



Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line (314) 935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings
Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, June 2006, Vol. 78, No. 6
First Issue November, 1929

Random Thoughts While Listening to Doings at the May 2 Annual Meeting – The Editor

WOW....A RECORD....ONE FOURTH OF US UNDER ROOF
AT ONE TIME....AN EVENING FOR GOURMANDS....
GREEN PASTURES-WITH FLOWERS....AULD LANG
SYNE....DOUBLE DIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS....WE
TOOK CARE OF OUR OWN....IMMACULATE PLANNING
....BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS....BUDDING SCHOLARS....
THE QUEEN IS DEAD; LONG LIVE THE QUEEN....A TALE
OF TWO BROTHERS....SORRY I NEVER KNEW STUART
O'BYRNE....GLAD I KNEW JIM JACKSON....BLESS
STUART'S DAUGHTER JEAN OSSORIO IN HER
CONSERVATION EFFORTS-SHE'S A CHIP OFF THE OLD
BLOCK....GLAD TO MEET ANITA AND DIANE
LIESER....GRATEFUL FOR THE WGNSS GROUP'S LONG
HISTORY....WONDERMENT AT SUCH WGNSS NOTABLES
AS OSCAR PETERSEN, THE VAGABOND POET AND
DREAMER...THANKS FOR THE NEW PEOPLE I'VE MET
TONIGHT....GLAD THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE VISITING
OUR WEBSITE HISTORY PAGE....THANKS FOR THE LONG
PUBLICATION HISTORY OF NATURE NOTES....HOW WILL
WE EVER TOP THIS ANNUAL MEETING....THANKS FOR
THE BEAUTY OF EDEN COMMONS....THANKS FOR THE
SPIRIT OF WGNSS-MAY IT NEVER BE EXTINGUISHED

For more information about the meeting, turn the page.

REPORT ON ANNUAL BANQUET - Margy Terpstra

We had a lovely spring evening for our Annual Banquet. With 96 reservations, it was the most well attended dinner in our history. I would like to sincerely thank all of those who helped with this memorable event. Kimberlie McCue welcomed all of the guests with their nametags and prepared all of the programs. Michael Olson helped with set up. Ann Early and Bob Siemer supplied the soft drinks, beer and wine for the bar table. Mike Flieg managed the silent auction of donated books and presented our scholarship winners. Jim Adams built a display to honor the life of Stuart L. O'Byrne with photos provided by Stuart's daughter, Jean Ossorio. Randy Korotev handled the finances. Pat McCormick helped me with ideas for decorating the tables, and provided moral support. Dennis Bozzay provided the beautiful prairie flowers, insects and base materials for me to create the bouquets at a substantial discount. (Eight guests went home with a miniature prairie!) Jim Jackson, our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, spoke of his perspective as a teenager when he joined WGNSS. Anita Lieser shared some of her memories of Stuart L. O'Byrne. Doug Ladd enlightened us with his presentation on the tallgrass prairie, "Grassland Redux". Dan Terpstra photographed the event, and Rich Thoma agreed to be backup photographer. Jeff Mignerone monitored the sound system.

Designing Chefs Catering, based on Eden Campus, were new to us this year. They were absolutely tireless in their efforts to cover every detail to make this a wonderful evening for us all! Jeff Keil managed the 'front' of the house, the menu selection, and every setup detail from table placement to podium and sound system, and timing of the food serving. Heidi Haller managed the kitchen and the delicious meal, down to the last sprig of mint on the dessert! Their polite staff worked very well with our timetable and Yvonne's cues. I overheard Doug Ladd say to Jeff that he had been to a LOT of banquets, and this one was EXCEPTIONAL!! High praise that is certainly well deserved.

Thank you all for a great team effort! Photos will be available soon on the WGNSS website. Margy Terpstra

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

North American Butterfly Association

Butterfly Counts and Walks:

- Sat. May 20. Tyson Research Center Butterfly Walk
- Sun. May 28. Busch C. A. Butterfly Count for Mo. Dept. of Conservation
- Sat. June 17. Riverlands Butterfly Walk
- Sun. June 25. Busch C. A. Butterfly Count for Mo. Dept. of Conservation
- Sun. July 2. Busch C. A. 4th of July Butterfly Count
- Sun. Aug. 20. Horseshoe Lake 4th of July Butterfly Count
- Sat. Sep. 9. Little Creve Coeur Lake Butterfly Walk
- Sun. Sept. 17. Busch C. A. Butterfly Count for Mo. Dept. of Conservation.
- Sun. Oct. 15. Hilda Young C. A. Butterfly Walk

For more information, Call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

IT'S TIME AGAIN - Membership Committee

To renew your membership in WGNSS. We hope you will avail yourself of this opportunity to remain a part of the fellowship of this historic nature study society. The cost is minimal (\$0.054/day) and you will be rejoining the fraternity of nature lovers who want to learn more about our natural world and help preserve its other occupants (the birds, bees, flowers, etc.) for future generations. With its four interest groups (Conservation, Botany, Ornithology and Entomology), the Society has something to offer for all. For the historians among you, we have a long and colorful history, a small part of which is shared with members each month in Nature Notes. If your interest is in paper shuffling rather than boot shuffling in the field, there is an administrative job within your grasp if you want to remain indoors. The Administrative Group (a.k.a. The Board) collects the dues, pays the bills, administers its scholarship programs, and handles internal communications. All Board spots can be earned by service and the willingness to get some ink on your palms. These spots are open to people of all ages, gender and vocation. Note that we've just awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards to a Centenarian and to another individual who joined as a teenager and stayed the course, achieving distinction in the process.

It's easy to renew! Fill in the membership application form at the rear, write a check, and put both in the enclosed envelope. Mail to Randy Korotev. **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON**

If you have a question about your present membership status, look at the upper right corner of your address label. If it says "exp. 31-08-2006", your membership expires in August this year and you'll stop receiving Nature Notes soon thereafter if you don't renew. If your label reads 31-08-2007, you've probably overpaid and you're really OK. If it reads 31-12-99, you are a life member and we hope you live that along. For those who joined in the middle of the year, the label may indicate your membership expires the end of a month other than August. We recommend that you send your renewal soon anyway (\$20) so you don't forget. If you have a question, call Randy Korotev at (314) 993-0055 or E-Mail him at rkorote@artsci.wustl.edu. He's friendly -

WHAT'S AHEAD?

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SUMMER DATES

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PHILOSOPHICAL MUSING

From a graduation invitation: "Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away" - Author Unknown

FROM A DINER "COFFEE NEWS"

"The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things as well" - Horace Walpole

**JIM JACKSON: 2006 RECIPIENT of WGNSS'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

[Text of Yvonne Homeyer's introduction at the May 2, 2006 Annual Banquet.]

This year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award is Jim Jackson, a distinguished educator, a prolific author with several books and many articles to his credit, an experienced birder and field trip leader, a conservationist, an engaging speaker and storyteller - as you will find out for yourselves in a few minutes - and a dedicated WGNSS member.

Jim Jackson joined WGNSS as a teenager during World War II. Jim was a contemporary of another teenaged WGNSS member, Jack Van Benthuyzen, with whom he had many youthful birding adventures. Jim's passion for nature was instilled in him as a child and it never left him. His higher education studies also focused on nature, leading him to an undergraduate degree in Wildlife Management and a Masters degree in education, both from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Jim Jackson was employed by the Missouri Department of Conservation and then taught biology at Washington, MO high school. Over the years, Jim Jackson has taught courses in ecology at Meramec Community College and East Central College in Union. He has served as president of the Audubon Society of Missouri, a position in which he was succeeded by Paul Bauer, and has volunteered at Shaw Nature Reserve for many years.

Jim's bibliography is extensive. He has published three books: *The Biography of a Tree*, *The Pulse of the Forest*, and *Passages of a Stream* about the Meramec River. Jim Jackson has contributed numerous articles to Nature Notes over the years. Elsewhere, he has had over 100 articles published, including about 36 articles in the Missouri Conservationist.

Jim was the Keynote Speaker at WGNSS's annual banquet in 1975 and on several occasions he has been a program speaker at one of our monthly meetings. He was one of the speakers at WGNSS's special 75th anniversary banquet a few years ago. Jim's memory of WGNSS is rich with experiences and adventures involving Art Christ, Earl Comfort and others.

Jim, I am pleased to present you this evening with the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award. I would also like to give you this drawing by Jim Ziebol.

Now, Jim will share some of his stories with us.

**STUART O'BYRNE: RECIPIENT OF A WGNSS SPECIAL LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

(Text prepared by Jim Adams for presentation posthumously at the May 2, 2006 Annual Banquet)

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STUART O'BYRNE CITATION (Cont'd)

I became acquainted with Stuart and his contributions to WGNSS while indexing the file of the Society's Journal, *Nature Notes*. Stuart established *Nature Notes* in November, 1929 at age 24, was its first editor, and served again as editor during several later years. He also served WGNSS twice as Vice-president, as WGNSS President in 1933 and 1934, and as chair of its Geology and Astronomy Groups. He held numerous leadership positions in the Nature Study Lodge that WGNSS maintained in its early years on a leased plot of ground on the Ranken Estate Property (now occupied in part by the Beaumont Scout Reservation). In 1934 Stuart and Marshall Magner, at ages 29 and 21, respectively, traveled to New Mexico to collect specimens for the Lodge's Museum. While there Stuart made geological studies in the Raton area which he later described in a *Nature Notes* article.

In addition to astronomy and geology, Stuart was also an enthusiastic birder. For several years he was coordinator for Christmas bird counts at Ranken and tabulated and published the count results in *Nature Notes*. He analyzed bird data from these counts and published papers on such topics as "Irregular Bird Distribution at Ranken" and "The Seasonal Distribution of Chickadees at Ranken", aspects of birding data that most observers would have not have noticed.

In the geology area he prepared topographic maps of the Ranken property, and assembled accompanying lists of the flora and fauna found there. He also prepared three-dimensional maps of the caves at Ranken, no easy task. He published a paper on the pre-Cambrian geology of Missouri in the *Missouri Academy of Science Journal* in addition to the previously mentioned *Nature Notes* article on the geology of the Raton area of New Mexico.

Stuart's number one outdoor interest, which became a life-long passion, was astronomy. By the time he became *Nature Notes* Editor in 1929 at age 24, he already possessed had a commanding knowledge of the field. He continued to improve his knowledge of the stars and in Sept. 1940 he was described by Radio Station KSD as the "most outstanding astronomer in the St. Louis area" (Nov. 40 *Nature Notes*). By the sixties, the Sputnik era, he had become director of a satellite monitoring station established in St. Louis for observing satellites passing overhead. During this period he also joined the St. Louis Astronomical Society and worked so diligently in that society that when he left the St. Louis area he was awarded a Life Membership.

Stuart and his wife, his wife May Brinkmeyer O'Byrne (a former WGNSS Botany Group Chairperson), and probably their daughter Jean, moved to Silver City, New Mexico in 1971. They established a home on a mountain top near Silver City in the far southwest corner of the state. From this high perch Stuart could observe the skies in all directions in a setting free of the haze and lights of cities. He spent the rest of his life in this home studying the stars with his telescope. But he did more than sit in a rocking chair and watch stars. I have heard that Stuart assisted the astronomy program of the New Mexico State University at nearby Las Cruces, likely a strong program because of the several major astronomical observatories located in the southwestern mountains of the U. S. A
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STUART O'BYRNE CITATION (Cont'd)

further clue to his activity in New Mexico is the report in *Nature Notes* (Oct. 1974 issue) that Stuart and May were compilers of the 1973/74 Christmas Bird Count in Silver City, with bushtits, prairie falcons, scaled quail and Mexican jays included in the count.

Stuart's health remained good during most of his retirement years. Dr. William Brandhorst visited with Stuart by telephone on the eve of WGNSS's 75th Anniversary Banquet in 1995 and reported at the banquet that Stuart, then ninety years of age, was in good health. Anita Lieser visited him in February this year at the Beehive Home where he was living and found him clear-minded and enthusiastic about his 100th birthday party, held in September, 2005.

It seems likely that Stuart's experiences during the 1934 New Mexico expedition helped Stuart and May to decide to retire to that state. (See information about the N. M. expedition on the right.) When his daughter Jean called me to tell me of her father's death, she reminded me of the 1934 WGNSS O'Byrne/Magner New Mexico Expedition during our conversation. Obviously she'd heard a lot about it from her father, who had also preserved the route maps.

Stuart was born in St. Louis in September, 1905. Stuart's wife, May Brinkmeyer O'Byrne, whom he married in June 1942, died in March 2003. He is survived by their daughter, Jean, now Jean Ossorio, who lives in nearby Las Cruces, New Mexico. (See a picture of the young O'Byrne family to the right.) Jean and her husband Peter are deeply involved in a campaign to re-establish the Mexican red wolf in New Mexico. She has obviously inherited Stuart's love of the natural world. Look for a message from Jean to WGNSS members in the June issue of *Nature Notes*!

REMARKS ON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO STUART L. O'BYRNE, MAY 2, 2006 – Jean Ossorio (nee O'Byrne)

Good evening, friends and members of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society!

Your selection of my father, Stuart O'Byrne, to receive the WGNSS 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award came as a bittersweet surprise to me and my family. As some of you already know, Stuart died on April 15th, at his home at the Beehive assisted living facility in Santa Clara, New Mexico. He was just a little more than 100 years, six months old. Although he had become physically frail in the past year or two, his mind was still sharp until a few days before his death. He still kept records of his astronomical observations, made mostly with binoculars in recent years, and of the birds that visited the feeders outside his room.

JEAN OSSORIO REMARKS (Cont'd)

I showed him Jim Adams's letter just four days before he died, and tried to explain to him the fact that he was to receive this honor. Because he was very weak and unable to speak clearly by that time, I'm not 100% certain that he understood, but I believe that he did and was pleased. I only wish that my mother, May, could have lived to enjoy this honor with him, as she was his constant companion and fellow conservationist from the time they met through WGNSS.

The photographs on display this evening are just a handful from a large collection of prints and slides depicting WGNSS activities from the late 1920's until my parents left St. Louis for New Mexico in 1971. In addition, there are pictures from Stuart's 100th birthday party on September 23, 2005. I've also added a few pictures of my husband and me, mostly from our trips to Mexican wolf country.

As noted above, my parents met at WGNSS, thus I literally owe my existence to the organization. My sincere thanks to any "old timers" present tonight who may have played a part in getting the two of them together!

In addition to helping lead hundreds of children and adults to an interest in nature study in general, and astronomy in particular, Stuart (and May, too) passed on a passion for the natural world. Part of their legacy is the fact that my husband and I have become dedicated activists for the natural environment, with a special interest in the preservation of the Chihuahuan Desert grassland of Otero Mesa from energy development, and in advocating for science-based management of the reintroduced Mexican gray wolf in Arizona and New Mexico. I'm privileged to represent the Southwest Environmental Center as a stakeholder member of the team writing the new recovery plan for wolves in the Southwest.

I'm deeply grateful for having been brought up in a home where it was perfectly okay to bring home a boxful of caterpillars (every single one parasitized by tiny wasps), or a jarful of tadpoles, or a black widow spider egg case, in order to follow their development. Except for the unfortunate caterpillars, they were all returned to the wild once they reached adulthood.

I'll leave it to Marge Ruschill and other's who "knew Stuart when" to add telling details to the story of Stuart's contributions to the WGNSS. Although I know I'm biased, I think the board made a terrific choice in giving my dad

JEAN OSSORIO REMARKS (Cont'd)

this award. Many, many thanks to you all! If you find yourselves in far southern New Mexico or the El Paso area, please remember that our door is always open WGNSS members. Send us an e-mail or give us a call. Anita Lieser and Jim Adams both have our contact information. We are completely serious, and will do our best to give you the guided tour of the desert or of Mexican wolf country! Come see us!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Anne Earley

As those of you who were there can attest, our annual spring banquet on May 2 at Eden Seminary Commons was a wonderful conclusion to our WGNSS program year. Margy Terpstra did her usual terrific job of planning and organizing this event, assisted by her successor as Second Vice President, Kimberlie McCue, and many WGNSS members and friends. Many thanks to all of these people for their contributions in making this event a great success.

And congratulations to all of the evening's honorees for their dedication to, and support of, WGNSS, both in the past (for our Lifetime Achievement Award recipients and retiring Board members) and in the present (current WGNSS volunteers). This year's three WGNSS scholarship recipients will be continuing our organization's research tradition and conservation focus into the future.

Our keynote speaker at the banquet, WGNSS member Doug Ladd, Director of Conservation Science for the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, presented a thought-provoking program on Missouri's tallgrass prairie heritage. In appreciation of Doug's program and his work promoting prairie conservation and restoration efforts, WGNSS has made a contribution to the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in honor of Doug, to be used to continue his work with Missouri prairies.

It is truly an honor for me to be associated with the outstanding individuals who have served WGNSS as President and in other leadership positions, both at present and in the past. Our outgoing President, Yvonne Homeyer, deserves a special note of thanks for serving two terms as leader of our Society. In appreciation of her service, Yvonne was surprised at the banquet with two gifts from WGNSS: a pendant of a crane in origami style, made of precious metal and clay with a turquoise accent; and a coordinating silver cuff bracelet. Both pieces were crafted by St. Louis-area artists and were purchased at American Visions Contemporary Crafts Gallery on Manchester Road in St. Louis. Thank you, Yvonne, for your dedication and service to WGNSS.

Since summer is nearly upon us, *Nature Notes* and our monthly program meetings will be on hiatus for a few months. Summer has always been one of my favorite times of the year, perhaps because of the countless opportunities it provides for observing and
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont'd)

enjoying our natural world. I have fond memories of summers growing up in rural Iowa, riding my bike down a dirt road to see the annual display of purple coneflowers in a roadside ditch, enjoying the familiar song of meadowlarks, and trying to identify the numerous butterflies and insects that visited our yard and garden. As that time of year again approaches, I hope that your summer will be filled with all the sights and sounds of nature that you enjoy!

BIG DAY RESULTS - Editor

In case you're wondering why no report on "Big Day" (May 13), is included in this issue, it's because of a timing issue; the N.N. printing schedule didn't permit. But Anne McCormack (who began last year's article with "Armed with granola bars, bagels, and pockets of optimism, Big Day birders parachuted into the bush at 0-dark-30.....") has promised an article with an equal number of laughs for our September issue. I can hardly wait!

STEYERMARK REVISITED - Titled by Editor

WGNSS member and Botany Group co-chair George Yatskievych has completed work on the second volume of the revised *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri*. The original *Flora of Missouri* was written by another WGNSS member, the late Julian Steyermark, and first-published in 1963. It has long been out of print. Volume 1 of the revised encyclopedia of Missouri plant life was published in 1999 and contains a lengthy introduction to Missouri natural history as well as accounts of the ferns and fern allies, conifers, and monocots. Volume 2 contains the first half of the dicot treatments, including the families from Acanthaceae through the first portion of Fabaceae, arranged alphabetically. Among these is the account of the sunflower family, Asteraceae, which is the largest plant family in the state. Among the other important groups covered are the bellflower, morning glory, mustard, pink, and spurge families. The final volume completing the dicots will not be done for a few more years.

At nearly 1,200 pages, Volume 2 is certainly no field guide. The book is intended as a comprehensive technical reference to identify Missouri plants and to learn about them. In addition to keys and descriptions of the species, there are discussions of taxonomy, ecology, conservation, cultivation, medicinal and other uses, and poisonous properties. Each species treatment is supplemented with a county range map and most of the species are illustrated with beautiful black and white drawings grouped into nearly 200 full-page plates.

Copies of Volume 1 are still available for \$38. Volume 2 of Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* (Cont'd)

STEYERMARK REVISITED (Cont'd)

Missouri is expected to be available toward the end of June 2006. It will retail for \$48 per copy (plus shipping), but the Missouri Botanical Garden Press is extending a 20% discount on sales of Volume 2 until August 31. For more information or to place an order, please contact the Missouri Botanical Garden Press at 314-577-9534, by e-mail at mbgpress@mobot.org, or at their web site: www.mbgpress.org.

Editor's Note: Thanks to George for the news release about Vol. 2. It is an irony of history that Steyermark's monumental 1963 *Flora* is being updated by another WGNSS Botany Chairman. Who can say that WGNSS is resting on its laurels! Julian Steyermark had numerous WGNSS connections. He was mentored by Oscar Petersen, WGNSS's beloved "Vagabond Dreamer", chaired the WGNSS Botany and Geology Groups, and participated in WGNSS Christmas Counts. And he was discerning in other ways as well: he married Cora Shoup, also a WGNSS Botany chairperson, in November 1937. Cora participated in WGNSS's second New Mexico Expedition in July-August, 1935. (This was a follow up to the first expedition in 1934 by Stuart O'Byrne and Marshall Magner, mentioned in Stuart O'Byrne's Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation on May 2.) But I'm not going to pitch my old Steyermark, stained with rain, food, ashes, and unidentifiable matter acquired on innumerable camping trips/hikes during my Boy Scouting days until George gets the entire job done. Good luck, George!

FEEDBACK FROM READERS – Editor/Historian

Joy Sandweiss called to express appreciation for the article in the May issue about Oscar Petersen. Oscar used to ramble in the woods near Allenton with her parents and a friend, Max Schwarz. Occasionally she got up enough nerve (as a small child) to ask to accompany them. She said that her parents regularly received a new Year's card from Petersen like the one pictured with the article thanking them for letting him ramble on their property. She knows nothing of Oscar's early background (before age 75) but will see what she can find out.

Phil Koenig wrote to express appreciation for the N. N. indexes. He says that there are many references to N. N. articles in Heitzman's Lepidoptera of Missouri database. The recently printed Stuart O'Byrne articles have helped him locate "Ranken" and "Ranken Estate", the location for so many butterfly specimens in Heitzman's database. This has been a "nagging puzzle" for him for a long time. (Note: I have subsequently given Phil copies of the topographic map from a N. N. issue of the Ranken Estate prepared by Stuart O'Byrne that shows the boundaries of the Ranken property.) Phil has given me some excellent biographical material on early WGNSS notables, including Max Schwarz, that will eventually be used in Historian's Corner articles.)

AN URGENT CONSERVATION MESSAGE - Editor

- In either August or November Missouri voters will be asked to renew the dedicated state parks/soils one-tenth sales tax for the third time. As you may or may not know, many
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AN URGENT CONSERVATION MESSAGE (Cont'd)

WGNSS members, acting as individuals, have played a major role in getting this tax instituted/ renewed and in fighting off efforts to divert some of this tax revenue to the general revenue fund. In the Editor's opinion, revenue from this tax has given Missouri one of the finest state park systems in the nation and has funded many important soil/water conservation projects. Speakers to assist in the effort to get this tax renewed are being recruited by the Missouri Park and Recreation Association. If interested, promptly contact MPRA, 2018 William St., Jefferson City, MO 65109, Fax (573) 635-7988. And WGNSS members are asked to consider their position on this issue carefully and be well-prepared to vote meaningfully when then time comes.

MARCH BOTANY REPORT - George R. Van Brunt

March 6, 2006 Botany Field Trip

We met at Robertsville State Park in Franklin County to look for *Erigenia bulbosa* (harbinger of spring). And find it we did, along with 6 or 7 other species in flower! Accompanying Father Sullivan on this mild, late winter day were Nels Holmberg, Jack Harris, Rex Hill, Jerry Brown, Jim Hoelscher, Jeanne Clauson, Bill Knight, Dave Alspaugh, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jim Ruschill, Marge Ruschill, and George Van Brunt.

It was a bit of a surprise to find so many species blooming so early. For the most part, these early flowering species are very small, ground-hugging plants with tiny flowers. They included the aforementioned *Erigenia bulbosa* (harbinger of spring), *Microthlaspi perfoliatum* (claspleaf pennycress), *Draba verna* (spring draba), *Hedyotis crassifolia* (small bluet), and an unidentified species of *Cardamine*, a genus of the mustard family. Two other species in flower, not fitting the description of a tiny ground-hugging plant, were *Corylus americana* (hazelnut) and *Acer saccharinum* (silver maple).

One interesting item we found on our walk "off-trail" through this Meramec River bottomland was a huge burl on a *Prunus serotina* (wild black cherry). Burls usually appear as an unusual swelling of a tree trunk. This burl was at ground level, about 3 feet tall, and encircling about half the circumference of the two foot diameter trunk. The cause of burls is not completely understood. They are known to develop from buds that persist, growing slowly and branching but not becoming longer. The burl is filled with these odd buds. The odd patterns in the wood of a burl make them desirable as veneers or in wood lathe work. On the other hand, a gall is an abnormal growth on a tree, or other plant, that results from the interaction between the plant and parasites such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, or mites. The gall is somewhat like a tumor in animals; the cells divide excessively and are larger than normal cells. The gall forms when the parasite stimulates the cambium, the growth layer just beneath the bark that is responsible for the tree's growth in diameter. The gall is rarely harmful to the plant, but it can be very disfiguring.

Erigenia bulbosa (harbinger of spring), the reason for our trip to Robertsville State Park, is a member of the carrot family (Apiaceae). The appearance of this plant's blooms traditionally marks the beginning of the spring flowering season. A relatively thick flowering stalk, two or

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MARCH BOTANY REPORT (Cont'd)

three inches long, rises above the leaf litter on the ground. The stalk is crowned by a small umbel, a flower arrangement having the shape of a parasol; the pedicels all arise from a single point on the stalk and form a flat-topped or convex inflorescence. The Latin word umbra means a shadow. When the suffix -ella, a diminutive, is added the classical Latin word umbella results. It means a parasol. From this we get our word umbrella, a device that casts a small shadow. When fresh, the anthers of this flower are reddish-purple, but after they have released their pollen, they are black in color. The five white petals and five black anthers give this plant its other common name, pepper and salt. The leaves of the plant appear after the flowers.

March 13, 2006 Botany Field Trip

Father Sullivan, Martha Hill, Rex Hill, Nancy Clark, Wayne Clark, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Jeanne Clauson, and George Van Brunt met on a warm, sunny, late winter day at the Mooner's Hollow Trailhead in St. Francois State Park, St. Francois County. First we explored the field area and found a number of tiny, ground hugging plants in bloom. They were *Microthlaspi perfoliatum* (claspleaf pennycress), *Lamium amplexicaule* (henbit), *Hedyotis crassifolia* (small bluet), *Viola bicolor* (Johnny-jump-up), *Veronica polita* (speedwell), and *Draba verna* (spring draba). Blooming plants on the Mooner's Hollow Trail included *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush), *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac), *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Cardamine concatenata* (toothwort), and lots of *Hepatica acutiloba* (sharp-lobed hepatica). The flowers of *Hepatica acutiloba* range in color from white to pink, blue, and lavender.

About 800 (28%) of Missouri Plant species are non-native. Non-native plants in the above list include *Microthlaspi perfoliatum*, *Lamium amplexicaule*, *Veronica polita*, and *Draba verna*. The accepted definition of non-native plant is a species that was not present in Missouri before 1492. Non-native plants can include plants from other parts of North America as well as plants from other continents. In the 17th through 19th centuries particularly, a major goal of European botanists was to explore the "new" lands and bring back new and interesting plants for European gardens. That philosophy extended to European colonists in the New World as well. Most non-native plants do not escape cultivation, and those that do rarely cause serious problems.

Some plant species are invasive species. An invasive species is one that dominates its habitat to the detriment of other species. Invasive plants can be native or non-native and typically grow and mature quickly, have a long flowering season, and produce many small seeds. A native species can become an invasive when humans change ecosystems in such a way that the natural restraints on the species are removed. The most serious invasive plants in our region, however, are non-native species. These include *Lonicera maackii* (amur honeysuckle), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle), *Lespedeza cuneata* (sericea lespedeza), and *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard). Two other serious invasives in North America that are not yet major problems here are *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife) and *Pueraria montana* (kudzu).

March 27, 2006 Botany Field Trip

Five hardy spring botanists met at Matson Hill County Park on a cold rainy morning. The
(Cont'd)

MARCH BOTANY REPORT (Cont'd)

botanists were Father Sullivan, Rex Hill, Nels Holmberg, Wayne Clark, and George Van Brunt. In this park on December 26, 2005, we found two St. Charles county record plant species. We came back to check on one of them, *Allium burdickii* (Burdick's leek). In the late 1800's, *Allium tricoccum* (wild leek) and *Allium burdickii* were thought to be varieties of the same species, *Allium tricoccum*. Justin Herbert Burdick, M.D. (1851-1931) of the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University first described the differences between these two plants. Because of his efforts, *Allium burdickii* was recognized as a separate species and was named in his honor. On this trip we reconfirmed the presence of a colony of the plants and searched extensively for more plants. We were only able to find the one group.

Other spring plants were making their appearance although most of their flowers were closed due to the cold and rain. Who says humans are the most intelligent life on the planet? Plants in bloom that we identified were *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot), *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), *Cardamine concatenata* (toothwort), *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush), *Anemonella thalictroides* (rue anemone), *Carex albicans* (whitening sedge), and *Erigenia bulbosa* (harbinger of spring). We also found early leaves of *Cystopteris protrusa* (fragile fern), *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist), and *Polemonium reptans* (Jacob's ladder).

Flowers may be described as complete or incomplete. Complete flowers have the 4 principle parts: sepals, petals, stamens, and pistils, while incomplete flowers are lacking one or more of these parts. Flowers may also be described as perfect or imperfect. A perfect flower has both male (stamens) and female (pistils) reproductive organs, while an imperfect flower has either stamens or pistils, but not both. A complete flower must be perfect while an incomplete flower may be perfect or imperfect. A perfect flower may be complete or incomplete, while an imperfect flower must be incomplete. If a species bears imperfect flowers on the same plant, the species is said to be monoecious. If a species bears staminate and pistillate flowers on separate plants, the species is termed dioecious. Most flowering plants have perfect flowers, while some are monoecious or dioecious. *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush) is a dioecious species. That is why only some of the plants bear the bright red fruits in the fall. Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), which we saw at Matson Hill County Park, is also dioecious. The species epithet, *dioica*, refers to that fact.

MARSHALL MAGNER HONORED BY ASM – Editor

Marshall Magner, a founding member of WGNSS who died last year, was honored by the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) at its Spring Meeting in St. Louis, May 5-7, 2006 at the Forest Park Holiday Inn. A Marshall Magner Memorial hors d'oeuvres Reception was held in the Venezian Room of the Forest Park Holiday Inn on Friday evening. A pictorial display of Marshall's life was on display, and Dr. Jay Magner and his wife were there to represent the Magner family. As a new member of ASM I attended the reception with Betty and enjoyed meeting a number of people from the state organization whom I had not met personally. Marshall was a former President of ASM, and one of WGNSS's "triple crown" members, i.e., a former president of WGNSS, St. Louis Audubon, and ASM. Paul Bauer is also a WGNSS "triple crown member." Sue
(Cont'd)

MARSHALL MAGNER HONORED (Cont'd)

Gustafson, a former president of WGNSS, is the current president of ASM. Jim Jackson, who was presented with the WGNSS Lifetime Achievement Award at the WGNSS Annual Banquet on May 2, has held the ASM and St. Louis Audubon presidencies. As you can see, there's considerable interplay among these three organizations, with a number of current WGNSS members also members of ASM and/or St. Louis Audubon. WGNSS has a joint program meeting and a joint Holiday Party with St. Louis Audubon each year.

APRIL BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Sightings: Early Arrival Dates:

Date	Species	Location	Observer
4/2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Castlewood	MB
	Northern Parula	Castlewood	MB
	Black-and-white Warbler	Castlewood	MB
	Henslow's Sparrow	Castlewood	MB
4/5	Green Heron	Forest Park	SM
4/7	Yellow-throated Vireo	Castlewood	MB
	White-eyed Vireo	Castlewood	MB
		Union	DH
		Jefferson Co.	MP
4/8	Cinnamon Teal	Eagle Park	P&BJ
4/10	Upland Sandpiper	Old Monroe	JM
4/11	Worm-eating Warbler	Tower Grove Park	J Chain
	Chimney Swift	Tower Grove Park	SM
	House Wren	Tower Grove Park	SM
	Warbling Vireo	Tower Grove Park	SM
		Castlewood	MB
		Robertsville SP	WG
		Tower Grove Park	MM
4/12	Prothonotary Warbler	Castlewood	J Chain
	Little Gull	Riverlands	JU
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Riverlands	JU
	Spotted Sandpiper	Riverlands	JU
	Laughing Gull	Riverlands	CA, CM
	Ovenbird	Tower Grove Park	SM
		Rockwoods	CM
	Wood Thrush	Tower Grove Park	TB
	Hooded Warbler	Chubb Trail	JM
	Nashville Warbler	Castlewood	MB
	Northern Waterthrush	Castlewood	MB
	Indigo Bunting	St. Louis County	PL

(Cont'd)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

4/13	Eastern Kingbird	Horseshoe Lake	FH
	Scarlet Tanager	Castlewood	MB
	American Bittern	Riverlands	T Berger
	Great Crested Flycatcher	Tower Grove Park	JZ
	Whip-poor-will	Lincoln Co.	John Brown
4/14	Grasshopper Sparrow	BK Leach	ES
	Swainson's Thrush	Kirkwood	M Terpstra
4/15	Yellow Warbler	Tower Grove Park	CA
	Red-eyed Vireo	Castlewood	J&NS
	Common Yellowthroat	Lost Valley Trail	RW
	Baltimore Oriole	Carondelet Park	DG
	Summer Tanager	Carondelet Park	DG
	Tennessee Warbler	Tower Grove Park	D Rabenau
	Prairie Warbler	Young C.A.	RG
	Kentucky Warbler	Young C.A.	RG
4/16	Least Flycatcher	Tower Grove Park	JZ, S Bunch
4/17	Semipalmated Plover	Riverlands	CM
	Palm Warbler	Tower Grove Park	m. ob.
	Black Rail	Carlyle Lake	DK
4/18	Catbird	Tower Grove Park	IH
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Tyson	NB
4/19	Dickcissel	Hwy. 94	CM
	Magnolia Warbler	Tower Grove Park	BK
	Cerulean Warbler	Lost Valley Trail	CM, PL
	Scarlet Tanager	Tower Grove Park	SG
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Forest Park	BB
		Babler	CM
		Busch	CM
		Tower Grove Park	CS
	Blue Grosbeak	Forest Park	BB
	Willet	Riverlands	JU
	Orchard Oriole	Busch	JZ
	Forster's Tern	Riverlands	SE
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Riverlands	D Becher
4/20	Marbled Godwit	Riverlands	D Rogles
	Dunlin	Riverlands	D Rogles
	Redstart	Lincoln Co.	ES
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Lincoln Co.	ES
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Lincoln Co.	ES
	Painted Bunting	Mo. Botanical Garden	R Kinney
	Solitary Vireo	Indian Lake	VL
	Long-billed Dowitcher	Riverlands	BR
4/21	Piping Plover	Riverlands	JU

(Cont'd)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

4/22	Yellow-breasted Chat	Lost Valley Trail	BB, RW
	Sora	BK Leach	M Thelen
	Swainson's Warbler	Forest Park	RK
4/23	Cliff Swallow	Big Muddy NWR	JS, MT
	Swainson's Hawk	Columbia Bottoms	BR
	Western Kingbird	Laclede's Landing	JE
	White-faced Ibis	Clarence Cannon	JU
	Bank Swallow	Clarence Cannon	JU
4/24	Bell's Vireo	Blue Grosbeak Trail	IH
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tower Grove Park	J Chain, IH
	Avocet	Riverlands	CA
4/25	Baird's Sandpiper	Riverlands	IH
	Wilson's Phalarope	Riverlands	CM
	Sanderling	Riverlands	JU
	Surf Scoter	Riverlands	JE
4/27	Blackpoll	Forest Park	BB
		Kirkwood	M Terpstra
	Golden-winged Warbler	Forest Park	BB
4/28	Black-necked Stilt	Riverlands	JE
	White-rumped Sandpiper	Riverlands	JE, CM
		Two Rivers NWR	D Rogles
4/29	Bobolink	Riverlands	NB
		Chesterfield	MAA
4/30	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Tower Grove Park	BB
	Cape May	Tower Grove Park	BB, J Chain
	Pewee	Tower Grove Park	YH
	Short-billed Dowitcher	Two Rivers NWR	IH
	Black Tern	Two Rivers NWR	IH
	Black-bellied Plover	Riverlands	M Thelen
	Mississippi Kite	Godfrey Nature Inst.	PL

Introduction: We would like to thank the managers at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary for managing the water levels so well for the shorebirds. We also want to thank John Karel at Tower Grove Park for filling the Jack Van Benthuisen Pond.

Sightings: The Thursday Group found a breeding plumaged Common Loon at BCA on 4/6 (J Chain). Frank Holmes reported 9 Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests in Wilson Park, Granite City during April. On 4/23, John Uffman found 2 American Bitterns at CC. A total of 78 Snowy Egrets were seen around HL on 4/30 (FH). A trip to Monroe County on 4/2 yielded 150 Pelicans, 12 Fish Crows, 3 Vesper Sparrows and little else (JZ). Two Sandhill Cranes were found at BK Leach on 4/11 (D Rogles). Mike Thelen visited REDA on 4/1 and reported 23 Greater White-fronted Geese and 3 Ross's Geese. A total of approximately 700 Blue-winged Teal was seen along Confluence Road on 4/22 (B)

(Cont'd)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

Rowe). By far the best birds of the month were a pair of Cinnamon Teal at Eagle Park on 4/8 (P&BJ), which stayed about two weeks. An amazing flock of about 2,000 Am. Golden Plovers was seen at the Ketteman Rd. sod farms on 4/1 (T Borman, D Rogles). On 4/23, a total of 4 Piping Plovers were present at REDA (J&CM). Two Black-necked Stilts made a brief stop at REDA on 4/28 (JE). Avocet sightings included 38 at REDA on 4/25 (JU), 32 at REDA on 4/26 (IH), and 2 at Two Rivers on 4/28 (D Rogles). Seven Marbled Godwits were located at Lincoln Shields on 4/27 (Gene Sands, Brent Schindewolf). Willet sightings included 57 at REDA on 4/25 (D Rogles), 2 at REDA on 4/26 (IH), and 4 at HL on 4/30 (J Moe, FH). Upland Sandpipers were observed at CC on 4/23 (JU), 4 at the Old Monroe sod farms on 4/23 (D Rogles), and 1 at the Blue Grosbeak Trail on 4/27 (D Rogles). On 4/8, Bill Rowe reported 100 Bonaparte's Gulls at Lincoln Shields. Josh Uffman found an adult Little Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at REDA on 4/12. On 4/28, 4 Caspian Terns and 1 Forster's Tern were seen at Lincoln Shields (M Richardson). On 4/26 at REDA, 10 species of shorebirds were present, including 18 Avocets, 3 Baird's, 2 Dunlin and a Piping Plover (SM, JZ). Bill Rowe visited REDA on 4/22 and found 200 Lesser Yellowlegs, 15-20 Greater Yellowlegs, 100 Pectorals, 2 Am. Golden Plovers, 3 Dunlin, 2 Long-billed Dowitchers, Killdeer and a few Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers. On 4/29 at Swan Lake, Ian Hunt reported Sanderling, 5 Wilson's Phalaropes, both Dowitcher species, Semipalmated Plover, Dunlin and Black Terns.

On 4/23, the Bald Eagle nest on Peruque Road had 3 eaglets (CM) and the nest on Hwy. 143 had 1 eaglet (J Chain). Ospreys were seen at Busch on 4/9 (D Curran), at HL on 4/17 (IH), and at Simpson County Park on 4/18 (MB). On 4/9, David Becher watched a pair of immature Cooper's Hawks building a nest near the Gaddy Bird Garden in TGP. A kettle of 10 Broad-winged Hawks, plus a Sharp-shin and 2 Cooper's, were seen at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 4/23 (B Rowe). A Red-tailed Hawk nest in FP contained 2 young on 4/1 (SM). A Prairie Falcon was a very good find in TGP on 4/27 (D Coles, J Chain). That same day, the Thursday Group observed the entire Great Horned Owl family (2 adults and 3 owlets) in TGP. Two Turkeys were observed at Lindbergh & Hwy. 40 on 4/3 (CZ) and on 4/26, several Turkeys were displaying at Bellefontaine Cemetery (SM, JZ). On 4/17, Ian Hunt found 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers and a Rusty Blackbird in TGP. Two Bluebirds were seen in TGP on 4/20 (T Bailey, m. ob.). Four Wood Thrush and several orioles were seen at Big Muddy on 4/29 (P&BJ).

Golden-winged Warblers and Blackpolls were seen at FP on 4/27 (BB). On 4/5, an Orange-crowned Warbler was seen in FP (SM). Hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers were present in TGP on 4/15 (CA, D Rogles). As many as 12 singing Yellow-throated Warblers were heard and seen at CSP on 4/9 (BB, RW). On 4/27, the Thursday Group found a Prairie Warblers in TGP (D Coles, J Chain). On 4/22, Randy Korotev repeatedly heard a Swainson's Warbler at the wet area near Valley Drive in FP. On 4/15, Ron Goetz found 9 species of warblers at Young C.A. A female Spotted Towhee was photographed at BCA on 4/16 (D Bozzay). On 4/1, the Saturday Group found 2

(Cont'd)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

LeConte's Sparrows near HL (D Becher) and on 4/23, another LeConte's was present at BCA (B Rowe). A Henslow's Sparrow was a good find at LVT on 4/8 (D Becher, Saturday Group). On 4/12, 10-15 Henslow's Sparrows were reported at Robertsville SP, along with a Blue-winged Warbler (WG). Two Purple Finches were located in TGP on 4/13 (J Chain, Th. Group). A flock of 31 Chipping Sparrows followed Sherry McCowan around Lafayette Park on 4/13. By 4/24, several hundred White-throated Sparrows were present in TGP (J Chain). On 4/22, the Saturday Group visited Columbia Bottoms and found Grasshopper Sparrow, Warbling Vireo and Baltimore Oriole (J Chain). Connie Alwood re-found the male Yellow-headed Blackbird on 4/24 (originally spotted by David Becher on 4/19) and on 4/25, two female Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found on Walker Island (IH). On 4/30, the Sunday Group, led by Bob Bailey and David Garcia in TGP, found 15 warbler species, including 3 Hooded, Kentucky, 2 Worm-eating, both tanagers, and 4 species of flycatchers. Also on 4/30, Randy Korotev reported 12 species of warblers in FP, including a singing Yellow Warbler. The yellow eastern race of Palm Warbler was seen in TGP on 4/30 (IH).

A typical day at Lost Valley Trail on 4/20 produced Blue-winged Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Cerulean Warbler, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks, and Swamp Sparrow (PL). A typical day in Forest Park on 4/28 included 21 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 20 Nashville Warblers, 8 Tennessee Warblers, 4 Blue-winged Warblers, 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 2 Palm Warblers, 2 Wood Thrush, 2 Indigo Buntings, 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ovenbird, N. Parula, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll (RK). Conspicuous by their absence on 4/28 were any flycatchers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers, orioles and Swainson's Thrush.

Backyard Birds: Wilma Kennell had an albino Grackle on 4/8. Clarence Zacher saw a Golden-crowned Kinglet on 4/14 and a House Wren on 4/23. Margy Terpstra reported Black-throated Green on 4/19, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat and Ruby-throated Hummingbird on 4/24, Nashville and Blackpolls on 4/26, and a Blue-headed Vireo on 4/27. Jack Harris's winter bird watch record, compiled weekly, included several Cooper's Hawks, a Sharp-shin, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks and many Yellow-rumped Warblers. He had more sightings of Hairy Woodpecker than N. Flicker which illustrates the pattern of the Flicker's major decline in the eastern US.

Contributors: Gail Ahumada, Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Nick Barber, Bob Bailey, Tom Bailey, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Sharon Bunch, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Dick Coles, Dan Curran, Joe Eades, Steve Ewer, David Garcia, Wally George, Ron Goetz, Steve Griffaw, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Ian Hunt, Les Jenkins, Margaret Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Bob Kleiger, Randy Korotev, Vivian Liddell, Pat Lueders, Jurek Majka, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Mark

(Cont'd)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

Mittelman, Jeannie Moe, Mark Peters, Mick Richardson, David Rabenau, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Eric Schuette, John & Nancy Solodar, Claudia Spener, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Rad Widmer, Clarence Zacher, and 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).

Abbreviations: Busch Conservation/Wildlife Area, BCA; Carlyle Lake, CL; Clarence Cannon, CC; Forest Park, FP; Horseshoe Lake, HL; Little Creve Coeur Lake, LCCL, Lost Valley Trail, LVT; Marais Temps Clair, MTC; Riverlands, REDA; Shaw Nature Reserve, SNR; Tower Grove Park, TGP; World Bird Sanctuary, WBS.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS – Jim Adams

Leo and Kay Drey – Received St. Louis Audubon's Robert J. Terry Lifetime Achievement Award. The Drey's were cited in the 2005 year-end issue of *Time* for their philanthropy in a list that included Bill Gates.

Jim Ziebol – Is new president of the local Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. There's a Butterfly garden at Busch Wildlife named for him that is maintained jointly by NABA and WGNSS. He is also WGNSS Ornithology Co-Chair and compiles the monthly "Bird Report" for *Nature Notes*.

Randy Korotev – In May 7 *Post-Dispatch* as the Washington University professor who sorts through people's finds of supposed extraterrestrial rocks to authenticate. Randy also finds time to serve as WGNSS Treasurer and Webmaster and is the webmaster for A.S.M.'s statewide Christmas Bird Count database (which goes back to 1900).

Tim Barksdale – Keynote speaker at the May 6 Spring Banquet of the Audubon Society of Missouri here in St. Louis on the search for the Ivory Billed Wood Pecker in Arkansas, in which he was a principal. (Ed. Note – I heard his speech and feel that there's at least an 85% probability that he did see and record the sighting and call of an ivory bill recently in Arkansas. The preparations for the search in terms of measurement and methodology that he described were very impressive.)

Dr. Ann Johanson – One of eleven illustrious alumni of Webster Groves High School who have been chosen for the high school's "Wall of Fame". These alumni will be honored at a dinner in October. Dr. Johanson, now retired, gained distinction as a pediatric endocrinologist in Virginia and California and now resides in Webster Groves.

OTHER NEWSMAKERS – Jim Adams

Robert Porter Allen (1905-1963) – Featured in May 2006 *Texas Highways* as Bird Man Extraordinaire. He established the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and served as National Audubon's sanctuary director.

Ted Curtis – Resigned as Executive Director of Trailnet after eighteen highly productive years as founding volunteer, Board President, and Executive Director.

Webster Groves Nature Study Society – Founded 1920
GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES
May 2006 Update

ORNITHOLOGY – SATURDAY Bird Walks – David Becher (314-576-1146)
(If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
May 13	WGNSS Birding, Big Day	8 AM	Becher
May 20	Gray's Summit Arboretum	8 AM	Becher
(From St. Louis take I-44 west to Gray's Summit exit. Turn left across highway. Turn right onto service road and immediately left into Arboretum. Meet at entrance to Brush Creek Trail)			
May 27	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher

ORNITHOLOGY – THURSDAY BIRD WALKS – Jackie Chain – Leader (314-644-5998)

Meeting time is 8:00 AM on Thursdays at Des Peres Park during summer until August, at which time we will like resume meeting at 8:30 AM. Call Jackie for confirmation of the August time change. .

ORNITHOLOGY – SUNDAY BIRD WALKS

(New birders are **cautioned** to dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them.)

May 28, 2006	Busch C. A.	8 AM	T. Parmeter
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Meet at Headquarters Parking Lot

For more information about the above event, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

BOTANY WALKS – Jeannie Moe – Co-Chair , Co-Leader (636-946-9802)

George Yatskievych – Co-Chair (314-577-9522) – Work Phone

Leader – Fr. James Sullivan (starting his 40th yr. in January, 2006)

Botany walks are on Monday, continuing through the summer. The Botany group visits many of the same locations as the Bird and Butterfly Groups: Busch Conservation Area, Shaw Nature Preserve, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Babler State Park and Cuivre River State Park. Learning plants will help you learn butterfly host plants. Sign up for Botany Group E-mails from Jack Harris (jahar@mac.com) or 314-368-0655 and receive an E-mail every Sunday, sometimes earlier, about the next Monday's trip.

Annual Botany Trip, June 25-30

The WGNSS Botany Group has scheduled its annual "spring botany" trip for late June. This year, Father Jim Sullivan and the group will be traveling to northeastern Iowa and (Cont'd)

adjacent Illinois, and plan to stay at the Super 8 Motel in Dubuque, Iowa (800-800-8000 or 563-582-8898). Members will arrive at the motel the evening of Sunday, June 25, and return home on June 30. Plans are to visit a number of interesting sites, including some spectacular sand prairies in Illinois and the Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa. The Driftless Area is a small region in the northern Midwest that apparently remained unglaciated during the last Ice Age and became a refugium for a number of plants and animals that were trapped there when the climate grew warmer and the surrounding glaciers receded. One of the special habitats that the group hopes to visit is an algific slope, which is a seepy usually north-facing limestone slope characterized by cold-air drainage and the formation of subsurface ice each winter that persists long into the following summer.

WGNSS members who are interested in joining the trip should consider attending one of the regularly scheduled Monday Botany Walks, where Father Sullivan can provide more information.

ENTOMOLOGY GROUP ACTIVITIES – Rich Thoma, Chair (314-965-6744)

Sunday, May 21, 2006, 7 PM – “Insects on the Internet” will be presented by WGNSS member Richard Thoma. The talk will take place at the home of George Winkler, 10 Covington Ln., Olivette (314-993-1652)

If additional events are scheduled for the summer months, those on the regular group mailing list will be contacted by E-mail. If not on the regular mailing list, contact Rich Thoma.

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(Cont'd, next column)

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Two positions, open at present

(Cont'd, next page)

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Supporting Staff

Marjorie Richardson - Newsletter Distribution
Randy Korotev - Website Manager
Barbara Perry Lawton - Brochure Coordinator/
Editor
Jim Adams - Historian
Jim Ziebol - Bird Report Compiler
Jim Ziebol - Busch WA Breeding Bird Survey
Coordinator
Jack Harris - Botany Walk Coordinator
George Van Brunt - Botany Report Compiler
Sherry McCowan - Nature Line Coordinator

Call The Nature Line!

Call (314) 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis Area and dates and times of bird and botany walks; there are occasional schedule changes. 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 Deadline and Mailing Info.

The mailing party meets at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood, 10 AM-1 AM to prepare N.N. mailings. We could use your help! Call Marjorie Richardson (314) 965-8974 to volunteer. Deadline and mailing party dates for future months are given below.

NN Deadline	Mailing Party
Fri 8/11	Mon. 8/21
Fri 9/8	Mon 9/18
Fri 10/6	Mon 10/16
Fri 11/10	Mon 11/20
Fei 12/8	Mon; 12/18

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 7 PM, at the University Club Tower, 1034 South Brentwood. We meet in the conference room near the elevator on the 15th floor. The Board encourages members to attend. Come see your Board in action!

Publication Policy

Notices/Proposed Articles/Letters to the Editor must be signed to be considered. They will be considered for publication based on content and availability of space. Some editing may be done. Communications from non-member individuals or organizations must include the name and title (if any) of the sender along with a mailing address and telephone number. Send communications to the Editor, 35 Tulip Drive, Webster Groves, MO 63119. (Tel. 314-961-2494, E-mail dadams5084@charter.net.

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Society Objectives

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.

Making Nature Notes Useful - S. L. O'Byrne

Nature Notes, the Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, has long been published because of its utility in furthering the work of the Society. Its most important function is bringing the monthly program of the Society to the members....from June, 1948 issue of Nature Notes

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Call the Nature Line at 314-935-8432 for meetings and bird sightings

Membership categories (circle one):

Individual or Household.....\$20

For 1st class mail.....add \$8

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Please mail this form with check to:

Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook
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Make check payable to Webster
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