



# 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 November 2004 Vol. 76, No. 9

## \$3 Million Settlement Reached with Holcim

Yvonne Homeyer

By now, you have probably heard or read that WGNSS and three other local groups have settled our four-year challenge to Holcim's proposed cement plant in Ste. Genevieve County. It is a bittersweet moment, because the settlement means that we are dropping our efforts to stop the project, but the settlement also created a \$3 million dollar fund to be used for land conservation and air quality projects.

Key provisions that we negotiated with Holcim include the payment of \$3 million dollars by the company into an escrow fund and the creation of a Conservation Easement covering nearly 2,000 acres of Holcim's property, which will prohibit timbering, new roads and any development in that area for at least 100 years. Holcim also agreed to restrict logging activities in the quarry to non-breeding season, thereby limiting the impact on the endangered Indiana Bat and other wildlife. Finally, a riparian corridor along Isle du Bois Creek was created and Holcim agreed to protect the riparian corridor and the remaining wetlands of Lee Island along the Mississippi River, although they are technically outside the Conservation Easement area.

Continued on page 2

## Ozark Orchids at Nov. 4 Meeting

George Zatskievych

Bill Summers is a self-taught botanist and photographer, and the author of *Missouri Orchids*. This field guide was published by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and is in its third edition. Bill currently splits his time between West Plains and St. Louis. He continues to explore the Ozarks for botanical discoveries. His program on Ozark orchids was originally presented at the 2004 North American Orchid Conference in South Carolina.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 7:00 PM

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

## Holiday Open House at Green Center Sun. Dec. 5 1-4 PM

See article page 2.

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## Dates for '04-'05 Meetings

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 5, 1-4 PM Holiday Party at Green Center, see article this page.

No meeting in January 2005.

February 11, Fri., joint meeting with St. L. Audubon at Creve Coeur Gvt. Center on Ballas, Greg Iffrig of Pioneer Forest.

March 3 St. L. Co. Library HQ 7:00 PM

April 7 St. L. Co. Library HQ 7:00 PM

May 10, Tuesday, Spring Banquet at Eden Seminary with MDC photographer Jim Rathert

Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, 2005 🌿

## Holiday Open House at Green Center Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1-4 PM

Margy Terpstra

The St. Louis Audubon Society and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society are invited to gather again at the Green Center in University City to celebrate the holidays. The Center offers a congenial atmosphere of meeting rooms surrounded by a beautiful outdoor space. If weather permits, tours of the grounds will be offered by the Green Center staff.

This year, the Center has agreed to allow very limited parking in the driveway for our senior members who need handicapped access. More details next month—mark your calendars now for this special event! 🌿

## New! Improved! Checklist!

Randy Korotev

The new, improved WGNSS "Seasonal Checklist of Birds of the Saint Louis Area" is now available. This list differs from past lists in listing the relative abundance of each species for each of the four seasons. They cost \$0.50 each and two of the lists weigh an ounce, so if you want to obtain some by mail, send \$1.37 for two, \$2.60 for four, \$3.83 for six, etc. Contact Randy Korotev at <rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu> or 993-0055. 🌿

## Honeysuckle Harvesting Event

Randy Korotev

The sixth annual honeysuckle harvesting event in Forest Park is scheduled for Nov. 14. This year we will tackle the "successional forest" between the Jewel Box and the Zoo. Invasive bush honeysuckle is the plant that has had the greatest success in the successional forest. Vent your frustrations by helping us remove the honeysuckle and opening the understory to native plants. Five years of effort have all but eliminated the honeysuckle in the Kennedy Forest. As in the past, we will have two shifts, 10 am to noon and noon to 2 pm. Bring a small saw, a loppers, and gloves. Meet along Carr Drive. For more info, contact Randy Korotev <rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu> or visit

<www.treeswallow.com/honeysuckle> 🌿

## Holcim Settlement Reached

Continued from page one

The three million dollars will be distributed as follows:

- \$1,800,00 for land preservation in Missouri and Illinois.
- \$908,000 for air quality monitoring and energy efficiency projects.
- \$150,000 for the Ozark Regional Land Trust, which will hold and monitor the Conservation Easement.
- \$125,000 for the Environmental Law Clinic at Washington University.

None of the funds will be paid to WGNSS or any of the other organizations that were involved in the litigation. However, WGNSS and the other groups will decide what land to acquire, select the air/energy projects to be funded, decide how much money to direct to each project, and choose the non-profit organizations or governmental agencies that will receive the money to implement the projects.

At the time of the settlement, Holcim had received all the permits it needed to start quarry operations and construction of the cement plant. While we firmly believe that our challenges had merit, both factually and legally, other factors outside our control, such as political pressure to create jobs, were involved. We believe that the settlement reached was the best possible outcome given the current political, economic and legislative climate. By entering into the settlement, WGNSS and the other


organizations have agreed to drop our ongoing legal challenges. We did not, however, give up our right to monitor Holcim's future compliance with environmental laws and the conditions of their permits.

A campaign of the scope and duration of the Holcim effort requires a team effort. WGNSS was joined by three other local groups—the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the American Bottom Conservancy—all of which worked together in a unified effort. Each of these groups, including WGNSS, contributed many hours of volunteer time writing letters, attending meetings, testifying at hearings, and reaching out to others in the community. Ted Heisel, Carla Klein, Diane Albright, Kathy Andria, Kathleen O'Keefe, Dianne Benjamin and I spent more hours together than I could have possibly imagined at the outset. Together, we forged a powerful alliance of four organizations with different missions and cultures but united by a desire to preserve habitat and wildlife, protect public health, improve local air quality, and above all, to make a difference for the St. Louis region.

Not even the strongest alliance, however, could have maintained a four-year legal challenge against a giant multinational corporation without legal and technical expertise. We were fortunate to find such expertise at the Environmental Law Clinic at Washington University, headed by attorney Maxine Lipeles and engineer Beth Martin, who agreed to take us on as their clients when the Clinic was barely one year old. These two professionals have spent countless hours representing our four-organization alliance in administrative and court proceedings, often on several tracks simultaneously. Under their expert guidance, a new team of law and engineering students took over each semester from where the previous student team had left off. Every one of these student teams put in far more hours than were officially required of them. And every one of the students on those teams has provided valuable assistance to us.

Above all, a word of thanks to all the WGNSS members who have supported this campaign. You are too numerous to mention and I fear that if I try, I will offend by inadvertently leaving someone off the list! You have answered our calls to write letters, attend

meetings, make phone calls, get people to sign petitions, show up at hearings, travel to Ste. Genevieve and Jefferson City, and so much more.


Without your support, we would not have achieved as much as we have. Because of your willingness to get involved, you have generated \$3 million dollars for land conservation and air quality projects in the St. Louis area, you have preserved 2,000 acres of valuable habitat on Holcim's property, you have protected the Indiana Bat roosting trees from destruction during breeding season, and you have sent a message that you care about your environment and that you expect your public officials to do the same. This settlement proves that conservation efforts at the local level can and do make a difference. 

## Historian's Corner

Jim Adams

On its January 29, 1966 meeting of the WGNSS conservation Group minutes, written by Burrell Pickering, report that the group discussed a request by the Kirkwood board of Education to consider development and management of a 20-25 acre property fronting on Sugar Creek Road in Kirkwood. The property was then being used as a dumping ground for rubbish and part of the area had been cut over and covered with tree trunks. After a visit to the property, the group concluded that the development of walking trails would be possible and if permission could be obtained to use an old garage building on the property, it might be possible to develop an interpretive nature center. However there is no further mention of this proposal in subsequent minutes.

At the March 7, 1966, board meeting, the design of an emblem for WGNSS was approved. The key feature of the approved emblem was a European—now Eurasian—Tree sparrow perched on a grapevine.

At a special board meeting held at the 1966 Christmas part, it was voted that WGNSS annual dues be increased to three dollars. 

## Annual Botany Group Trip West Helena, Arkansas—May '04

Carl Darigo

Only two participants (Father James Sullivan & Carl Darigo) met for this year's annual botany trip, whose main purpose was examining the southern end of Crowley's Ridge. Formed by erosion from the natural forces of rivers 40 million years ago, Crowley's Ridge stands 100 to 200 feet above the Delta plain in eastern Arkansas. The ridge, which extends from Cape Girardeau, Missouri through northeast Arkansas to the St. Francis National Forest near the Mississippi River at Helena, was named for Benjamin Crowley. Crowley was a War of 1812 soldier whose land grant was the first in that part of Arkansas. Weather during the trip was very good, 65° to 80°, with no rain. Headquarters was the Best Western Motel in West Helena, whose rear field had abundant concentrations of two plants that shared "motel plant" honors, *Ranunculus sardous* (papillose buttercup) with bright yellow flowers and *Vicia villosa* (hairy vetch), sporting blue flowers.

Monday, May 3—A visit was made to the Visitor Center in Helena, where a mound across the fence marked the southernmost point of Crowley's Ridge. During the drive through the town and nearby outskirts, much invading kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) was seen along roadsides. The day's main objective was to check out the National Forest's lower roads in swampy habitat. Seen in abundance were *Senecio glabellus* (butterweed), *Arundinaria gigantea* (giant cane), *Trifolium incarnatum* (crimson clover), *Aesculus pavia* (red buckeye), *Aralia spinosa* (devil's walking stick) and *Duchesnea indica* (Indian strawberry), with fruits almost the size of regular strawberries, but having the normal insipid taste. Some other interesting species found were *Quercus nigra* (water oak), *Q. falcata* (Spanish oak), *Ampelopsis arborea* (pepper vine), *Urtica chamaedryoides* (weak nettle), *Berchemia scandens* (supple jack), *Passiflora lutea* (yellow passion flower), *Juncus nodatus* (stout rush) and *J. effusus* (soft rush). The border between Phillips and Lee Counties was marked with signs, indicating this point was the southernmost boundary of the Louisiana Purchase survey. At the evening's research session, discussion centered on a small shrub thought to be the uncommon *Schisandra glabra*

(climbing magnolia), but which actually turned out to be *Maclura pomifera* (Osage orange). Also reviewed was Father Sullivan's finding of tiny *Ammoselinum butleri* (sand parsley), at the I-55 New Madrid County rest stop; this non-native has been reported in only one other Missouri county.

Tuesday, May 4—Today's goal was to check out a ridge road and then determine if any springs could be found issuing from the base of Crowley's Ridge. The ridge road in Phillips County at 350 feet represented the higher elevation of Crowley's Ridge, while the lower, swampy roads in Lee County were 175 feet. Best plant seen on the ridge road was *Vitis rotundifolia* (muscadine); when fruiting, this species has fewer, but larger and sweeter grapes than other more common wild grape species. Other plants of interest were *Carex oxylepis* (dangling sedge), *C. vulpinoidea* (fox sedge), *Krigia dandelion* (potato dandelion) and *Triodanis perfoliata* (perfoliate Venus' looking glass). Negotiating a muddy and ruddy dirt road to the bottom of Crowley's ridge provided some excitement, but no springs were found. However, several interesting plants were found on the lower road, including *Luzula campestre* (wood rush), *Panicum dichotomum* (forked panic grass), *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* (stout blue-eyed grass), *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo) and *Trifolium resupinatum* (Persian clover).

Wednesday, May 5—objective of today's trip was to check out swampy areas along roads adjacent to standing water, ponds, sloughs, etc. Several trees were of note, swamp tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), whose common name is derived from the slender leaves, red maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *drummondii*) with white-hairy lower leaf surfaces, and a giant six feet diameter swamp chestnut oak (*Q. michauxii*). Resurrection fern (*Polypodium polypodioides*) could be seen on several, downed, dead branches. Other interesting plants included *Clematis crispa* (swamp leather flower), *Vitis vulpina* (winter grape), *Carex cherokeensis* (wolftail sedge) and *C. granularis* (pale sedge). A stop at the Bear Creek Lake Nature Trail yielded *Calycocarpum lyonii* (cup-seed) and *Euonymus americanus* (strawberry bush). Returning to the motel, the botanists were rear-ended by a petroleum firm's pickup truck; fortunately, damage was very slight and

the required information exchange was facilitated by a very pleasant and muscular West Helena police officer.

Thursday, May 6—Several stops were made along ridgetop roads in Lee County to check flora again in the upper elevations of Crowley's Ridge. Our old friend *Vitis rotundifolia* (muscadine) was abundant, promising tasty grape treats for any late summer visitors. Other plants of note included *Gamochaeta purpurea* (purple cudweed), *Krigia caespitosa* (dwarf dandelion), *Geranium dissectum* (wrinkle seed cranesbill), *Orbexilum pedunculatum* (Sampson's snakeroot), *Oenothera laciniata* (cut leaf evening primrose), *Ruellia strepens* (smooth ruellia), *Penstemon digitalis* (smooth beard tongue), *Carex frankii* (bristly cattail sedge) and *Panicum dichotomiflorum* (fall panic grass). Two exotic species with colorful flowers were empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) and field pea (*Pisum sativum*).

Friday, May 7—The entourage was down to one, as Father Sullivan finished the remainder of his stay alone. The ridgetop road in Phillips County produced *Melia azedarach* (China berry tree), a small alien tree with bluish flowers. In lower ground in Lee County, *Ptilimnium costatum* (coarse mock bishop's weed) and *Euonymus americana* (strawberry bush) showed up. Also seen were new adults of the willow leaf beetle (*Chrysomela knabi*) feeding on *Salix carolinana* (Carolina willow) leaves; the new adults are drab in color, while the overwintered adults are bright red and black. A large, green tree frog (*Hyla cinerea*) was seen; this frog is common at Otter Slough in Stoddard County, Missouri. Some flattened beds of narrow leaves were eventually identified as *Zephyranthes candida* (white rain lily), which is an alien in the Amaryllis family, and blooms in the fall of the year. An evening trip to Helena's Riverfront Park yielded *Rorippa sylvestris* (creeping yellow cress) and *Mazus pumilus* (annual mazus).

Saturday, May 8—The St. Francis River originates in Missouri as a small stream, but is quite wide at the junction with the Mississippi River in St. Francis National Forest, just east of Crowley's Ridge. At this place, *Trifolium incarnatum* (crimson clover) was everywhere and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper) was hanging in columns from the trees. Also seen were *Geranium dissectum* (wrinkle seed

cranesbill), *Ptilimnium costatum* (coarse mock bishop's weed), *Cynoscium digitatum* (false cowbane) and *Carex vulpinoides* (fox sedge).

Sunday, May 9—a visit was made to Village Creek State Park in Cross County, about 50 miles north of West Helena. The Visitor Center supplied some good information on the history of Crowley's Ridge. Seen here were *Magnolia acuminata* (cucumber magnolia) and last year's dead plants of *Epifagus virginiana* (beechdrops).

Monday, May 10—A return trip to Riverfront Park in Helena found several interesting plants, including *Vitis palmata* (red grape), *Trifolium resupinatum* (Persian clover), *Ranunculus muricatus* (prickleseed buttercup), *Urtica chamaedryoides* (weak nettle), *Mecardonia acuminata* (water hyssop) and *Krigia caespitosa* (dwarf dandelion). The squash lady beetle (*Epilachna borealis*) was feeding on *Sicyos angulatus* (bur cucumber) leaves.

Tuesday, May 11—Delta Heritage Trail State Park in West Helena is constructed from an old railroad bed, somewhat similar to the Katy Trail in Missouri. A walk on the trail yielded *Geranium dissectum* (wrinkle seed cranesbill), *Cynoscium digitatum* (false cowbane), *Gratiola neglecta* (clammy hedge hyssop), and nice flowers of *Iris fulva* (copper iris). Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) leaves showed signs of insect feeding, but the perpetrator could not be found; any bug dining on kudzu would surely be welcomed in the South. A short visit to Old Town Lake found leaves of *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (buttercup pennyroyal) at the water's edge, and a white-flowered member of the Amaranthaceae, *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (alligator weed) was growing nearby. On a dry roadside south of this oxbow lake, *Verbena brasiliensis* (Brazil vervain) was producing its shortened spikes. 🌿



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## Birding on a Geology Trip

Pat Brock Diener

Marjorie Richardson invited me to join her on an Elderhostel trip to see Zion, Bryce, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon and to study their geology. In introducing myself I mentioned that Marjorie and I went birding every week. We were not the only birders and altogether the group listed 47 birds. We saw all but two or three. Behind the Inn at Zion, Marjorie discovered a line of sunflowers with a flock of Lesser Goldfinches in their green jackets and the dark Phainopepla. Beyond this was a small pond used by Mallards, Green Heron, and Belted Kingfisher. At Bryce, the pinyon pines were home to mixed flocks of White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, and Juncos. Clark's Nutcrackers and Ravens were frequently flying overhead. The real disappointment was the absence of the Condors. But these warblers were present: Black-throated Gray, Yellow-rump, Grace's and Townsend's. Western Bluebirds seemed to be in family groups, American Robins and White-throated Swifts were plentiful. An assortment of swallows was present, but late in their migration. My life bird was a Sage Thrasher. Not only was the geologist a great guide and teacher, he also was most helpful in our bird study. By the end of the trip, others were coming with question about birds they saw and I referred them to Marjorie. ❀

## New Book by Barbara Perry Lawton

The latest title from Barbara Perry Lawton, a WGNSS member and former editor and manager of publications for the Missouri Botanical Gardens, is *Hibiscus: Hardy and Tropical Plants for the Garden*. WGNSS members who want to learn more about the hibiscus and meet Barbara can do so at a book signing on Nov. 11 from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Missouri Botanical Garden. ❀

 Autumn is a second spring  
when every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus

## September 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 collecting of a gull at Smithville Lake generated a lot of controversy about whether it was appropriate to kill this wild bird in order to satisfy a need to identify it. These reporters do not believe collecting was an appropriate action in this case. In the mid-1970s, the first Common Black-headed Gull ever seen in Missouri was collected for purposes of identification and as specimen documentation. This was before birders had good field guides on gulls and access to the Internet for sharing photographs and other information. In the winter of 1983-84, using the new *National Geographic* field guide, Bill Rudden, Ron Goetz and Phoebe Snetsinger successfully and conclusively identified a Slaty-backed Gull, using a combination of observation, field notes and photographs. Their identification was accepted by birding experts and the sighting was confirmed as a continental US record. Thousands of people from St. Louis and across the US came to see this gull. Collecting the Smithville gull prevented other birders, including experts, from being able to see the gull in the wild. (By analogy, butterflies are now regularly identified by voucher photographs rather than voucher specimens. The use of photos and the Internet allowed these reporters to have 2 sightings of stray Funereal Duskywings at BCA in August confirmed by Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg.)

**Sightings:** Three hurricane-assisted birds of major significance—a Black Skimmer at REDA, a Parasitic Jaeger at CL, and a Great Cormorant over FP—appeared in the St. Louis area in September. The Black Skimmer and the Great Cormorant were state records for Missouri.

On 9/7, Dan Kassebaum reported an Eared Grebe at CL Carl Baggott, an English birder visiting here, observed a fly-over Great

Cormorant in FP on 9/26. Mike Brady found an Am. Bittern, 2 Sora and 6 Snipe at LCCL on 9/19. On 9/25, an Am. Bittern was flushed at Route 66 SP (YH). At least 800 Pelicans were observed migrating over Mark Peters' prairie on 9/27. Two Cooper's Hawks and a Broad-wing were also seen. On 9/5, Shovelers were first reported at REDA (JU) and at HL (FH). On 9/25, several birders observed 2 Avocets, a Black-bellied Plover, and several Wilson's Phalaropes at Heron Pond, REDA (DB, J Moe, KP, B&MG). On 9/5, 10 species of shorebirds were reported from REDA, including 22 Stilt Sandpipers, 5 Baird's, and 7 Semipalmated Plovers (JU, DW, CB). Joe Eades found 2 Upland Sandpipers and a Merlin at CC on 9/5. On 9/9, Charlene Malone saw several Phalaropes at great distance at CL, which were confirmed as Red-necked on 9/11 (JU). On 9/16, Mike Brady flushed a Woodcock at CSP. Joe Eades reported 2 first year Long-tailed Jaegers at CL on 9/6, which were confirmed on 9/7 by Dan Kassebaum, who later found a Parasitic Jaeger there. Charlene Malone found 3 Sabine's Gulls at CL in mid-September. Tern sightings included 7 Caspian and 11 Forster's on 9/5, 30+ Black and 2 Common at CL on 9/19, and 30 Black at REDA on 9/25 (m. ob.). On 9/25, David Becher located a Black Skimmer at REDA, which was observed by many birders on that day only.

Osprey were reported on 9/26 at REDA (YH, JZ), on 9/27 at I-270 and I-170 (MT) and on 9/28 at I-44 and Bowles Road (DC). One of the largest counts of Broad-winged Hawks reported was 8 seen at SNR on 9/25 (J Moe). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in good numbers, with 3 calling at Dardenne Creek, BCA on 9/19 (J Moe, KP). Thirty+ Bobwhites were seen at LCCL on 9/11 (JZ, YH) and 8 more were seen in TGP on 9/29 (DD). Five Monk Parakeets were counted at their usual location in Carlyle, IL on 9/12 (JU). An immature Black-billed Cuckoo was seen at HL on 9/26 (FH). Clarence Zacher reported a gray-phase Screech Owl bathing in his birdbath on 9/26. Thirty to forty Nighthawks were kettling over Oak Knoll Park on 9/18 (CZ). A resplendent male Rufous Hummingbird began visiting the home of Janice and Gary Weil on 9/12 and was still being seen at the end of the month. A Kingfisher, Great Egret and several Chimney Swifts were observed in FP on 9/11

(CZ). (Our annual June bird surveys at BCA indicate that Kingfisher is in dramatic decline.) Olive-sided Flycatcher was well reported this fall, with 1 at TGP on 9/9 (SM), 1 at Onondaga SP on 9/9 (J Moe), 1 at TGP on 9/12 (SM), 1 at TGP on 9/16 (CA, Thursday Group), 1 at TGP on 9/23 (RAB), and 1 at TGP on 9/25 (G&TB). On 9/21, 2 Pewees, 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, a Trail's flycatcher, Black-throated Green and Redstarts were found in TGP (JZ). Sapsuckers were first seen on 9/29 in TGP (SM) and at HL (FH). On 9/11, Jim & Charlene Malone found Red-breasted Nuthatch in TGP and by 9/27, they were being seen in good numbers throughout the area. Several House Wrens were observed on 9/26 at HL (FH). At Lafayette Square Park on 9/27, Sherry McCowan found Ruby-crowned Kinglet and on 9/29, Golden-crowned was found in TGP (m. ob.) Sherry McCowan found 12+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 12 Black-throated Greens, 12 Gray Catbirds and other warblers at Lafayette Square Park on 9/25. On 9/16 and 9/17, Solitary Vireos came in simultaneously at HL, CSP and TGP. (Canada Warbler, Black-burnian and a Cerulean male were seen in Ecuador on 9/17 by Dennis Bozzay, and that was an early arrival date in Ecuador for two of those species.) On 9/17, a Golden-winged Warbler was Sherry McCowan's best bird in Lafayette Sq. and several were seen that day in TGP (GA). Of all the warbler species, Mourning Warbler was definitely up in numbers this fall, with a female in TGP on 9/8 (M Richards), 1 near HL on 9/22 (SM) and on 9/25 at Lafayette Sq. (SM). Late sightings of warblers included Yellow Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler in TGP on 9/23 (RAB, Thursday Group) and a Yellow Warbler seen at BCA on 9/26 (D Bz). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was first found by an Illinois birder in Hazlet SP and it was re-found there on 9/12 by David Becher and Josh Uffman. A Canada Warbler was somewhat late on 9/24 at TGP (RAB). On 9/4 and 9/5, neither the WGNSS groups nor the SLAS group found any Neotropical migrants in TGP. In the last two years, the lack of any Neotropical sightings in early September has also occurred. Sept. 7 was a good day in TGP, with Blue-winged, 2 Golden-winged, Nashville and Redstarts among the migrants (GA). Another Golden-winged was seen along with Black-and-white and Black-throated Green in TGP on





9/12 (SM). On 9/9 at the Nature Institute at Godfrey, IL, Edna Alexander reported Chestnut-sided, Orange-crowned, Blackburnian, Redstart and Philadelphia Vireo. On 9/16, 14 warbler species were observed at CSP (MB) and on that same date, 8 warbler species were seen at TGP (JC, Thursday Group). On 9/23, the WGNSS group reported 7 warbler species, Philadelphia Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Summer Tanager, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher at TGP (JC, Thursday Group). An early Vesper Sparrow was found in Lincoln Co. on 9/15 (JE). The first Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at HL on 9/26 (FH) and by 9/29, 6 were present at the Borrow Pit (SM). The first sightings of White-throated Sparrow took place at TGP on 9/29 (NB, SM). On 9/11, 150+ Eurasian Tree Sparrows were seen at LCCL (JZ, YH). On 9/20, a mixed species feeding flock at Busch contained Downy Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, 2 Nashville, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, 2 Common Yellowthroats, 5 Indigo Buntings, Song Sparrow, 10+ Field Sparrows, White-crowned, Lincoln's, Swamp, 5 Goldfinch and a House Finch (JZ).

A typical day on 9/27 at TGP included Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-and-white, Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, *Empidonax* flycatchers, Brown Thrasher, Blue-headed Vireo, a Cooper's Hawk, and an adult Red-tailed Hawk (MM). A typical day at Little Creek Nature Center on 9/29 included Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, 20 Tennessee, 5 Nashville, 2 Orange-crowned, 1 Palm, 3 Yellow-rumped, 1 Black-throated Green, 1 Ovenbird, 2 Redstarts, 4 Common Yellowthroats, 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, White-throated and Chipping Sparrow (NB).

**Comments:** Not many backyard birds were reported in September, but Margy Terpstra found the following on 9/27: Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Nashville (3), 1 Blackpoll, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. She also heard Barred and Great Horned Owls and some very vocal coyotes. Anne McCormack reported hearing a Great Horned Owl calling almost nightly from the water tower near her home. In late September, a TGP visitor reported seeing a Red-tailed Hawk kill a squirrel at the Gaddy Bird Garden.

**Contributors:** Gail Ahumada, Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Chris Brown, Jackie Chain, Dick Coles, Connie Cooper, Jack Cowan, Derek Driemeyer, Joe Eades, Bob & Martha Gaddy, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Jim Jackson, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Kraig Paradise, Margie Richardson, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, John & Nancy Solodar, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Doug Willis, Clarence Zacher, Jim Ziebol. An asterisk means "documented". Please submit sightings by the last day of the month to Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or Yvonne Homeyer <homeyer@earthlink.net>. ❄️

## Science Lecture Series at the Zoo

Co-sponsored by the Academy of Science of St. Louis and the Saint Louis Zoo Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9 PM. Admission is free. All seminars will be held in the Living World, north entrance of the Zoo on Government Drive. Parking in the North Lot is free for these events.

November 17 "Genetic Modification and Agriculture: the Perceived Risks"

David J. Cove, Ph.D., WU Department of Biology  
The use of Genetically Modified crops has been seen to pose risks both in food production and to the environment. Perceived risks include the danger of eating DNA, the generation of novel toxins and allergies, the "escape" of transgenes to create superweeds, and the increased use of chemicals. Some of these risks are groundless, others vary greatly from crop to crop, and some need more study to determine potential environmental impact.

January 19, 2005 "The Human Genome: On Zoos and Curing Cancer"

Richard K. Wilson, Ph.D., Director, Genome Sequencing Center, WU School of Medicine

The Human Genome Project provided us with a first glimpse at the molecular instruction-set which, coupled with environmental influences, determines how each of us develops into similar yet unique individuals. Using the reference human genome sequence, we are trying to learn more about how our bodies develop, differentiate, age, and either avoid or succumb to



*entomology meeting*

last Sun: call Rich Thoma 314-965-6744.

*general meeting*

Meetings are usually the first Thurs. of the month, at St. Louis Co. Library HQ at 7:00 PM. No meetings in Jan., 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*

*Holiday Party with St. L Audubon*  
Sun. Dec. 10 1-4 PM at Green Cntr in U City.

*Spring Banquet*

Tuesday, May 10, 2004 at Eden Seminary,

Webster 

**2004 WGNSS Board**

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disease. We are sequencing the genomes of other animals to better understand the instructions that are encoded in the human genome. We are then re-sequencing these genes and elements in the genomes of patients with diseases such as cancer to better understand the basis of disease, and subsequently to facilitate improved diagnoses and treatments. ❀

## Next deadline: Nov. 5!

*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. Can you believe our next deadline is the earliest possible—Nov. 5, because the month begins on a Monday!

If you're doing your article on a word processor, why not send me the electronic version by email? Our next issue will be assembled on Nov. 15. Submissions—handwritten or typed, email, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 <amccormack@stjosephacad.org> ❀

## Green Center Events

### *Paper Moon and Painted Prairie*

Exhibit opens October 24 - January 15  
A musical reception opens this special art exhibit at the Green Center on Sun., Oct. 24, 2-4 PM. 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. Please contact 314-725-8314 or <events@thegreencenter.org>. ❀

## Call the Nature Line!

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

## Nature Notes Deadlines & Mailings

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

*mailing party* *NN deadline*

Mon. 11/15, 10-1 Oak Bend Fri. 11/5

Mon. 12/20, 10-1 Oak Bend Fri. 12/10 ❀

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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 ❀

## 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 314-781-7372 by the last day of the month or email Yvonne Homeyer 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

# WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

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

## MEETINGS

Thursday November 4

7:00 PM at St. L County Library HQ in Frontenac, Bill Summers, photographer and author of *Missouri Orchids* will present the program on Ozark orchids.

Wednesday November 10

6:30 PM Board meeting at the home of Margy Terpstra in Kirkwood, 314 966-4582. Note change of date and place.

Sunday, December 5

1-4 PM Holiday Party, Green Cntr., see p2.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Sunday October 24

7 PM meeting at 7 PM 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.

Sunday November 21

7 PM meeting at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Marshall Magner will present a program on migratory locust. Note change of date.

## BOTANY

Thursday October-December

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. with field trip destination. To receive, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris <jahar@mac.com>.

## BIRDING

Thursdays October-April

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

Saturday October 23

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

bergh, south of 40. Meet on north 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 to Prairie Slough, BK Leach, Winfield Dam. Bring FRS radio if possible.

Saturday October 30

8 AM Riverlands, WGNSS, 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." St. L. Co. Library HQ, above, with David Becher.

Saturday November 13

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

Saturday November 20

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." St. L. Co. Library HQ, above, with David Becher.

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." St. L. Co. Library HQ, above, with David Becher.

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 Nov. 5**

**JOIN WGNSS** 

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