



# Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line 314-935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings [www.wgnss.org](http://www.wgnss.org)  
Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society October 2004 Vol. 76, No. 8

## Protection Sought For Ozark Hellbender

Yvonne Homeyer

The Mo. Coalition for the Environment has filed a petition with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the agency that oversees the Endangered Species Act, seeking to have the Ozark Hellbender added to the list of federally endangered species. The Ozark Hellbender, Missouri's largest salamander, is already listed as endangered by the Mo. Department of Conservation, but this alone does not adequately protect the species and its habitat. WGNSS is a co-petitioner with the Coalition.

Surveys taken since the 1970s have documented a 77% decline in the population of the hellbender. The hellbender grows to two and a half feet in length and can live up to 30 years. The hellbender requires clean, cool, moving water, with an abundance of large rocks to hide under. Ozark hellbenders inhabit five streams within Missouri: the Current, Jacks Fork, Eleven Point and North Fork of the White River, and Bryant Creek. Outside of Missouri, it is found in only one other location: Spring River in Arkansas.

While the exact cause of the precipitous decline in its population is unknown, it is known that chemical pollutants, sedimentation, and dams have all negatively impacted the species.

The petition can be found on the Coalition's web site at

[www.moenviron.org](http://www.moenviron.org). ☞

## Hellbender at Oct. 7 Meeting

David Mendelson

Have you ever hear of a "Hellbender"? It's a large black salamander—up to two and one half feet in length and can live for thirty years, with good luck. It is found almost exclusively in five Missouri streams. Have you ever seen one? Probably not. Why not? Because their number is significantly decreasing.

Come hear Mr. Ron Goellner, Director of the Animal Collection at the St. Louis Zoo, and a noted herpetologist, who will give us more details about the problems the Hellbender is confronting and what studies are being done. Check the article [www.stlzoo.org/conservation/wildcareinstitute/declineofozarkhellbender.htm](http://www.stlzoo.org/conservation/wildcareinstitute/declineofozarkhellbender.htm).

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Place:** St. Louis County Library Headquarters, Lindbergh Blvd., just south of 40 in Frontenac. ☞

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## Dates for '04 Meetings

All of these are 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday:

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 5 Holiday Party ☞

## Historian's Corner

Jim Adams

Since violent weather has been very much in the news lately, I thought this item from the January 1931 issue of *Nature Notes* would be of interest. It was called to my attention by our resident atmospheric phenomena specialist, Clarence Zacher. The article is about the observations of a Mr. Will Keller of Greensburg, Kansas, who watched the approach of three tornadoes from the door of his cyclone cellar.

Mr. Keller: "Two of the tornadoes looked like great ropes dangling from the clouds, but the nearest one was shaped like a funnel, with ragged clouds surrounding it. At last the great shaggy end of the funnel hung directly overhead. Everything was as still as death. There was a strong, gassy odor, and it seemed that I could not breathe. Then a screaming, hissing sound came directly from the funnel. I looked up and to my astonishment I saw right into the heart of the tornado. There was a circular opening in the center, about 50-200 feet in diameter, and extending straight upward for a distance of at least 1/2 mile. The walls of this opening were rotating clouds and the whole was made brilliantly visible by constant lighting, which zigzagged from side to side. Along the lower rim, small tornadoes were constantly breaking away... It was these that made the hissing sound. The great whirl was anti-clockwise, but the small twisters rotated both ways... I had plenty of time to get a good view of it, inside and out."

### *In the beginning...*

When I became secretary I inherited a file of Board Meeting Minutes. The oldest were dated Feb. 11, 1966, with a nearly complete file thereafter. I wonder if the Feb. 11 minutes are the first formally recorded Board minutes. The minutes are handwritten on tablet paper. A typed report of a Conservation Committee meeting is attached. If anyone has older Board minutes, I'd like to add them or copies thereof,

to my file. If you'll call me at 314-961-2494, I'll be glad to call for them or have copies made.

This meeting was held at the Farm and Home Bldg., in Webster Groves. President Helen Hill presided. Other Board members present were Bob Dwyer, Steve Hanselmann, Bill Brush, Beulah Bedell, Paul Bauer, Burrell Pickering, Art Lesar, and Karen Haller. An interesting item was the report that Steve H. had assembled four complete sets of *Nature Notes* for the period 1929 through 1965—"a mammoth job." These sets were bound in seven volumes per set, for a total cost of \$26.40. One of the sets was delivered to the St. Louis University library. It was planned to deliver a second set to the Missouri University Library. The Washington University Library had been offered a set, but no response had been received at the time of the meeting. Surprise, surprise! I had thought that the complete set assembled by Betty Nellums in the 1990s and presented to the Missouri Botanical Garden's Library was the only existing bound set of *Nature Notes*. If anyone knows whether the bound set assembled by Hanselmann is still in the libraries mentioned, please give me a ring. If you know what happened to the undesignated fourth set, I'd like to know this also.

Among the new business items was an announcement of a forthcoming meeting at which Mike Flieg would speak about his trip to the Yucatan. Some planning was done for the forthcoming annual meeting. The Flaming Pit won out over the Green Parrot because the latter could accommodate only 50 people. Another item of interest was a progress report on the design of a WGNSS decal and letterhead for *Nature Notes*. A design contest for the latter was in progress, with a \$50 award offered for the winning design.

Submissions to the Historian's Corner will be gladly accepted. Call me or mail to 35 Tulip Drive, Webster Groves, Mo. 63119. ☞

## Many thanks

Margie Richardson

Many, many thanks to WGNSS for presenting me with a Lifetime Achievement Ward at our annual banquet on May 13. What a wonderful evening, filled with kind words and much fun. The high that I left with has been with me all summer and into our early fall! ☞

# August '04 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

CSP = Castlewood State Park

CC = Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Ref, Annada

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LCCL = Little Creve Coeur Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

SNR = Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)

TGP = Tower Grove Park

**Introduction:** The land bird migration has been pitiful. Birders are reporting very few Neotropical migrants in the usual places, like Tower Grove Park.

**Sightings:** Clarence Zacher found a Green Heron 8/7 near Olive and Mason; the bird landed in a tree and raised its crest. The Sunday group, led by Keith McMullen on 8/8, found 200 Great Egrets, 20 Little Blue Herons, 30 Snowys, 45 Pecs, 20 Least, 7 Lesser Yellowlegs, 7 Stilt, and a single Western Sandpiper at Stump Lake. Piping Plovers were reported at Confluence Park on 8/19 (T Be) and near B.K. Leach C.A. on 8/28 (CM). On 8/1 at CL, David Becher found an Avocet and a Wilson's Phalarope. The first Sora of the fall was seen at HL on 8/29 (G&TB). Torrey Berger reported Common Moorhen and 5 "henlets" at LCCL on 8/28. Five Ruddy Turnstones were a good find at Winfield Slough on 8/18 (JJ, DH). Three Baird's Sandpipers were seen at CC on 8/15 (D Ro) and 8 Baird's, along with one Western, were seen at REDA on 8/29 (MT). Charlene Malone found the first Buff-breasted Sandpiper on 8/4 at Hwy. 94 and B; 15 were seen in Lincoln County on 8/22 (JCowan) and one was seen at Confluence Park on 8/25 (RAB, JCh). The first Snipe report was from B.K. Leach on 8/4 (D Ro). On 8/22, David Becher reported 60 Snowy Egrets, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 6 Caspian Terns and an Osprey at REDA. A Herring Gull was sighted at REDA on 8/27 (FH). The Malones reported large numbers of Caspian Terns, along with a few Forster's Terns, at REDA on 8/29.

Mississippi Kite sightings included 1 at BCA on 8/4 (JZ), 2 at Des Peres Park on 8/6 (MR), 1 at Stacy Park on 8/18 (YH), and 7 at LCCL on 8/21 (MB). Mike Thelen found N. Harriers at

HL on 8/8 and at Prairie Slough on 8/29. Ospreys were reported at CL on 8/1 (with a chick) (DB), at LVT on 8/21 (MG), and at REDA on 8/29 (MT). Another Osprey was found at Confluence Park, along with a Peregrine Falcon and a Cooper's Hawk at REDA, on 8/29 (DBz). On 8/20, the Thursday Group found Yellow-billed Cuckoos in TGP and Lafayette Park (J Ch). By 8/20, a few Night Hawks were being seen migrating south (FH, YH). Mark Peters reported 80 Night Hawks in Jefferson Co. on 8/23 and 30 migrating in heavy rain on 8/24. Mike Thelen observed 30 Night Hawks in his neighborhood on 8/26. On 8/1 along Missouri Bottom Road, Charlene Malone found 1 adult Western Kingbird with two young, and on 8/8 she found an immature Western Kingbird on Ell Road. A Least Flycatcher was seen at CSP on 8/21 (MB). Nick Barber observed an Olive-sided Flycatcher and 2 Yellow-bellied at TGP on 8/30. Sherry McCowan found N. Parula, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Lafayette Park on 8/23. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was somewhat early on 8/15 at LCCL (MB). David Rogles found a Yellow-throated Warbler at CC on 8/15. Both the male and female Painted Buntings were seen at the Katy Access on 8/10 (M Richardson). On 8/17, the Barkers found a Lark Sparrow at Confluence Park. Bobolinks were first reported on 8/4 at B.K. Leach (D Ro). August 29 was a fairly good day for Neotropical migrants following the passage of a cold front. Sherry McCowan found Olive-sided, Blackburnian, 2 Yellow Warblers, 2 Chestnut-sided, 3 Tennessees, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Red-eyed Vireo at Lafayette Park, and at TGP Jim Ziebol found Swainson's Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Catbird, 2 Blue-winged Warblers, Black-and-White Warbler, 2 Ovenbirds, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, 2 Chestnut-sided, 3 Mourning, and Summer Tanager.

A typical day for the Saturday Group on 8/8 included Canada, Black-and-White, Nashville, Redstart and many Night Hawks at TGP; 2 Caspian Terns, Common Moorhen, a variety of egrets and herons, Pied-billed Grebes and Blue-winged Teal at HL; Baird's, Pectoral, Semi-palmated, Least Sandpipers, 1 Semi-palmated Plover, 25 Black Terns and a dozen each of Caspian and Forster's Terns at REDA.

**Comments:** For several days, a Mississippi Kite was seen feeding cicadas to its fledgling in Dennis Bozzay's yard; the baby kite begged loudly for food. On 8/29, Margy Terpstra saw Black-and-White and Canada Warblers in her yard. Margy also has a regular Great Horned Owl, an occasional immature Cooper's Hawk, up to 5 hummingbirds at a time, Hairy Woodpeckers and nesting Bluejays.

**Contributors:** Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Connie Cooper, Jack Cowan, Mike Grant, Don Hays, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Jim Jackson, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Margie Richardson, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, John & Nancy Solodar, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, 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>. ☼

## Hawk Watch Sun. Sept. 26

Mark Peters will host a Hawk Watch on September 26 at his house in Imperial, Mo. This is a likely date to see hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks and other raptors migrating.

Go south on Tesson Ferry—Hwy. 21—and take the second exit—Old Hwy. 21—after crossing the Meramec R. Go 2.6 miles on Old Hwy. 21 and then turn left onto Lions Den Road. In about 1 mile, cross a bridge. Take the second of two unmarked, unpaved to the right immediately past the bridge. Mark's house is about 1/2 mile up this road.

Once you turn onto this gravel road, pass a farmhouse with a red barn. Ignore the road branching off to the right. A short distance past it, you come to the creek. Don't cross in cars. Park. The house is up the driveway on the left, but please park at the bottom on the road. It's narrow, so don't park on both sides of road. To get to the prairie, walk across the creek.

One more point to help people find the correct gravel road: Mark's address "5435" marked on a mailbox at the turnoff from the paved Lions Den Road onto the unpaved and unmarked Lions Den Spur. ☼

## Spring Botanizing

Carl Darigo

Hopefully leaving winter far behind, the Botany Group Thursday outings continued into the welcome spring season, with the following attending one or more times, Father James Sullivan, Dave Alspaugh, Anna & Howard Anthes, Marvin Boisseau, Jerry Brown, Jill Brown, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Dorothy & Ed Emery, Pat & Jack Harris, Martha & Rex Hill, Sandra & Nels Holmberg, June Jeffries, Dane & David Jespersen, Andrea & Jim Kennedy + youngsters Kiley & Liam, Anne Kettler, Gladys Kullman, Louise Langbein, Barbara Lawton, Harold Meyer, Jeannie & Jim Moe, Rick Moll, Tom O'Gorman, Susan Orr, Nathan Pate, Tom Peterson, Yvonne & Jim Roe, Marge & Jim Ruschill, Dick Russell, Ann & Bruce Schuette, Bob Siemer, Reba Symeonoglou, Ann Tansey, Kathy Thiele, James Trager, George Van Brunt, Ann Wakeman, Dave Weber, Harvey Welch, Bob Wells and Martha Younkin.

March 4, Missouri History Museum, Forest Park—seven persons avoided an all-day rain, by enjoying the Museum's comfortable confines along with a multitude of school kids, while taking in the special Lewis & Clark Exhibit. From the botanists' perspective, the best part was near the end, at a display of four actual plant specimens collected during the expedition. Approximately 150 plant collections survived the expedition, currently housed in Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences Herbarium. The four plants were *Berberis nervosa* (Oregon grape holly), *Psoralea esculenta* (prairie turnip), *Grindelia squarrosa* (curly gumweed) and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (bearberry). The *Berberis* is the "type" for the species, a distinct honor, meaning that all subsequent identifications of *B. nervosa* are referred to this specimen. The plants were collected west of Missouri, but the *Psoralea* (now called *Pedimelum esculentum*) and *Grindelia* do occur in the state. Also displayed was a book by Frederic Pursh with a drawings of some of the expedition's plant collections; Pursh was a German botanist with an unsavory reputation of using other botanist's collections without permission. The group enjoyed lunch at Meriwether's Restaurant overlooking the park,

while debating the identity of bright yellow table flowers, either of the Iridaceae or Liliaceae families.

March 11, St. Francois State Park, St. Francois County—six people took advantage of a reasonably nice, sunny, 50° day, to tour a portion of Mooner's Hollow Trail and surrounding areas. The beginning of the trail along Coonville Creek is noted for the abundance of muscledwood trees (*Carpinus caroliniana*). Flowering plants finally made their first spring overture, with five being found, *Thlaspi perfoliatum* (perfoliate penny cress), *Cardamine hirsuta* (hoary bitter cress), *Lindera benzoin* (spice bush), *Holosteum umbellatum* (jagged chickweed) and *Hepatica acutiloba* (sharp lobed hepatica), the last one spotted by eagle-eyed Bob Wells. Ferns seen were purple cliff brake (*Pellaea atropurpurea*) and walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*). Among plants sporting green winter leaves was *Polymnia canadensis* (pale leaf cup), which had not been included in Father Sullivan's recent MONPS "winter leaf" seminar. An unusual find was the fruits of *Gentianella quinquefolia* (stiff gentian); flowers of this species had been seen on previous trips, but not fruits. Jack Harris came up with *Phaeophyscia squarrosa* (common shadow lichen) and near the creek, Father Sullivan found *Climacium americanum* (tree moss), so named due to the plant's tree-like appearance.

March 18, Robertsville State Park, Franklin County—12 persons turned out on a fairly nice, 60° day to check out the boat ramp picnic area and several surrounding trails. The trip's main goal was satisfied, as harbinger of spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) was seen in abundance. Additional flowering plants found were *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Cardamine hirsuta* (hoary bitter cress), *Veronica hederifolia* (ivy leaf speedwell), *Viola rafinesquii* (Johnny jump-up) *V. sororia* (common violet), *Stellaria media* (common chickweed), *Draba brachycarpa* (shortpod draba), *D. verna* (vernal whitlow grass), *Hedyotis crassifolia* (small bluets) and *Isopyrum biternatum* (lowland rue anemone). Bob Wells found witches' butter (*Tremella mesenterica*) on a dead branch; this fungus is a yellow-orange jelly-like substance, reportedly edible. After the trip, Jeannie Moe exhibited several examples of Japanese honeysuckle's (*Lonicera japonica*) strength in deforming tree

branches, from her Edwardsville IL botany study area. In one case the honeysuckle vine had grown to over 1/2 inch diameter.

March 25, Washington State Park, Washington County—nine participants, including 1<sup>st</sup> timer George Van Brunt, endured drizzly, 65° weather to walk the bottomland portion of the 1,000 Steps Trail and also check out the petroglyph glade. Last year's wind storm had left numerous downed trees in the park and the trail was not in the best condition, but quite a few flowering species were seen. Father Sullivan opened the "sedge season" by stopping at the glade on his way in and finding what probably was bristle leaf sedge (*Carex eburnea*); sedges are practically impossible to identify without mature fruiting parts, but the glade habitat under cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) trees favored this species; later *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac) was seen here. Flowering plants found in the lodge parking lot were *Androsace occidentalis* (western rock jasmine) and *Holosteum umbellatum* (jagged chickweed), while along the trail were found bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), sharp lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and a lush spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*). The bottomland field adjacent to the Big River had *Ranunculus abortivus* (small flower crowfoot), *Sibara virginica* (Virginia rock cress), *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), and was replete with *Lamium amplexicaule* (henbit) and *Veronica polita* (wayside speedwell). Father Sullivan's test on blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*) leaves went unanswered.

April 1, Rock Hollow Park, St. Louis County—15 persons turned out on a partly sunny, but still chilly 50° day, for a repeat visit to this new county park site, to find more additions to the plant list. Included in the group were new attendees June Jeffries and Nels Holmberg's son-in-law, Dane Jespersen. Reaching the park proper requires a one mile walk along the Al Foster Trail, east along the Meramec River from the Glencoe trailhead. Flowering species seen along the trail were *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist), *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac), *Staphylea trifoliata* (American bladdernut), *Isopyrum biternatum* (lowland rue anemone), *Arabidopsis thaliana* (mouse ear cress) and *Hedyotis*

*crassifolia* (small bluets). Buds almost ready to blossom were found on *Polymnia canadensis* (pale leaf cup), *Aesculus glabra* (Ohio buckeye) and *Trillium viride* (green trillium). Jeannie Moe successfully answered Father Sullivan's green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) test, then later opened the butterfly season with spring azure (*Celastrina argiolus ladon*); this butterfly is one of the first to emerge in spring and often termed "harbinger-of-spring." In the park, Rex Hill was first to find bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*); other flowering plants spotted were blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), white trout lily (*Erythronium albidum*) and Harvey's buttercup (*Ranunculus harveyi*). Father Sullivan added to the state record list with *Brachythecium campestre* (rough stalk cedar moss); *Brachythecium* is a common moss genus in Missouri, but this particular species has not been previously recorded in the state, even though known in Arkansas, Illinois and Iowa.

April 8, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin County—avoiding the yellow school bus filled with grade school kids, 12 persons managed to tour the Whitmire Wildflower Garden and adjacent trails on a 55° day, which while sunny, was somewhat chillier than anticipated. Upon entering the garden, a large tree with abundant white flowers was thought to be crabapple, but later investigation indicated pear (*Pyrus communis*); checking the fruit later in the season hopefully will confirm the determination. Another interesting tree was the white redbud, *alba* form of the common redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). Flowering plants seen along the garden paths were *Viola pubescens* (yellow violet), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (celandine poppy), *Polemonium reptans* (Jacob's ladder), *Mertensia virginica* (bluebells), *Aesculus pavia* (red buckeye), *Aquilegia canadensis* (columbine), *Erythronium albidum* (white trout lily) and *Phlox bifida* (sand phlox). Abundant among the planted species were numerous tufts of early spring sedge (*Carex albicans*), just beginning to bear fruit. Golden currant bushes (*Ribes odoratum*) lent a spicy aroma to the surroundings. A good-sized snake was observed swimming beneath the water pool surface, but no one volunteered to coax the reptile to the surface to be identified. Path surfaces appeared to be stone with fossils, but questioning revealed that the surface was made of concrete to re-

semble shale and had been crossed by deer before the material hardened.

April 15, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—a crowd of 18, including new member Ann Tansey, enjoyed a sunny, 70° day, while walking east from the Weldon Spring Access trailhead. Numerous flowering plants seen, some above on the steep hillside requiring binoculars, included *Senecio glabellus* (butterweed), *Buglossoides arvense* (corn gromwell), *Oxalis violacea* (violet wood sorrel), *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Tradescantia virginiana* (Virginia spiderwort), *Phlox divaricata* (blue phlox), *Podophyllum peltatum* (May apple), *Erysimum repandum* (bushy wallflower), *Delphinium tricornis* (dwarf larkspur) and *Cerastium nutans* (nodding chickweed), the last one requiring detailed field-keying by Father Sullivan. Venturing off into the woods, Jack Harris spotted red berries of deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*), an unusual find since the fruits usually are long gone by spring. Two interesting trees sported colorful flowers, white of American bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) and dark brown of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). Jeannie Moe pointed out the falcate orange tip butterfly (*Falcapica midea*) and eight-spotted forester moth (*Alypia octomaculata*). Abundant sedges near the levee low area had no mature fruits, but the upper, multiple, male spikes and long-awned pistillate scales probably belonged to *Carex davisii* (awned graceful sedge).

April 22, Rock Hollow Park, St. Louis County—a large group of 18, including 1<sup>st</sup> timers, Anna & Howard Anthes, made the 4<sup>th</sup> trip into Rock Hollow Park for the plant survey project, encountering 60° intermittent rain. *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist) and *Osmorhiza longistylis* (anise root) were plentiful along the beginning of Al Foster Trail. Also seen along the trail were *Galium aparine* (cleavers), *Ranunculus hispidus* (hispid buttercup), *Polygonatum biflorum* (Solomon's seal), *Aquilegia canadensis* (columbine), *Trillium viride* (green trillium), *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium), *Oenothera laciniata* (cut leaf evening primrose) and *Plantago pusilla* (small plantain). Unfortunately, also abundant was bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), and the nefarious garlic mustard (*Aliaria petiolata*) covered one entire hillside not far from the miniature railroad station. Two flowering sedges just setting fruit were *Carex blanda* (woodland sedge) and possibly *C. nor-*



*malis* (spreading oval sedge). Jack Harris pointed out an arrowhead-shaped sandbag marker used for aerial photo orientation, while Father Sullivan's sleepy catchfly (*Silene antirrhina*) test went unanswered. Among plants seen in the hollow were *Mertensia virginica* (bluebells), *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger), *Delphinium tricornis* (dwarf larkspur), *Senecio obovatus* (squaw weed), *Trillium recurvatum* (purple trillium) and *Valerianella radiata* (corn salad).

April 29, Highway 47 Glade & Clearview City Park, Franklin County—despite a 60° chilly intermittent drizzle, 13 persons turned out to tour two Franklin County sites suggested by Nels Holmberg. At the glade were seen *Eleocharis compressa* (flat stem spike rush), *Glandularia bipinnatifida* (Dakota vervain), *Hedyotis longifolia* (long leaf bluets), *Lithospermum canescens* (orange puccoon), *Sisyrinchium campestre* (prairie blue-eyed grass) and a flowering *Viburnum rufidulum* (southern black haw). The city park in Union yielded *Anemonella thalictroides* (rue anemone), *Aquilegia canadensis* (columbine), *Asclepias quadrifolia* (whorled milkweed), *Astragalus canadensis* (rattle weed), *Comandra umbellata* (rock toadflax), *Corallorhiza wisteriana* (coral root), *Coreopsis palmata* (finger coreopsis), *Dodecatheon meadia* (shooting star), *Hypoxis hirsuta* (yellow star grass), *Ranunculus harveyi* (Harvey's buttercup), *Viola palmata* (cleft violet) and *Zizia aurea* (golden Alexanders). Among butterflies seen in the park were Horace's dusky wing (*Erynnis horatius*) and silver-spotted skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*).

May 6, Cuivre River State Park, Lincoln County—celebrating National Wildflower Day (sunny and 85+°), a crowd of 19 descended on Park Naturalist Bruce Schuette and his wife, Ann, who led wildflower walks to several park areas. Members attending for the 1<sup>st</sup> time were Jerry Brown, Jim Kennedy and Harvey Welch. The best prize was yellow lady's slipper orchids (*Cypripedium calceolus*); even after Jack Harris made detailed measurements of the flower parts, sentiment was still mixed as to whether plants were the small or large variety, or perhaps both. Among other flowering species seen were *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium), *Krigia biflora* (false dandelion), *Osmorhiza claytonii* (sweet cicely), *Penstemon pallidus* (pale

beard-tongue), *Rubus flagellaris* (dewberry), *Sanicula odorata* (black snakeroot), *Thaspium trifoliatum* (meadow parsnip), *Geum vernum* (spring avens), *Maianthemum racemosum* (false Solomon's seal), *Scutellaria parvula* (small skullcap) and *Taenidia integerrima* (yellow pimpernel).

May 13, Edward & Pat Jones Confluence State Park, St. Charles County—17 persons, including new member Jill Brown, enjoyed a 70° day and avoided afternoon thunderstorms, while touring Missouri's newest state park. Father Sullivan's guess on a healthy grass dominating the landscape as *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canary grass) turned out to be correct, as confirmed by a later analysis; this grass although native, is aggressive and can dominate wet habitats. Even though the confluence trail was heavily endowed with Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*), some other interesting plants were seen, including *Ellisia nyctelea* (Aunt Lucy), *Erysimum repandum* (bushy wallflower), *Urtica dioica* (tall nettle), *Senecio glabellus* (butterweed) and *Sicyos angulatus* (bur cucumber). Two *Rumex* plants requiring field keying were *R. altissimus* (pale dock) and *R. patientia* (patience dock). The closest tree to the confluence point of the two rivers was a very old black willow (*Salix nigra*). Except for an upside-down map which to the casual observer, showed St. Louis to be across the Mississippi River in Illinois, the confluence point was impressive. A flag on top of a 26-foot tall pole recorded the maximum height of the great 1993 flood. Nathan Pate spotted several dead exotic carp (either silver carp or bighead carp) along the river bank; these fish monopolize food sources, thus harming native species. On the way out, a short stop at Riverlands' Two Pecan Trail yielded *Arenaria serpyllifolia* (thyme leaf sandwort), *Geranium carolinianum* (Carolina cranesbill), *Trifolium reflexum* (buffalo clover) and *Verbena bracteata* (creeping vervain).

May 20, Mark Twain National Forest, Callaway County—15 persons, including Andrea & Jim Kennedy with their two youngsters Kiley & Liam, traveled to far southwest Callaway County to check out Mark Twain National Forest's Big Branch area, on a hot day approaching 90°. While waiting in the parking area, Father Sullivan spotted *Galium pedemontanum*, (foothill bedstraw), Rex Hill *Matricaria*

*discoidea* (pineapple weed) and on a large white oak (*Quercus alba*), Nels Holmberg saw *Orthotrichum ohioense* (Ohio hood moss). After Ann Wakeman produced a key for the locked gate, the participants bounced along a one mile track in Ann's and Martha Younkins' pickups to the site, a combination of upland forest and creek bottomland. Nels had a sedge field day in the forested area, finding *Carex austrina* (bracted), *C. hirtifolia* (hairy wood), *C. oligocarpa* (few fruited) and *C. sparganioides* (bur reed); among other plants seen here were *Poa sylvestris* (sylvan bluegrass), *Asclepias quadrifolia* (whorled milkweed), *Cynoglossum virginianum* (wild comfrey), *Polygonatum biflorum* (Solomon's seal) and *Thaspium barbinode* (hairy meadow parsnip). Interesting species in the bottomland included *Blephilia hirsuta* (wood mint), *Lonicera flava* (yellow honeysuckle), *Senecio aureus* (golden ragwort), *Plantago cordata* (heartleaf plantain), *Tradescantia subaspera* (wide leaf spiderwort), *Zizia aptera* (golden Alexanders) and the uncommon *Ligusticum canadense* (lovage).

May 27, Seener Tract, Crawford County—at Dave Alspaugh's invitation, a group of 15 members traveled to northwest Crawford County for a tour of the Seener Tract property, with fairly decent weather. *Liparis liliifolia* (large twayblade orchid) took "plant of the day" honors. Among other species seen were *Amorpha canescens* (lead plant), *Aristolochia serpentaria* (Virginia snakeroot), *Asclepias purpurascens* (purple milkweed), *Aureolaria flava* (smooth false foxglove), *Baptisia bracteata* (long bracted wild indigo), *Brasenia schreberi* (water shield), *Gamochaeta purpurea* (purple cudweed), *Gratiola virginiana* (round fruited hedge hyssop), *Hypericum hypericoides* (St. Andrew's cross), *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), *Penstemon pallidus* (pale beard tongue), *Rosa carolina* (pasture rose), *Silene stellata* (starry campion), *Thaspium trifoliatum* (meadow parsnip) and *Viola palmata* (cleft violet). In addition, Nels Holmberg came up with *Carex glaucoidea* (blue sedge), *C. jamesii* (porcupine sedge), *C. stipata* (oval fruited sedge), *Eleocharis quadrangulata* (angled spike rush) and *Panicum boscii* (Bosc's panic grass).

Thanks to Pat & Jack Harris, Rex Hill, Nels Holmberg and Jeannie Moe for filling many gaps in this article. ❧

## Next deadline: Oct. 8!

*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.

Our next issue will be assembled in September, deadline October 8. Submissions—handwritten or typed, email, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or <amccormack@stjosephacad.org> 🐦

## Save this Date

**Sunday, Dec. 5, for the WGNSS/ Audubon Holiday Party.**

Details coming soon.

## Nature Study Classes

To see the full list of non-credit continuing education classes, visit

<[https://hank.stlcc.edu/pls/SLCC/stlcc\\_schedule.PW\\_SelSchClass](https://hank.stlcc.edu/pls/SLCC/stlcc_schedule.PW_SelSchClass)>.

The following 3 are offered through St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley

To register, contact Continuing Education, SLCC-Florissant Valley, 314-513-4444, or FAX, 314-513-4288.

**Missouri River hike NATR: 701 585**

Sat. Oct. 2, 9–11 AM \$6

Meet at St. Stanislaus Conservation Area.

**Missouri and Mississippi River Confluence Tour NATR: 701 586**

Sat. Oct. 23, 9–11 AM \$6

Confluence Point State Park, beyond Riverlands.

**Missouri River Columbia Bottoms Hike NATR: 701 587**

Sat. Nov. 6, 9–12 \$3

The following 7 are offered through St. Louis Community College-Meramec

Contact Continuing Education, SLCC - Meramec, 314-984-7777, or FAX 314-984-7960.

**City Prairies Walk and Seed Collection**

NATR: 704 MO1

Saturday September 25, 10 AM – 12 noon \$6



Presented by the Green Center. Meet at the Green Center, 314-725-8314.

**Leading a Nature Walk Without All the Answers NATR: 701 MO1**

Saturday, October 2, 9 AM – 12 noon \$9

Presented by the Green Center. Meet at the Green Center, 314-725-8314.

**Autumn Leaves Walk NATR: 704 MO2**

Sunday Oct. 17, 10 AM–12 \$6

Presented by the Green Center. Meet at the Green Center, 314-725-8314. ☼

## Program & Art at Machacek

The Machacek Branch of St. Louis Public Library, 6424 Scanlan Avenue at Watson, will host a display of nature artwork by *Nature Notes* columnist Jim Ziebol. Jim and our president, Yvonne Homeyer, will present a program at the library on Sept. 29 at 7 PM on birds and insects of the St. Louis area. Take I-44 to Jamieson Ave. exit 284A, straight to Bradley Ave., quick left on Ivanhoe, and right on Scanlan. For more information, call Machacek Branch of St. L. Public Lib., 314-781-2948. ☼

## Nature Classes at MBG

The Missouri Botanical Garden presents a variety nature study classes. Mail registration to Missouri Botanical Garden Kemper Center, PO Box 299, St. Louis MO 63166, FAX 314-577-9444 or for Shaw Nature Reserve, PO Box 38, Gray Summit, MO 63039. Classes include:

“Nocturnal Awareness Hikes” Sept. 17, 24 or Oct. 8–10:30 PM at SNR \$20

“Controlling Invasive Plants” Wed. Oct. 13 6–8 PM at SNR \$20 ☼



*Nature Notes* is printed on recycled paper.

## Benefit Concert 10/2

Rachel Crandell

There will be a benefit concert for the Children's Eternal Rainforest in Costa Rica at 7:30 PM, Saturday, Oct 2. Concert will be held in: Principia Upper School Ridgway Auditorium 13201 Clayton Road St Louis, MO 63131

Students \$5 Adults \$10 Families \$20

Featuring Peter B. Allen, Kristy Mezines, Holly and Robin Jenkins, Erin Miller and Ben Doerr  
Silent Art Auction with paintings by Kristin

Pratt Serafini, Kesra Hoffman, Ryan White ☼

## Green Center Events

**Must See Wildflower Photography**

Exhibit open to the public through October 15. View the fine art photographs of Missouri wildflowers taken by Craig D. Barton at the Green Center. Hours are 11AM-6 PM Mondays-Fridays and 12-4 PM Saturdays or by appointment. Please contact 314-725-8314 or <events@thegreencenter.org>.

**Paper Moon and Painted Prairie**

Exhibit opens October 24 - January 15

A musical reception opens this special exhibit at the Green Center on Sun., Oct. 24, 2–4 PM. The Midwestern prairie and the Southwest inspire Marilyn Cathcart to capture their beauty in traditional oils. Francine Brungardt's work combines handmade paper and paper cutout illustrations. Viewing hours above.

The Green Center is a center for environmental education, nature and art. It is located at 8025 Blackberry in University City, 63130, four blocks north of Delmar on North & South Rd., and five blocks west on Blackberry Ave. adjacent to Kaufman Park. ☼

## 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.

<i>mailing party</i>	<i>NN deadline</i>
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 ☒

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## Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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

Open to all with an interest in nature ☒

## Key to WGNSS Calendar

### *birding field trip*

each Thurs. 8 AM Jan. - Aug., 8:30 Sept.-April  
call Jackie Chain 314-664-5998

most Sat. 8 AM: call David Becher 314-576-1146

some 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 by the last day of the month or email Yvonne at <homeyer@earthlink.net>.

### *board meeting*

1st Wed. 7 PM Sept.-May at University Club  
Tower: 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 Thurs. of the month, at St. Louis Co. Library HQ at 7:00 PM. No meetings in June, July or Aug.

### *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 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: call Anne

McCormack 314-965-8091

amccormack@stjosephacad.org

### *membership expires/renewal due 8/31*

### *Spring Banquet*

Tuesday, May 10, 2004 at Eden Seminary,  
Webster ☒

## 2004 WGNSS Board

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### President and Conservation Chair:

Yvonne Homeyer

1508 Oriole Ln.

St. Louis MO 63144

314-963-7750

homeyer@earthlink.net

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Dr. David Mendelson

7906 Kingsbury Blvd.

St. Louis MO 63105

314-721-7116

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres: Margy Terpstra

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St. Louis, MO 63122

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ladybirdterp@sbcglobal.net

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314-993-0055

rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu

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dadams5084@aol.com

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vacant

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amccormack@stjosephacad.org

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St. Louis MO 63139  
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gmflieg@aol.com

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St. Louis MO 63141  
314-576-1146

Co-chair Ornithology: Kent Lannert  
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618-624-4464

klannert@charter.net

Botany Co-Chair : George Yatskievych  
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St. Louis MO 63131  
314-909-9540 work

Botany Co-Chair: Jeannie Moe  
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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

ae623@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

## Need directions?

### *Clarence Cannon NWR*

- Annada, Mo., in Pike Co.
- From I-270, take I-70 west to MO-79, then go north 35 miles to Annada, MO.
- Just past the city limit sign, there will be the sign for the refuge. Turn right and follow the road all the way to the refuge parking lot, the usual meeting spot.

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

- The membership meets on a variety of days, Sept–April, at 7:00 PM
- Take 40 to Lindbergh south, left at the second light into library.
- 1640 South Lindbergh in Frontenac.
- All are welcome. Bring a friend!
- Birding trip, park on north side.

### *Tower Grove Park*

- Take 44 to Kingshighway south, east (left) on Magnolia, 1st right into park.
- Usual meeting place is the Gaddy Bird Garden, NW corner of the park.

### *University Club Tower*

- 1034 S. Brentwood, St. Louis, MO 63117
- Brentwood, between Highway 40 and Clayton Rd. across from the Galleria
- board meets in the office of Yvonne Homeyer, Suite 1920 on first Wed. of the month at 7:00 PM

# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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

## MEETINGS

### Wednesday October 6

7 PM Board meeting at University Club Tower, 1034 S. Brentwood, Suite 1920. All members are welcome.

### Thursday October 7

7:00 PM at St. Louis County Library HQ in Frontenac, Ron Goellner, St. Louis Zoo herpetologist, will give a presentation on that giant salamander, the Ozark Hellbender.

## ENTOMOLOGY

### Sunday September 26

7 PM meeting at Magners': Show and Tell. Bring specimens photos, slides and summer stories. Slide projector and screen will be available.

### Sunday October 24

7 PM meeting at Phil Koenig's home, 823 Lauralee Dr. O'Fallon, Mo. 63366, 636-281-1313. Phil will lead a discussion on obtaining permits to collect insects.

## BOTANY

### Thursday September-November

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>.

## BIRDING

### Thursdays September-April

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

### Sunday September 19

7:30 AM Tower Grove, meet at Gaddy Bird Garden with Sherry McCowan.

### Saturday September 25

8:00 AM Tower Grove, meet at Gaddy Bird Garden with David Becher.

### Sunday September 26

9 AM hawk watch at Mark Peter's prairie in Imperial, Mo. Directions on p. 4.

### Saturday October 2

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

### Saturday October 9

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 October 9

8 AM SLAS (St. Louis Audubon) at Clarence Cannon NWR, Annada Mo. All day including BK Leach and Prairie Slough. Bring lunch and water. Mike Thelen and Mike Grant.

### Saturday October 16

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

### Saturday October 16

8 AM SLAS, meet at Gilbert Lake, Two Rivers NWR. Parking area just north of the Brussels Ferry above Grafton, Ill. Bring lunch and water. We have made arrangements to have Gilbert Lk. open even though this is one day after the normal 10/15 closing for duck season. John Solodar and Paul Bauer.

### Saturday October 23

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 October 24

8 AM Clarence Cannon NWR HQ parking lot with Mike Thelen. Trip will start at CC then bird south along Mississippi, with

stops at Prairie Slough, BK Leach, Winfield Dam. Please bring FRS radio if possible.

### **Saturday October 30**

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

### **Saturday October 30**

8 AM SLAS at Horseshoe Lk., Hwy. 111, meet at first parking lot on right. Half-day trip with Paul Bauer and Mike Thelen.

### **Saturday November 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.

### **Saturday November 13**

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

### **Saturday November 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 November 20**

8 AM SLAS at Busch CA. Meet at Hampton Lk. Mike Thelen and Pat Lueders.

### **Saturday November 27**

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

### **Saturday December 4**

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 December 11**

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

### **Sunday December 12**

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

## **NATURE NOTES**

**deadline Oct. 8**

## **JOIN WGNSS**

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

## **The Victim**

The hummingbird that darts and hovers  
Made one fatal dart—alas!—  
Against a counterfeit of flowers  
Reflecting in the window glass.  
When four-o'clocks had sunk in shadow,  
The window caught an extra glint  
Of color, like the sudden rainbow  
Arching the purple firmament.  
Transcendent are the trceries  
Illusion weaves to set a snare;  
The quick competitor of bees,  
Trusting his universe of air  
For flight and honey, dazzled so  
In quest of sweetness, was waylaid  
By something hard that had a glow  
Brighter than that the garden made.  
Illusion shatters; the ideal  
Is much more ruthless than the real.  
The visionary hummingbird  
Hit nothingness, and hit it hard.

Robert Hillyer

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**Nature Study Society**  
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St. Louis MO 63119

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# WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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