through 21 May, where an exhibit will be on display of paintings of plants associated with the Lewis and Clark expedition. These were the basis of the new book, *Common to this Country*, Botanical Discoveries of Lewis and Clark, which highlights 25 of the Lewis and Clark plants. The exhibit of watercolors will be free with Garden admission. Also, on Wednesday, 14 April (noon), both the author (Susan Munger) and artist (Charlotte Staub Thomas) will be in town for a book-signing event. The book (and a number of other botanical guides to the expedition) as well as selected art prints from it are already available at the Garden Gate Shop. ☎

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. ☎

Take your  to www.wgnss.org

Winter Botanizing

Carl Darigo

Except for one snowed-out February day, Botany Group Thursday outings continued throughout the winter season, with the following attending one or more weeks, Father James Sullivan, Dave Alspaugh, Kathy Bildner, Marian Breidenbach, David Bruns, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Dan Curran, Carl Darigo, Pat & Jack Harris, Rex Hill, Nels Holmberg, Del Johnson, Barbara Lawton, Larry Lindenberger, Janis Londe, Nancy Matchett, Jeannie & Jim Moe, Tom O'Gorman, Nathan Pate, Tom Peterson, Juliane Poag, Francine Renna, Yvonne & James Roe, Dick Russell, Mary Smidt, Reba Symeonoglou, Kathy & Ken Thiele, Dave Weber and Bob Wells.

December 4, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—the winter season started on an ominous note, with an intermittent 40° drizzle, as seven participants walked part of the Guy Park trail and along a park road. Two tiny plants were still flowering, Father Sullivan finding *Veronica polita* (wayside speedwell) and Nels came up with *Lepidium virginicum* (poor man's pepper grass). Adam & Eve orchid leaves (*Aplectrum hyemale*) with fruiting spikes were numerous, as was Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) and cut-leaf grape fern (*Botrychium dissectum*). Lichens drew attention with Father Sullivan finding *Placidium tuckermanni* (brown lobe) on tree bark and Kathy Thiele spotting *Physconia leucoleiptes* (bottle-brush frost) on a downed tree; the first species common name is derived from the brown lobes, and the second from white flecks on the upper thallus plus brush-shaped rhizines. Jeannie Moe saw big, rubbery wood ears fungus (*Auricularia auricula*) on a tree limb, while Nels closely examined *Porella pinnata* (aquatic porella liverwort) growing on slots of an iron manhole cover. Jack Harris discovered a moth chrysalis hanging from a branch, the occupant having long departed.

December 11, Rockwoods Reservation, St. Louis County—although sunny, the 25° temperature was very chilly, as a small party of five, accompanied by David Bruns of the Rockwoods staff, toured the Rock Quarry Trail. Jack Harris described the entertaining display of frost flowers on dittany (*Cunila origanoides*) as follows: "elegantly complex, rib-

bon-like curls of sheer translucent ice, surrounding the base of nearly every one of the many dozens of plants." A mixed flock of cedar waxwings and robins were feeding on berries of bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), completely ignoring their human visitors; one waxwing pair was observed passing berries back and forth to each other. David provided commentary on several lichens, such as *Candelaria concolor* (yellow candle) and *Dermatocarpon miniatum* (rock tripe). A small dead tree was covered with small, white, shelf-like *Schizophyllum commune* (common split gill) fungi; this fungus curls into a cup shape when dry, in order to conserve moisture. Father Sullivan spotted the only flowering plant of the day, *Vinca minor* (common periwinkle), cowering among oak leaves on the forest floor.

December 18, Missouri Botanical Garden—10 persons turned out on a windy and chilly, drizzly, 40° day to tour several Garden sites. The "Gardenland Express Show" in Ridgway Center was replete with circulating model trains, surrounded by every type of poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) imaginable. Other attractive plants seen were orange calamondial (*Citrofortunella sp.*) sporting small oranges and dusty miller (*Senecio cineraria*) with white, woolly leaves. Upstairs were numerous wall-hung holiday wreaths, even one featuring the white fruits of poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). In the Climatron, a sign at the "Ants & Plants" display informed the reader that of the estimated 20,000 ant species in the world, only about half have been identified, and also that ants outnumber people by a million to one. A fruiting papaya tree (*Carica papaya*) reminded the onlookers of on-coming lunch. The tallpot palm trees (*Corypha umbraculifera*) seem to be getting taller and barely fit beneath the Climatron's roof. Of interest were the tiny, green fruits of the Jaboticaba tree (*Myrciaria caulifera*); the tree had been dedicated in memory of Mary Wiese, former WGNSS member. In the Brookings Interpretive Center, a display showed the world's largest seed (45 lbs.), of Seychelles Islands' double coconut palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*). The Schoenberg Temperate House had a lone, luscious-appearing, Japanese persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*) hanging from a branch. A *Sonchus hierensis* plant (sow thistle) came under question un-

til milky juice was seen on a leaf and Jack Harris found the name tag. The tour ended in the Camellia House, with two flowering camellias, pink-flowered *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua* with white flowers.

December 26, Katy Trail State Park, Warren County—four persons celebrated a warm, 50° day after Christmas on the Katy Trail, southeast from the Dutzow trailhead. At the rock bluffs, Father Sullivan pointed out the St. Peter's sandstone formation that historically was mined here to make glass in Crystal City. Some time was spent checking *Cornus* trees for the domed inflorescence and fruit of *C. foemina* ssp. *racemosa* (gray dogwood), but only *C. drummondii* (rough leaf dogwood) was found. Among green, winter rosette leaves seen were poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Miami mist (*Phacelia purshii*), dead nettle (*Lamium purpureum*) and goldenglow (*Rudbeckia laciniata*). A ubiquitous dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) was blooming and an orange sulfur butterfly (*Colias eurytheme*) was enjoying the mild winter weather.

January 2, Emmenegger Nature Park, St. Louis County—an unusual 70° temperature, approaching the 72° record, brought out a large group of 16 to check out the park's trails; included were five new participants, Marian Breidenbach, Janis Londe, Nancy Matchett, Francine Renna and Kathy Thiele's husband, Ken. Father Sullivan's 1st three tests all were successfully answered, Jeannie Moe with sycamore buds (*Platanus occidentalis*), Kathy with sycamore seeds seen on a bridge railing and Pat Harris identifying pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) buds. However, no one could name the green leaves of *Erigeron* sp. (fleabane). Jack Harris and Nels Holmberg found all three species of tree apron moss (*Anomodon attenuatus*, *A. minor* and *A. rostratus*), within an approximate 20 foot circle; while very common, finding all together is somewhat unusual. Green winter leaves of spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) and waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*) were seen. Numerous rusty black haw (*Viburnum rufidulum*) trees were present, as well as dried marbleseed (*Onosmodium molle*) plants, the latter on a glade overlooking the Meramec River. The upper trail passed near the impressive, old Lemp Mansion, now called the Cragwold House. Near the parking lot, a

lone flowering dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) was anticipating spring.

January 8, Weldon Spring Conservation Area, St. Charles County—a group of 12 checked out the Lost Valley Trail on a chilly 35° day, which began cloudy, but soon showed some emerging sunshine. In sections near Little Femme Osage creek, the trail and adjacent bottomland had indications of recent, severe flooding. One tiny plant was blooming, *Cardamine parviflora* (small flower bitter cress); Father Sullivan pointed out "new-season" fruits of shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), indicating that the plants had already flowered.

Our old friend, *Leonurus sibiricus* (Siberian motherwort), with many tall, fruiting stems, appeared to have greatly expanded its presence since the last visit; this species is of Asian origin. Numerous patches of black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) vines, bode well for fruit foragers in the upcoming summer. Wayne Clark and Nels Holmberg spotted the uncommon globe moss (*Phascum cuspidatum*) growing between the trail and a cultivated corn field; these tiny plants have awned leaves enclosing an immersed, spherical, fruiting capsule. The spring-fed beaver ponds seemed as lush as ever, sporting many gnawed trees, a huge beaver lodge and *Potamogeton nodosus* (longleaf pondweed) floating beneath the water surface. Near here, Jeannie Moe and Kathy Thiele saw a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers, Great Blue Heron and a Belted Kingfisher.

January 15, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin County—with the Northeast suffering under sub-zero temperatures, a sunny, 40° day felt like summer, as James Trager led a group of 12, including new member Juliane Poag, over the Whitmire Wildflower Garden, Brush Creek Trail, Prairie Trail and a long service road stretch. One of the trip's goals was accomplished as both witch hazel shrubs were seen, *Hamamelis virginiana* (eastern) and *H. vernalis* (Ozark); as was expected the latter was blooming, but flowers and aroma were suppressed due to the previous night's freezing temperatures. Jack Harris successfully answered a Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) test. James explained the differences between several *Elymus* (wild rye) species, *E. virginicus* (Virginia), *E. canadensis* (Canada), *E. villosus* (downy) and *E. riparius* (riverbank). In the Wildflower Garden, emerging green leaves of

blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*) were seen, beneath tree-crawling cross vines (*Bignonia capreolata*).

January 22, Missouri Botanical Garden—a chilly and windy 25° forced a group of 10 to savor the indoor confines of the Missouri Botanical Garden, focusing on the Lewis and Clark plant display. Numerous collections of plants which the explorers had seen were on display in the Ridgway Building. Most were plants of the upper Missouri River, but several are found in Missouri, including purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), prairie turnip (*Pediomelum esculentum*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). In the Climatron, some of the brightly colored flowering plants were *Thunbergia erecta* (bush clock vine) with purple flowers, lavender to white blooms of *Brunfelsia latifolium*, called “yesterday, today & tomorrow” due to the changing colors, *Petrea volubilis* (queen’s wreath), whose flowers have purple petals and lavender sepals, and *Justicia pectoralis* (justicia) with fuzzy orange flowers. Next to the tiny, white blossoms of *Alternanthera dentata* (Joseph’s coat), were matted, white-striped, green leaves of *Fittonia albivenis* (mosaic plant). Two vines with yellow flowers were of interest in Schoenberg Temperate House, primrose jasmine (*Tasminium mesnyi*) and California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*), the latter with the characteristic “pipe-shaped” flowers.

January 29, St. Louis Zoo—15° and a snow-bound landscape put eight persons inside the Living World’s warm confines, although treks to the Penguin & Puffin Exhibit plus the Bird House still required negotiating several icy sidewalks. Unfortunately, the Insectarium, one of the day’s objectives, was closed. In addition to a 50 foot long, ceiling-hung giant squid, a replica of similar monsters living in deep oceans, the Living World has some nice scientific displays. Of most interest to the Botany Group, although probably not #1 on the general public’s viewing list, were perfectly mounted insects in a lower level corridor, featuring mostly Missouri butterflies, moths and beetles. Eastern Hercules Beetle (*Dynastes tityus*) and Giant stag beetle (*Lucanus elaphus*) were the largest, each at least two inches long. Almost as large, but more colorful with two false eyes was the eyed click beetle (*Alaus oculatus*). On the other hand, the 13-spotted lady

beetle (*Hippodamia tredecimpunctata*) drew attention for being the tiniest. Among the most striking of the butterflies and moths was the five-inch long Cecropia (*Hyalophora cecropia*), a huge brown moth with four white circles resembling large eyes.

February 12, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—although weather conditions were not exactly ideal (25°, windy, some residual snow and ice, weak sunshine) for a botany walk, five stalwarts survived a hilly park road trek from the Visitor Center to park entrance and back. No self-respecting plants would attempt to flower in such conditions, so attention was concentrated mainly on trees. Among species seen were *Cornus drummondii* (rough leaf dogwood), *C. florida* (flowering dogwood), *Cercis canadensis* (eastern redbud), *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras), *Fraxinus americana* (white ash), *Carya ovata* (shellbark hickory), *C. cordiformis* (bitternut hickory), *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), *Quercus rubra* (red oak), *Q. alba* (white oak) and the thornless version of honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). Father Sullivan found a nice patch of black haw (*Virburnum prunifolium*) and verified that the scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*) near the entrance gate was still present. Rex Hill rescued several shagbark hickory nuts from the frozen ground and reported taste similar to commercial pecans.

February 19, Pea Ridge Conservation Area, Washington County—a welcome, springlike and sunny 65°, allowed a group of 10 to make the annual, Pea Ridge witch hazel pilgrimage with good results. The Ozark witch hazel (*Hamelis vernalis*) was in good flower, filling the Indian Creek valley with characteristic fragrant aroma. Across the creek were seen leaves of sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*) and fruits of the hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*). Father Sullivan found the “black bud” version of white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and abundant shrubby St. John’s wort (*Hypericum prolificum*) growing in fields beyond the creek. Jack Harris pointed out old frost flower remains on the stem of a white crownbeard (*Verbesina virginica*) plant. Among other winterized plants spotted were *Alnus serrulata* (common alder), *Andropogon gyrans* (Elliott’s broomsedge), *Helianthus mollis* (ashy sunflower), *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (slender mountain mint) and *Vernonia arkansana* (Arkansas ironweed). Foraging on the far

side of the creek, Nels Holmberg came up with tufa moss (*Hymenostylium recurvirostre*) on a cliff face adjacent to a frozen waterfall and *Selaginella eclipses* (hidden spikemoss).

February 26, Rock Hollow Park, St. Louis County—winter seemed on the ropes, as 17 people enjoyed a 50°, sunny day, while touring the Al Foster Trail along the Meramec River, enroute to the new Rock Hollow County Park. The magic of e-mail apparently helped set a probable Botany Group record for new attendees, as included in the total were Mary Smidt & Dan Curran, Yvonne & James Roe with Tom Peterson, and Kathy Bildner & Larry Lindenberger. Along the trail, a *Bidens* caused some discussion, until the four-pronged fruit identified *B. bipinnata* (Spanish needles). A former, overgrown glade was disappointing, but still showed some promise, with evidence of *Cheilanthes lanosa* (hairy lip fern), *Cystopteris bulbifera* (bublet fern), *Glandularia canadensis* (rose vervain), *Pellaea atropurpurea* (purple cliff brake), *Solidago drummondii* (Drummond's goldenrod) and *Vaccinium pallidum* (lowbush blueberry). In the nearby woodland were found *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam & Eve orchid) leaves, plus emerging leaves of oncoming spring plants, spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*) and Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*). Wayne Clark found *Cladonia peziziformis* (brown turban lichen), with turban-like fruiting bodies perched atop stalks, and Jack Harris came up with *Thelia lescurii* (glaucous rock moss) and scarlet cap fungus (*Sarcoscypha coccinea*); the moss is glaucous with tightly appressed leaves and the fungus is one of the first to appear in spring, as soon as March, so this sighting was three days early.

Thanks to Pat & Jack Harris, Rex Hill and Jeannie Moe for contributing information to this article. ☺

Botany Group Changes

Yvonne Homeyer

I am pleased to announce that Jeannie Moe and George Yatskievych have joined the Board of Directors as Co-Chairs of the Botany Group. We are all deeply indebted to Father Sullivan, who has served WGNSS well as the Botany representative to the Board for the last several

years, having assumed that role after Jack Harris.

George directs the Flora of Missouri Project, which is jointly sponsored by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Missouri Department of Conservation. He is also Curator of Missouri Plants at MBG. George is currently revising and expanding the landmark manual, *Flora of Missouri*, written by the late Julian Steyermark, another WGNSS member.

Jeannie received her Master's degree in Botany from SIU-Edwardsville last year; her thesis is a study of the plants at The Watershed in Edwardsville. She will give a presentation about her plant survey at a joint WGNSS-Native Plant Society meeting on Wed., April 28, at 7:30 PM at Powder Valley.

The Botany Group will continue to function as before. Father Sullivan will remain the leader of the Thursday botany walks (announced by Jack Harris every Wednesday) and so we will continue to benefit from his immense knowledge. Jeannie has already started to lead some botany walks on Saturdays, so check the calendar for these additional opportunities to see spring wildflowers. Thank you, Father Sullivan, for your loyalty and dedication to WGNSS. And thank you, Jeannie and George, for sharing your talents as WGNSS Board members. ☺

February 2004 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: We would like to thank all the WGNSS members who have been participating in the annual June bird count at Busch Wildlife. The data accumulated over the last 5 summers have yielded important information. The count is very reliable because the same people cover the same territory in the same way year after year. On another note, a Chickadee banded at Tyson 8 years ago was recaptured in Feb. (JW).

Sightings: Early arrivals of Grebe species included a Horned Grebe at HL on 2/11 (DB & Sat. Group) Pied-billed Grebes at HL on 2/24 (D Bz) and at CL on 2/26 (P&BJ), and an Eared Grebe at REDA on 2/29 (IH). The first large group of Pelicans was 100 reported at HL on 2/15 (DG, BB). Additional sightings of Pelicans included good numbers at REDA on 2/21 (DB & Sat. Group) and huge numbers at Winfield Dam on 2/29 (JC, RAB). Two Trumpeter Swans with neckbands observed at HL on 2/8 were the same two seen there in the winter of 2003 and they both originated from Iowa (FH). On 2/22, 26 Trumpeter Swans were seen at REDA (J Moe, KP). Two Mute Swans were observed in the HL vicinity during much of February (CA, TB, and G&TB). High counts of White-fronted Geese were 100 at HL on 2/18 (FH), 200 at HL on 2/21 (DB & Sat. Group) and 67 at HL on 2/25 (JZ, video). A Ross's Goose was seen in flight among a small flock of Snow Geese on 2/22 (FH, JZ). Dick Coles and the Th. Group found 3 Redheads at BCA on 2/12. An Oldsquaw was a good find at Columbia Bottoms on 2/8 (DB). On 2/22, 1 male and 2 female White-winged Scoters were found at REDA (J Moe, KP) and as of 2/29, 2 White-winged Scoters were still present (CA). Bill Rowe's field trip on 2/1 produced the following numbers of duck species from REDA and Columbia Bottoms: 2 Buffleheads, 30 Hooded Mergansers, 12 Ruddy Ducks, 100 Canvasbacks, 300 Common Mergansers, 22 Greater Scaup, and 1 White-winged Scoter. On 2/5, good numbers of Shovelers and Coots were found at Canteen Lake (JC, RAB). Jim Ziebol and Frank Holmes observed 17 duck sp. at HL on 2/22, including 1000+ Ring-necked Ducks.

Sandhill Cranes were heard at CL on 2/22 (CM, KM). Killdeers first arrived at HL on 2/21 (FH) and 4 were seen at the Borrow Pit on 2/22 (SM). Twelve Snipe were a nice find at Winfield Slough on 2/8 (DG, BB) and one was seen at the Alton mudflats on 2/15 (P&BJ). On 2/22, Kraig Paradise heard many Woodcocks calling at Spanish Lake Park and on 2/29; two were observed walking around the Gaddy Bird Garden in TGP (Jim & Helen Geiss, DM and JZ video). On 2/15, Mike Thelen estimated 8000 gulls in the REDA vicinity. In early February, the vast majority of gulls at REDA were Herring Gulls and the vast majority at HL were Ring-billed. Gull sightings included 2 to 3 first-

winter Glaucous and 1 immaculate adult, 1 first-year Iceland and 1 adult, 1 adult Thayer's and several first-years, 3 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls and 1 third-year, and a first-year Great Black-backed (CA, TB, FH, CM, BR, JU). On 2/15, Paul Bauer observed 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Winfield Dam.

A Black Vulture was seen at Hawn State Park on 2/22 (MB). By 2/19, good numbers of Turkey Vultures had begun migrating through, including 5 north of Alton (PB), 3 at Tyson (JZ) and 2 at his Jefferson County prairie (MP). Dennis Bozzay counted 10 Turkey Vultures at BCA on 2/22. On 2/17, Dennis Bozzay found 15 Bald Eagles at HL. On 2/29 at Clarence Cannon the female of the nesting pair of Bald Eagles was already on eggs and 18 Eagles were sitting on a road near a Snow Goose carcass (JC). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed soaring over west county on 2/12 (D Bz). Additional sightings of Sharpies were at Columbia Bottoms on 2/21 (DB) and on 2/25 one was terrorizing the birds at a feeder at SNR (SM). Red-shouldered Hawks were encountered at BCA on 2/14 (JZ), a probable nesting pair at BCA on 2/22 (D Bz), and 2 to 3 calling at SNR on 2/25 (SM). A Western Red-tailed Hawk, light phase, was seen at HL on 2/17 (D Bz, FH, JZ). Mike Thelen found 2 Rough-legged Hawks at REDA on 2/1. Two other light phase birds were found at HL on 2/8 (FH, CM) and on 2/29 along Hwy. 40 (D Bz). An adult dark morph female Rough-legged Hawk was videotaped along the Levee Road on 2/24 (JZ). Rose Ann Bodman found 2 Merlins at Lakewood Park Cemetery on 2/12 and one was seen cruising the Bischoff Road area at HL on 2/15 (FH, JZ). A Prairie Falcon is always a good find, and one was seen near Seeburger Road on 2/8 (JE). On 2/15 a Peregrine Falcon was observed harassing gulls at HL (DG, BB). On 2/17, Jim Ziebol videotaped a Peregrine Falcon at HL eating a duck; this bird did not appear to be the Peale's intergrade usually seen in our area. Bill Rowe's group on 2/1 encountered the following raptors at REDA and Columbia Bottoms: Bald Eagles, 4 N. Harriers, 4 Red-tails, 3 Kestrels, 1 Cooper's Hawk and 1 Rough-legged Hawk. Two Turkey Vultures, several Red-tails and 15 Bald Eagles were seen migrating at Mark Peters' prairie on 2/19. A flock of 50+ wild Turkeys were reported on 2/24 at the Alton mudflats (P&BJ).

The Northern Saw-whet Owl previously reported at CL was relocated on 2/14 (DK).

Fair numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed at SNR, St. Charles County Park and Route 66 S.P. (m. ob.). Dennis Bozzay found a Phoebe and 4 Purple Finch at BCA on 2/29. On 2/21, the Say's Phoebe found at CL in late October was relocated by Mark & Mike Seiffert. On 2/28, 2 Tree Swallows were found at REDA (JE). As a result of our warmer winters, good numbers of E. Towhees, Brown Thrashers, Hermit Thrushes and Phoebes have been seen all winter; 20 years ago, these birds would have been at least 120 miles south of us. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered at a Boy Scout camp on Hwy. 129 in Illinois (CA, BK, G&TB). A high count for Yellow-rumped Warblers was 80 at BCA on 2/22 (D Bz). Mark Mittelman reported a Lincoln's Sparrow in St. Charles Co. on 2/9. On 2/1, 3 Harris's Sparrows had returned to Weldon Springs/Blue Grosbeak Trail (MB) and on 2/7, 2 Harris's Sparrows were re-found by the Saturday Group (DB). An adult Harris's Sparrow, along with 3 immatures, were seen along Layton Road, HL, from 2/14 to 2/18 (CA, TB, FH). Thirty Lapland Longspurs were observed along Salle Road on 2/8 (DB). Ian Hunt found a Smith's Longspur in a flock of Lapland Longspurs on 2/8 in Monroe Co., IL. Dick Coles saw 2 to 3 Chestnut-collared Longspurs on 2/12 at the Katy Trail Access. Western Meadowlarks moved through our area and were first encountered on 2/12 at the Katy Trail Access (DC, Th. Group) and on 2/22 several were seen at HL (FH, JZ). Paul Bauer counted 12 to 15 Western Meadowlarks at the Katy Trail Access on 2/19. On 2/5, a Brewer's Blackbird was found among some Rusties along Seeburger Road (JC, RAB). A highlight for the Th. Group on 2/12 was 5 Purple Finch at BCA. Chris Brown reported 3 Pine Siskins at the SNR feeders on 2/18. On 2/19, the Th. Group found 3 Pine Siskins, a Brown Creeper, and a Red-shouldered Hawk at SNR (MR, JL). The Common Redpolls wintering at the Friedels in E. Alton remained throughout Feb.

A typical day at REDA on 2/15 included 3 Turkey Vultures, a Thayer's Gull, an Iceland Gull, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a Glaucous, a Great Black-backed, 2 singing Red-winged Blackbirds and 19 Trumpeter Swans (MT). A typical day at HL on 2/15 included 2 White-

fronted Geese, 17 Snow Geese, 150 Gadwalls, 2 Green-winged Teal, 25 Shovelers, 150 Ruddies, 30 Canvasbacks, 40 Ring-necked, 30 Lesser Scaup, 150 Goldeneye, 450 Common Mergansers, 20 Hooded Mergansers, 1 Western Red-tailed Hawk, Harlan's Hawk, Merlin, 4 Flickers, Red-bellied, Downy, Carolina Wren, 8 Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9 Horned Larks, 15 Yellow-rumps, 3 Savannah, 1 Song Sparrow, 30 Am. Tree, 2 Harris's, 30 White-throated, 1 White-crowned, 1 Swamp, 55 Red-winged Blackbirds, 10 Juncos, 30 Goldfinch, 15 ETS (FH, JZ).

Comments: Rose Ann Bodman saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at her peanut feeder in Brentwood on 2/6. Kathy Thiele was surprised to find a Harris's Sparrow at her feeder in St. Charles on 2/7; she saw it again a few days later. On 2/4 Steve Whitworth found Sapsucker, Flicker, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk with a sparrow in his yard. In late January, Dale and Nancy Delaney saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Queeny Park. A bird not encountered in the St. Louis area for about 8 years was seen at Ian Hunt's feeder on 2/7: an Evening Grosbeak. Also on 2/7, a female Towhee appeared at Vickie Flier's feeder. A Sharp-shinned Hawk visited Jack Harris's yard on 2/13. A Cooper's Hawk is a regular visitor in Dennis Bozzay's yard. Lou Hanes had both Harris's Sparrow and a Spotted Towhee in his yard. Jeannie Moe reported a light-plumaged Mockingbird in her yard. Peg and Henry Kaltenhaller saw a Common Redpoll at their feeder in U. City in early February. Mark Mittelman found an all-black swan at Portage de Sioux on 2/29.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Bob Bailey, Paul Bauer, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Dick Coles, Dale & Nancy Delaney, Joe Eades, Vickie Flier, David Garcia, Lou Hanes, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Ian Hunt, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Bob Kleiger, John Loomis, Sherry McCowan, Keith McMullen, Jim & Charlene Malone, David Mendelson, Mark Mittleman, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Mark Peters, Margie Richardson, Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen, Kathy Thiele, Josh Uffman, Jane Walker, Steve Whitworth, 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>.

Conservation Report

Yvonne Homeyer

Proposed Cement Plant: If you are concerned about the impact to your health and the air quality of the St. Louis metropolitan area from the air pollution emissions of the proposed Holcim cement plant, then it's time write a letter to the Mo. Department of Natural Resources. The deadline for receipt is **March 29**. You can also attend a public hearing in Ste. Genevieve at 7:00 PM on March 29. Rides can be arranged. For more information about the hearing, call Yvonne at 314 963 7750 or email her at homeyer@earthlink.net.

The DNR has issued a *draft* air pollution permit to Holcim, which wants to build the largest cement plant in North America about 40 miles south of downtown St. Louis. DNR will accept public comment letters up to March 29. **Mail to: Ms. Leanne Tippett, Missouri DNR, P. O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176, or fax to (573) 751-2706, or e-mail to: Randy.Raymond@dnr.mo.gov.**

Key points for your letter: Holcim plans to operate a coal-burning cement plant around the clock for 100 years. One of the major pollutants that would come out the stack is Nitrogen Oxide, an ingredient of ozone, also called smog. The St. Louis region already has a serious ozone problem and may not be able to meet the new, stricter EPA standard when that goes into effect. However, the DNR did not even analyze the proposed cement plant's impact on our region's ability to achieve this new 8-hour ozone standard, only the 1-hour standard that will soon be obsolete. The draft permit would allow Holcim to emit more NOx than is now emitted from all other sources in Ste. Genevieve County combined. The draft permit would not make Holcim use state-of-the-art technology to control emissions of Nitrogen Oxide. For that reason, DNR's draft permit would potentially require other existing businesses to reduce their air emissions to make room for the additional Holcim emissions – which would not be controlled by any add-on technology. The draft permit does not require Holcim to have any controls to reduce

mercury emissions, a by-product of burning coal. Mercury can enter our bodies if we eat contaminated fish and can cause serious health problems.

For a Fact Sheet prepared by the Environmental Law Clinic, which contains more information about the draft permit, contact Yvonne.

Endangered Species Act 30 Years Later

Yvonne Homeyer

When the Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Nixon in 1973, it was hailed as significant step forward in environmental protection. For the first time, action could be taken to protect rare species and the critical habitat they needed for survival. It has saved the Bald Eagle, grizzly bear, lynx, California Condor and other species from extinction. But the ESA itself is threatened with extinction—if not by outright repeal, then by policies to underfund the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ESA enforcement function and to refuse to list new species.

In the last 4 years, only 24 species have been listed, and most of those listings were the result of settling lawsuits against the Department of Interior and USFWS. The scarcity of listings is not due to lack of need—many unlisted species need protection—but rather policy decisions within the current administration. In the past 3 years, the Dept. of Interior has rolled back critical habitat designation on 42 million acres that had previously been protected under the ESA. Although the USFWS has stated that it needs \$153 million a year to tackle the backlog of petitions for ESA status, the Dept. of Interior requested only \$12.3 for 2004, thus ensuring that the USFWS will not have enough money to do its job properly.

Two bills now pending in Congress would weaken the ESA. The Sound Science for Endangered Species Planning Act restricts how scientific information can be used. The Critical Habitat Reform bill would weaken the USFWS's ability to designate critical habitat for listed species.

One of the petitions included in the backlog at the USFWS is to have the Cerulean Warbler listed as "threatened." This Neotropical migrant has been reduced to just 2 known breeding sites in the immediate St. Louis area.

Its riparian habitat has been negatively impacted by development and timber cutting. ❁

A New Beetle for Missouri

Continued from p. 1

Sometimes, the serendipitous nature of a discovery is more fascinating than the discovery itself. Recent investigations into a "new" species of beetle that led to the discovery of another is a good example. In an ironic twist, these same investigations now suggest that the original "new" species may not be new after all. The two species in question belong to a group of beetles in the family Buprestidae—commonly called "metallic wood-boring beetles" or "jewel beetles." It is the eighth-largest family of beetles in the world and contains some fifteen thousand species—more than the birds and mammals combined! As their name suggests, the immature stage (larva) bores through dead wood before emerging as a brightly colored adult. Many species show distinct host plant preferences, and during my 20+ years of studying the group I've found "rearing" to be a valuable method for studying these beetles. Rearing involves retrieving infested wood from the field and caging it, thereby trapping the adult beetles as they emerge from the wood. Rearing is valuable not only for finding out what beetle species occur at a given locality, but also which plants their larvae require for development.

The story begins in the late 1980's, when I reared a small series of beetles from dead branches of river birch, *Betula nigra*, collected at Hawn State Park. I recognized immediately that they belonged to the genus *Anthaxia* but was unable to determine the species. Most species of *Anthaxia* exhibit polychroism (multiple color forms), but the beetles in this series were all colored similarly—mostly bronze with varying traces of green iridescence along the base of the wing covers and behind the head. I was a relative newcomer to the field at that time, so I sent the specimens off to experts for identification. Imagine my excitement when they told me the beetles represented a new species and my specimens would be used in its description. I collected more river birch branches the following season, from which more beetles emerged. These were also sent off for study,

and I thought little more about them for the next few years.

The beetle returned to my thoughts when I moved back to Missouri in 1996 and resumed my studies on Missouri beetles. The beetle still had not been described by then, and I found myself wanting to learn more about its distribution within Missouri. I began collecting river birch branches wherever I encountered the plant and succeeded in rearing the beetle from several locations. One of these was Big Spring, part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverway on the Current River (I thank the National Park Service for granting me a collecting permit). Here, not only did I rear the *Anthaxia* beetles from river birch, but also several specimens of another species of Buprestidae belonging to a different genus—*Agrilus*. By this time, I was familiar enough with the family to know that only a few species of *Agrilus* had been recorded from birch. Not only were my specimens different from any of those, the male genitalia were highly distinctive and unlike those from any known species in the genus. I knew then that this beetle, too, represented an undescribed species. This was confirmed by experts in the group, and I named the beetle "*Agrilus betulanigrae*" in reference to the larval host plant. A description of the beetle has now been published (*Zootaxa*, December 2003).

But here's the twist. Shortly after I reared *Agrilus betulanigrae* from Big Spring, I reared a series of *Anthaxia* beetles from river birch branches I had collected at Rose Pond Conservation Area in northeast Missouri. To my surprise, however, some of the females, instead of being bronze, were bright metallic blue! This immediately called to mind another species—*Anthaxia cyanella* (from the Greek word "cyanos," meaning "blue")—in which the females are bright metallic blue but the males are bronze. I compared females of *Anthaxia cyanella* with the blue females from river birch but was unable to find any differences. I've also been unable to find any differences between blue and bronze females from river birch (other than color) or between males from river birch and males of *Anthaxia cyanella* (including color or genitalia). Thus, I now believe that the *Anthaxia* beetles from river birch do not represent a new species, but instead multiple color forms of a single species—*Anthaxia cyanella*. In addition, since redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, was

the only larval host previously recorded for this species, river birch represents a new larval host. I have since reared both color forms from river birch collected at another location in northeastern Missouri, further supporting this idea. Interestingly, although I have reared many beetle species from redbud, *Anthaxia cyanella* is not among them.

Thus, one new species was discovered and added to the Missouri fauna—but not the one originally “discovered.” Ironically, however, without the investigations prompted by that misbelief, the true new species would never have been discovered. This illustrates not only how incompletely we know the insect fauna right here in our own backyard, but also how the things we think we know are not always true. While the discovery of new species may be more thrilling, I believe truly understanding the species we “know” to be equally important. As Josh Billings (1818-1885) once said, “It is better to know nothing than to know what ain’t so.” ☺

Coming Soon: “For the Birds!”

Want to know more about birds? On Saturday, April 17, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM, Shaw Nature Reserve will be hosting “For the Birds!” at its new Dana Brown Center. Here’s your chance to learn what to plant to attract birds, which ones are finicky eaters, and among other things, how to make identification easier. Try your hand at assembling a birdhouse or feeder to take home, building a bird nest, plus other hands-on fun activities for kids and adults. See examples and get ideas for making birdbaths, houses, and feeders from items you might have at home as well as traditional materials.

Check out the displays and listen to presentations by knowledgeable birders. Pick up free informational brochures and building plans. Take a checklist and go in search of birds on an enhanced birding trail; you’re guaranteed to find some. Or, go on bird walks with knowledgeable guides. Bird books and bird related items will be available for purchase. There will be lots to see and do at this fun-filled event. Pre-registration is required. Lunch, beverages, and a birdhouse or feeder are included in the registration price. Call 636-451-3512 Ext. 6075 for prices and other information.

April 2☺☺4 www.wgnss.org

There is an optional adults only overnight program Friday evening the 16th, which includes a presentation, dinner, an optional owl prowl, an early Saturday morning birding excursion with knowledgeable guides, a continental breakfast, and all Saturday activities.

Accommodations are dormitory style. ☺

Next Deadline: April 9

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. March begins on a Monday, so next month we have the *earliest possible deadline* of April 9.

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

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.

<i>mailing party</i>		<i>NN deadline</i>
Mon.	3/15, 10–1 Oak Bend	Fri. 3/5
Tues.	4/20, 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 ☺

Scope for Sale

Bausch and Lomb Discoverer scope with 15–60 x zoom. Excellent condition. \$90. Call Vivian Liddell 314-843-9008. ☺

Nature Classes at Community College

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. ☺

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

some Saturdays: call Jeannie Moe 636-946-9802

entomology meeting

last Sun: call Marshall Magner 314-961-4588

general meeting

Meetings are usually on the first Thursday of the month, at St. Louis County Library

Headquarters, at 7:00 PM. Call Mike Flieg 314-645-3356 for more information.

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

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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 ☺

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Plant Order for Spring Banquet Sale 5/13 Please order by April 15


Please use the order form below to order your plants, to be received and paid for at the Spring Banquet, May 13, Eden Seminary. Our plants are supplied by one of the area's top wholesalers, Bowood Farms. Their Missouri native plants are derived from seed collected in our area. Please understand that weather conditions may cause crop failure. It is possible that not all of these will be available, or that the plant may not be available in the size that you order. For that reason, we will total your order and take your cash/check at the banquet, not now. Pat McCormick and Anne McCormack will place WGNSS's complete order with Bowood, so we need to receive your order no later than April 15. Please mail to:


Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin, MO 63021


 ***Aquilegia canadensis* Wild Columbine**
shade to p sun red & yellow perennial
18" tall, space 12" late spring
Prefers sandy soil, good drainage, humus. Will self-sow. Divide in spring.


 ***Amorpha canescens* Lead Plant**
sun purple & orange perennial
1-3' tall July
6" bloom spike. Tolerates dry soil. Host plant for Dog Face Butterfly, Eastern Tailed Blue, and Silver-spotted Skipper.

 ***Aristolochia durior* Dutchman's Pipe**
sun to part sun perennial vine
20'-30' tall May/June
Thrives in rich soil. Strange pipe-shaped flower, heart-shaped leaves. Host to Pipevine Swallowtail larvae.

 ***Buddleia davidii***
'Petite Purple' Butterfly Bush
sun purple perennial
2-3' tall July-Oct.
Narrow green leaves and purple flowers. Some recommend pruning to a few inches in spring. Probably the best nectar plant for butterflies.

 **Echinacea purpurea**
Purple Coneflower
sun to part shade purple perennial
3' tall July-Oct.
Popular with butterflies when in bloom and
with birds when the seeds mature.

 **Lobelia cardinalis** **Cardinal Flower**
part shade to p sun scarlet perennial
2-4' tall July-Aug.
Best in moist soil. Mulch year round. May be
short-lived. Will self-sow. Nectar plant for
hummers and Red-spotted Purple and Spice-
bush Swallowtail butterfly.

 **Lobelia siphilitica** **Great Blue Lobelia**
part sun blue perennial
Best in moist soil. An unattractive specific
name, but a gorgeous plant. Mo. native. Nectar
plant for many butterflies.

 **Monarda bradburiana** **Woodland Ber-
gamot, Horsemint**

sun to part shade pale lavender
perennial
1 1/2-2' tall May-June
Very mildew resistant. Prefers dry soil.

Oenothera macrocarpa **Missouri Primrose**


sun yellow perennial
8-10" tall July-Aug.
Large yellow blossoms and huge seedpod. Pre-
fers dry soil. Glade plant.


Chasmanthium latifolium **River Oats**


2-3' tall x 2-4' wide
Warm-season grass. Grow this one for its at-
tractive seed heads. Looks great arching over a
pond. Likes average to moist, fertile soil in fil-
tered light.


 **Lindera benzoin** **Spicebush**


sun to part shade small, green
shrub/small tree
6-12' tall March-April
Small, high fat, red fruit. 24 species of birds are
known to eat the fruit. Host plant for Spicebush
Swallowtail butterfly.


 **Monarda 'Jacob Cline'** **Bee Balm**
sun to part shade red perennial
3-4' tall June-Aug.
Mildew is a problem with *Monarda*, but this is
the most resistant variety. Divide every 2-3 yr.;
thin stems to improve air circulation. Average
to moist soil.

 **Penstemon cobaea** **Purple Beard-
tongue**
sun purple perennial
18-30" tall late spring
Large, tubular, long-lasting bloom. Dry to me-
dium soil. Needs good drainage and light mulch
in winter.

 **Rudbeckia missouriensis**
Missouri Black-eyed Susan
sun yellow perennial
2' tall July-Oct.
Drought tolerant; native to limestone glades.
Large yellow flowers with black eyes. Popular
with butterflies when in bloom and with birds
when the seeds mature.

 **Salvia guaranitica** **Anise sage**
sun tender perennial deep blue
36" space 30" early fall till hard frost
Large, indigo blooms top the chart with hum-
mers. Watch the top of the flower tap the
hummer's head and deposit pollen. Aver-
age-dry soil. Some of mine have made it
through the two winters.

 **Salvia leucantha** **Mexican sage**
sun to part shade indigo & wt annual
5' tall late Aug.-Oct.
Tall and shrubby. Easy to grow, average garden
soil. Careful when transplanting— stems are
brittle. Propagate by cuttings. Beloved by
Rufous Hummers. See *Nature Notes*, 3/03.

 **Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue'**
Pincushion Flower
sun blue perennial
12-18" tall, space 15"
Perennial Plant of the Year 2000 and Mo. Bo-
tanical Garden Plant of Merit. Easy to grow,
long-flowering, average garden soil; prefers
warm weather.

Stylophorum diphyllum Celandine Poppy

shade yellow perennial
24-36" tall April-June
Fabulous 2" bright yellow bloom, interesting leaves. Not a butterfly plant, but ants collect and plant the seeds. Goes dormant when dry.

Ceanothus americanus New Jersey Tea

Sun-part shade white shrub
3x5 feet tall May-June
White flowers and red fruit.

 **Vernonia fasciculata Ironweed**

sun purple perennial
3-6' tall Aug.-Sept.
Medium to wet soil. Missouri native.

We need to receive your order no later than April 15. Please mail to:

Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin, MO 63021

Name _____ phone _____

Plant Order Form 2004						
name		description	size	\$	quantity	total
Amorpha canescens	Lead Plant	butterfly plant	1 qt	3.00		
Aquilegia canadensis	Wild Columbine	humplant	1 qt	3.00		
Aristolochia durior	Dutchmans Pipe	butterfly vine	1 gal	10.00		
Buddleia davidii Petite Purple	Butterfly Bush	butterfly shrub	1 gal	6.00		
Ceanothus americanus	N Jersey Tea	humplant	1 qt	3.00		
Chasmanthium latifolium	River Oats	native grass shade	1 gal	6.00		
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	butterfly plant	1 qt	3.00		
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	butterfly tree	2 gal	15.00		
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower	humplant	1 qt	3.00		
Lobelia siphilitia	Great Blue Lobelia	humplant	1 qt	3.00		
Monarda bradburiana	Horsemint	butterfly plant	1 qt	3.00		
Monarda didyma	Bee Balm 'Jacob Clin	humplant	1 gal	6.00		
Oenothera missouriensis	Missouri primrose	glade plant	1 qt	3.00		
Penstemon cobaea	Purple Beardtongue	humplant	1 qt	3.00		
Rudbeckia missouriensis	MO Bk-eye Susan	butterfly plant	1 qt	3.00		
Salvia guaranitica	Anise sage	humplant annual	1 qt	3.00		
Salvia leucantha	Mex sage	humplant annual	1 qt	3.00		
Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue'	Pincushion Flwr	butterfly plant	1 gal	6.00		
Stylophorum diphyllum	Celandine Poppy	wildflr shade	1 gal	6.00		
Vernonia fasciculata	Ironweed	butterfly plant	1 qt	3.00		
					total	

W e b s t e r G r o v e s N a t u r e S t u d y S o c i e t y

Call 314-935-8432 for the latest bird sightings in St. Louis.

Meetings

Wednesday April 7

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

Thursday April 1

7:00 PM at St. Louis County Library HQ in Frontenac, Cintia Cornelius will present her research on the fragmentation of two species of birds in Argentina. Cornelius is the winner of WGNSS's Scudder Scholarship. This is our annual members meeting; we will elect officers. See the article p. 3.

Thursday May 13

Annual Spring Banquet and plant sale at Eden Seminary, Webster. Our speaker is nationally-known pelagic birder, Debra Shearwater from Monterey, California. Reservation form and plant sale order on p. 2 & 15. For more information, call Pat McCormick, 636-225-0264.

Entomology

Sunday March 28

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. January 25 meeting has been rescheduled for this date: "The Status of the Appalachian Eyed-Brown Skipper in Missouri; A 2-Year Study," by Rich Thoma.

Sunday April 11 & May 16

10 AM NABA Butterfly walk. Meet at Busch Wildlife headquarters

Sunday April 18 & May 31

10 AM NABA Butterfly walk. Meet at Hilda Young CA parking lot

Sunday April 25

7 PM at Magners'. Michael Brown entomologist with Mo. Dept. of Agriculture, presents "Plant Police—Are You Serious?"

Sunday May 23

noon NABA & Friends of Tyson Butterfly walk. Meet at Tyson gatehouse for lunch.

Nature Notes deadline April 9

Botany

Thursday March-May

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 Jeannie Moe will lead a walk at Robertsville State Park to see the Harbinger of Spring in bloom.

Saturday April 10

10 AM Jeannie Moe will lead Shaw Nature Reserve in Grey Summit, Mo. Early spring wildflowers will in bloom.

Wednesday April 28

7:30 PM at Powder Valley Nature Center, Jeannie Moe will present her masters thesis, "A Baseline Floral Study of Watershed Nature Center." Sponsored by WGNSS & Mo. Native Plant Society.

Birding

Thursdays March-April

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Starting in May, we will meet at 8 AM. Questions: call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998.

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 20

8 AM St. L. Audubon at Busch/Weldon Springs with Paul Bauer and Mike Grant.

Saturday March 27

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." Parking lot of HQ of Co. Library, Lind-

bergh, 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 3

8 AM St. L. Audubon at Horseshoe Lake with Torrey Berger and Mike Thelen.

Saturday April 10

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

Sunday April 11

8 AM Meet at boat launch at Castlewood SP with Kent Lannert.

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.

Saturday April 17

8 AM St. L. Audubon at Castlewood SP with Mike Brady.

Sunday April 18

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

Fri.-Sun. April 23-25

St. L. Audubon weekend at Mingo NWR. Reservations and trip fee required. Mike Grant and John Solodar.

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.

Saturday May 1

7:30 AM St. L. Audubon at Shaw Nature Reserve & Robertsville SP with Jim Malone and Mike Thelen.

Sunday May 2

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

Thursdays May-Aug

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

Saturday May 8

Big Day birding competition.

Saturday May 8

7:30 AM St. L. Aud. at Tower Grove/ Horseshoe Lk with John Solodar and Torrey Berger.

Sunday May 9

8 AM Meet at Kennedy Forest trailhead off Wells Dr. in Forest Pk with Randy Korotev.

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.

Saturday May 15

7:30 AM St. L. Audubon at Forest Pk. with Joe Eades and Paul Bauer.

Sunday May 16

7:30 AM Meet at Gaddy Bird Garden in NW corner of Tower Grove with Sherry McCowan. Note time.

Saturday May 22

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

Saturday May 22

7:30 AM St. L. Audubon at Columbia Bottoms with John Solodar & Mike Arduser.

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.

Saturday June 12

7:30 AM St. L. Audubon at Lost Valley/ Katy Trail with Mike Grant Jim Malone.

Sunday June 13

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

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

address service requested

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Paul Neuhoff
342 S Maple Ave
Saint Louis MO 63119-3824

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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

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

Webster Groves Nature Study Society