



Nature Notes

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Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, March 2007, Vol. 79, No. 3
First Issue November, 1929

PLAN AHEAD for Joint WGNSS and Missouri Native Plant Society Meeting 7:30 p.m. on March 28, 2007 at Powder Valley Nature Center

WGNSS will join the **Missouri Native Plant Society-St. Louis Chapter** for a joint meeting on March 28, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at Powder Valley Nature Center. **WGNSS members, please note the change in meeting date, time, and location!** Come and join us to hear an exciting topic on forensic botany. Our guest speaker, Dr. Shirley Graham, will give a talk on "Crime-Solving Plants". With the plethora of T.V. crime shows, forensic science has leapt to the front of interest of the watching audiences. In addition to blood samples, footprints, fingerprints, and DNA evidence, plants are another tool for forensic scientists to use in solving crime. Dr. Graham will talk about how plants were used in solving past crimes including the famous Lindbergh kidnapping, and she will discuss some of the crimes for which she was consulted. Dr. Graham and her husband are retired botanists working at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Let's show a good turnout as we connect with members of the Missouri Native Plant Society for a combined meeting.

HOLCIM SETTLEMENT MONEY FUNDS CONSERVATION EASEMENT – Yvonne Homeyer

Using \$30,000.00 of the three million dollars paid by Holcim under a settlement agreement with WGNSS and other organizations, the Ozark Regional Land Trust has been able to acquire a conservation easement on 104 acres in Jefferson County, not far from the site of the cement plant that Holcim is building in Ste. Genevieve County.

The conservation easement permanently protects the 104 acres from development. The highly scenic nature of this tract is visible along a quarter mile stretch of Tishomingo Road. The steeply sloping land has approximately 35 acres of mature oak-hickory and cedar forest, 34 acres of dolomite and sandstone glades, and 35 acres of pasture. The steep hillsides which constitute the perimeter of the property form the shape of a large bowl with a broad bottom. The land contains numerous natural features of interest, including two permanent springs, one pond, seeps, a variety of cliffs and rock formations, and a two-story log cabin built in the 1830s. Intermittent watercourses throughout the property flow into Sandy Creek, a tributary of Joachim Creek and part of the lower Mississippi watershed. There are also two permanent springs that feed these streams.

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Glades, cliffs, shelter bluff outcrops and other rock formations are situated on the dolomite and sandstone bedrock. As pressure to develop Jefferson County increases, more and more glades are being destroyed, so this conservation easement is an important step in preserving the natural habitat of the area.

The current owners will continue to own the land, subject to the conservation easement with Ozark Regional Land Trust which places perpetual restrictions against development. ORLT is a private, nonprofit land conservation organization which has protected more than 17,000 acres of land in the Ozark Bioregion.

After a four-year campaign to oppose the granting of permits by the Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for construction of the cement plant, WGNSS and three other groups – Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Sierra Club (Missouri), and American Bottom Conservancy – entered into a settlement agreement with Holcim. The company paid three million dollars to be used for the purchase of land and for air conservation projects in Missouri and Illinois. WGNSS and the other organizations have control over choosing the projects.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Ann Earley

The lengthening hours of daylight at this time of year are a welcome reminder that spring will be arriving soon and will be eagerly anticipated, after what has seemed like a long winter of ice and cold temperatures in the St. Louis area. Spring is a great time to get out and enjoy the many opportunities WGNSS offers to learn, and to interact with fellow nature enthusiasts.

Our February program meeting, held jointly with St. Louis Audubon, featured Maggie Eisenberger, who discussed her experiences at the Cana Field Station in Panama and various research studies underway there. Her presentation gave members an appreciation for the tremendous biodiversity of this area in the Darien National Park, as well as looming threats to its continued existence.

In March, we will again have a joint program meeting, this time with the Missouri Native Plant Society. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Powder Valley Nature Center. Dr. Shirley Graham, an expert on forensic botany, will speak about "Crime-Solving Plants." This program promises to be better than an episode of "CSI" and we look forward to seeing you there!

Plans are well underway for this year's WGNSS spring banquet, to be held on Wednesday, May 9 at Eden Seminary Commons. Plan to join us for a fun and informative evening with fellow WGNSS members! Reservations are now being taken for the banquet. Additional information and a registration form are included in this newsletter.

New officers and Board members will be installed at the spring banquet. We are currently looking for a WGNSS member to serve as Secretary of the Society, beginning in June. This position is a great way to get more involved with WGNSS and keep up
(Cont'd on p. 4)

HISTORIAN'S CORNER – Jim Adams

Tribute to a second Guru - James F. Comfort

First, an apology. James F. Comfort was the nephew of James Earl Comfort, not the uncle as stated in last month's "Corner". I am indebted to Florence Comfort, wife of James F., for the correct information about the relationship of these two distinguished WGNSS birders. The obituary of James F., by J. Marshall Magner, was taken from the February, 1976 issue of Nature Notes.

JAMES F. COMFORT

On Wednesday, December 17, 1975, the many friends of Jim Comfort were saddened by word of his death while birding at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area.

My friendship with Jim goes back to our childhood days in grade school. Many times on our way home we took short-cuts to explore the woods and open areas between the widely-spaced houses, and particularly along the creek through what is now Larson Park. There were outcroppings of soapstone to quarry for carving, birds to observe and plants to study.

As a depression era high school graduate, he visited relatives in Arizona and California and later joined the Civilian Conservation Corps for three years. All of these activities broadened his perspective of the outdoors and laid the foundation for him to become an ecologist thirty years before most folks knew how to pronounce the word, let alone spell it.

During World War II, Jim served on a submarine chaser. While on this duty he suggested that there was a need for a ship's library. Placed in charge, he assembled books most of which were about birds. It was during this period that he was able to study pelagic birds, but typical of his integrity he did not count them on his life list of birds because he believed he lacked sufficient expertise.

After the war he returned with his bride, Florence, to live with Mother and Dad Comfort. Jim's amazing vitality led him to the chairmanship of the WGNSS ornithology group, to editor of Nature Notes from 1949 to 1951, and to president from 1951 to '53. He served as a director of the St. Louis Audubon Society and editor of their Bulletin. He was president of the Audubon Society of Missouri from 1952 to 1955, and editor of their publication, The Bluebird. As editor, he changed the field observations section to the
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WHAT'S AHEAD?

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Reminders:

- 1) Recruit a new member for WGNSS.
- 2) Join WGNSS Board by volunteering as Secretary.
- 3) Volunteer to serve on Membership Committee; contact Paul Brockland (314) 961-4461
- 4) Form a table for the May 9 annual banquet
- 5) Write an article for Nature Notes
- 6) Sight the bird of the year

HISTORIAN'S CORNER (Continued)

"Seasonal Survey" to make the records more meaningful for future generations.

He took an active part in the American Birding Association. For more than twenty-five years he compiled the Busch Wildlife Area Christmas Census in cooperation with the National Audubon Society.

A search through thirty years of *Nature Notes* and *Bluebird* revealed many unsigned editorials which were unmistakably Jim's. Some little space fillers and short articles were signed "JFS" or "Jfsie". The first reference is in *Nature Notes*, Volume 16, #5 "A Seaman Goes to Sea What He Can See". This is a letter from a pitching subchaser in the Caribbean in which Jim talks of jellyfish, birds, turtles, flying fish, stars and sea weeds.

From that issue to Volume 48, #1 and his article "Effect of A.B.A. Checklist on One Man's Bird Lists", which he did not see in print, *Nature Notes* and the *Bluebird* contain many of his contributions.

Jim was a person of considerate insight to the feelings and needs of others. His friendly spirit, humor and manner made people happy with themselves. He was absolutely honest with himself and others, loyal and unselfish to his family and friends.

Jim's life exemplified Polonius' statement at the departure of his son, Laertes, when he said: "This above all, -- to thine own self be true; and it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Editor's Note – Following Jim's death, Carl R. Noren, Director of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, approved the establishment of a nature study area in Busch Wildlife in memory of Jim, to be erected by the Audubon Society of Missouri and WGNSS (*Nature Notes*, Sept. 1977). A map of the James F. Comfort Memorial Nature Study Area at Busch Wildlife is included in the February 1978 issue of *Nature Notes*.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont'd from p. 2)

with what is happening with the Society. New members are especially encouraged to volunteer for this job. For further information about being WGNSS Secretary, please contact me.

A STRANGER IN OUR MIDST

(Rare Bird Alert – Jan. 25, 2007 - Submitted for the Thursday Birders by J. B. Diener)

On a slightly cloudy day, we were scheduled to visit a bird feeding couple who had a "green" bird. We even had an appointment for 10 AM. Our first stop was Powder Valley Nature Center. There was a good collection of birds to be found at our own feeders. The least likely was the Fox Sparrow.

To see the rare one we then drove north to one block past Florissant Valley Jr. College. Three blocks and we were in a quiet, lovely subdivision. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bruns invited us into their home and we gathered in the kitchen which gave a view of at least four feeders. In five minutes the green bird appeared. He also had some bright red on the face. Yes, it was a Western Tanager in winter plumage. It was Mrs. Bruns who first spotted this strange bird. Together they made notes. And called their son in Texas. He agreed that it sounded right, but the bird was a thousand miles away from his home.

They called in Paul Bauer who confirmed and took pictures. This was the first appearance of the tanager in Missouri to be so well documented. We had great views of the stranger and shared the joy and excitement with the Bruns. We do thank them.

The group had lunch at Riverlands where they could count Bald Eagles in the trees, around 25. Others were flying along the river. There was one adult sitting in the famous nest. What a truly wonderful day. Thanks again to our leader, Jackie Chain.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE STRANGER

After receiving the above, I contacted Jackie and other members of the WGNSS birding community. Jackie confirmed that she had called the WGNSS Nature Line and information about the bird was on the line from Friday, Jan. 26. According to Jackie the bird was last seen at 2 PM on Saturday, Jan. 27.

David Becher contacted several birders, including Connie Alwood and Dan Kassebaum (an Illinois Birder). Kassebaum reported that aside from two records in 1966 (spring and fall), there are two other WETA records for the WGNSS area. Leonard Megginson (or Niggerson) documented the bird on Aug. 22, 1968 at Chesterfield, Macoupin County, Illinois. The record is published in (Audubon Field Notes 23:1:65), (Bohlen 1978), and Bohlen (1989). Kassebaum documented a bird at Carlyle Lake on Oct. 22, 2006. The bird was very drab and either a juvenile or a basic female. Kassebaum also reported that Ohio had a WETA show up at a feeder this winter. "It was very much like the bird I saw with reduced wing bars and a very bright lower mandible. <http://www.roysephotos.com:80/index.html>. My bird was also found eating berries with a mixed group of late fall migrants."

Dave Becher reported that he also saw the bird on Jan. 27 and says "it is going to take a lot to beat this one out for bird of the year".

CONSERVATION IS A "ONE-PACKAGE DEAL – James F. Comfort (Previously printed in August 1949 and October 1970 issues of *Nature Notes*)

The phrase "one-package deal" emits from Washington with great regularity of late. It is generally used in connection with the gathering of all pertinent needs to implement a certain policy and write an all inclusive bill. This is a "one-package bill". We in nature have long known the selling of our flora and fauna, our rivers, our soil, our mineral resources, and in fact all of our natural resources should be a one-package deal. Knowing this and practicing it, however, seem to be poles apart. I believe many of us will never forget the prominent ornithologist, who, when lecturing before the St. Louis Audubon Society, said in reference to a river pollution problem in his home locale, "Many ducks were lost from pollution in this stream, also it seems all fish in the stream were killed. The latter, is, of course, the fishermen's problem. What we are interested in is the ducks." This sort of statement is foolish and is especially damaging when made by a prominent speaker before a large audience. The interdependence between species is one of the prime laws of nature. Damage to any species in an appreciable amount will set off a chain reaction the results of which are seldom known and can hardly ever be accurately predicted. The complexity of the problem is enormous.

It has long been the custom of naturalists interested in the protection of wildlife to

measure an individual's worth in its apparent relation to man's economic life. Thus a Cooper's Hawk is called a "bad" bird because of its feeding habits, while a junco will be labeled a "good" bird because of its consumption of weed seed. Aside from the inconsistency of trying to read character traits into a species, the whole system of labeling seems to be an error. As a birder we all know that it would be hard for anyone to prove to us that there is one less song bird in an area occupied by the Cooper's Hawk than in a corresponding area which is hawk free. Also a little thought and investigation will show that there are just as many weeds in the field this spring that was last winter's feeding grounds for a flock of juncos as in a comparable area free of juncos.

Modern scientists and naturalists recognize these facts. They know that the juncos and hawk are only harvesting the surplus seeds and birds provided by nature. To take any more would be disastrous not only to the species but also to the feeder. If the eating of weed seeds by the junco would decrease next year's crop it follows that there would necessarily be less food for the juncos each year and consequently fewer juncos. The same is true, of course, for insect eaters. Birds serve only as a check on increasing numbers, never can they decrease the year to year crop of insects without dire results to themselves.

With this in mind we must ever be alert for practices that harm any phase of the program. To be zealous about any one portion; and indifferent towards the rest will spell doom for the whole.

(Editor's Note – Jim Comfort, subject of this month's Historian Corner, was an ardent and eloquent conservationist. He contributed many such articles to *Nature Notes*.)

JANUARY BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: The best birds of the month were a Snowy Owl on I-255, a Pacific Loon at Horseshoe Lake, and a Western Tanager at the home of Phil & Colleen Bruns in north county. Unusual movement of passerines is sometimes attributed to El Ninos and according to scientists, we are in a permanent El Nino because of global warming.

Sightings: A Pacific Loon was first seen at HL on 1/21 (JZ) and was relocated, photographed and videotaped on 1/22 (JZ, FH, CM, CA). Waves of Trumpeter Swans – totaling about 170 birds - were observed coming in at dusk to Teal Pond in Riverlands on 1/5 (SM, JZ). Trumpeter Swans have a very curious and beautiful flight song. On 1/1, 13 Trumpeter Swans were observed at the New Pogue Road exit on I-255 (YH, JZ). On 1/6, the Thursday Group found 2 Mute Swans at HL (J Chain). Five species of geese were found at Baldwin Lake on 1/9, including a Ross's Goose, 2 Cackling Geese, and 35 White-fronted Geese (J Chain, RAB). Sherry McCowan reported 16 Wood Ducks in FP on 1/15. On 1/18, 5 Red-breasted Mergansers and 8 Pied-billed Grebes were present at HL (FH). Also on 1/18, 2 Black Scoters and a few Redheads were seen at Riverlands. On 1/18, the Thursday Group observed a large flock of Greater White-fronted Geese and a Black Duck, at Riverlands, and at Columbia Bottoms they saw Hairy Woodpecker and a Screech Owl (J Chain). Sherry McCowan and Jim Ziebol reported 9 Greater White-fronted Geese, and a Tundra Swan, a female Redhead, 4 Greater Scaup, 27 Common Mergansers, and 10 Buffleheads at Riverlands on 1/19. The SLAS, led by Mike Thelen,

reported 3 White-fronted Geese, 2 Black Ducks, all 3 Mergensers, a first-year Great Black-backed Gull, and a Kingfisher on 1/13 at Riverlands. Gull sightings included a Franklin's Gull at Riverlands on 1/27 (J&CM), a Glaucous Gull at the Borrow Pit at HL which stayed for the first week in January (m. ob.), a first-winter Iceland Gull at Riverlands on 1/19 (CA, CM) and re-found on 1/31 (DC), a first-winter Thayer's Gull at Riverlands on 1/28 (MT), a Lesser Black-backed Gull seen at both HL and Riverlands throughout the month (m. ob.), and a first-winter Great Black-backed Gull at Riverlands on Jan. 1 (JE). Seven Killdeer were seen on Bruns Road in early January (FH).

Fifteen Turkey Vultures were observed near Alton on 1/24 (FH). On 1/6, the Thursday Group observed the Bald Eagles at their nest on Hwy. 143 (J Chain). An immature Bald Eagle appeared over Sand Prairie Lane on 1/21 (SM). An apparent Goshawk was seen by Mick Richardson flying over I-170 on 1/31. Merlins were observed at Confluence Road on 1/22 (RAB, J Chain) and on 1/26 at Columbia Bottoms (MT). Mike Thelen also reported 2 Bald Eagles, N. Harrier, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a Red-tailed Hawk at Columbia Bottoms on 1/26. On 1/7, Bill Rowe observed 4 species of falcons at various locations, including a Prairie Falcon at Columbia Bottoms. The Prairie Falcon could not be re-found on 1/8 (FH, JZ). On 1/27, 9 Long-eared Owls and 2 Saw-whet Owls were found at Mourning Dove Access, Carlyle Lake (CA, DK). An immaculate immature Snowy Owl was perched on the exit 5 sign on I-255 (Roxana) on 1/1; the owl was spotted by a passerby and reported by Keith McMullen. This bird was a life bird for many who photographed and videotaped it on 1/1. On the following day, the bird was found on the ground, injured [probably struck by a vehicle], and taken to a local bird rehab center where it was determined to be necessary to destroy the bird. On 1/6, the Thursday Group observed a gray-phase Screech Owl in a nest box at Columbia Bottoms (J Chain). Jeannie Moe saw a Kingfisher catch a large fish, which the bird proceeded to beat against a branch, thereby breaking the bones and allowing the Kingfisher to swallow the fish. Sherry McCowan visited the Bruns/Bischoff Road area on 1/21, where she saw 30 Horned Larks. On 1/1, a House Wren was seen at the Equestrian Trail, HL (FH); the wren has been present since the Christmas Count on 12/19. Hermit Thrush sightings included 1 at Lake 2, BCA, on 1/19 (DW), 1 near his home in Jefferson County on 1/14 (MP), 1 near Alton on 1/23 (FH), and 2 at Laumeier Park on 1/28 (D Rabenau). Several Pipits were located at Riverlands on the very early date of 1/21 (D Rogles, CA). A Towhee was observed at Columbia Bottoms on 1/6 (MT).

About 50 Juncos, a few White-throated Sparrows, and a Fox Sparrow were found at the Gaddy Bird Garden, TGP, on 1/18 (SM). Several American Tree Sparrows were spotted in FP on 1/31 (SM); this is a really good bird for a city park. Sherry also observed 3 Savannah Sparrows at Riverlands on 1/5. On 1/21, Joe Eades counted about 75 Lapland Longspurs on Confluence Road. Also on 1/21, a few Western Meadowlarks were present at Confluence Road (D Rogles). A Yellow-headed Blackbird, seen at the Boulder Road Access, CL, on 1/27, was a good winter find (DK). A Great-tailed Grackle was observed on 1/23 in flight where Bruns and Bischoff Roads meet (FH). The best bird for the Thursday Group on 1/25 was the Western Tanager, seen at the home of alert feeder-watchers Phil & Colleen Bruns in north county. Paul Bauer confirmed this winter record on 1/21.

The Thursday Group observed the following birds at Riverlands on 1/11: Surf Scoter, Glaucous Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Common Merganser, several Bald Eagles, and N. Harriers (J Chain).

Backyard Birds & Other Sightings: On 1/1, Chickadees, Titmice, and White-breasted Nuthatches were observed eating carrion, a deer carcass found on Hwy. 94 (AMc, YH). Bernd Heinrich, an author, reported this phenomenon in one of his books about ravens. This past summer (late report), a Great Blue Heron observed in flight at Creve Coeur Lake appeared to have a foot deformity which turned out to be a hummingbird coat-tailing in the draft of the heron's flight (Mike Barbaud). A White-crowned Sparrow joined the White-throated Sparrows and Juncoes in Kraig Paradise's yard on 1/12. Sherry McCowan has a Carolina Wren and a regular Song Sparrow visiting her Soulard home. A Carolina Wren is singing daily in Brentwood (YH). A Eurasian Collared-Dove appeared in Jim Ziebols' backyard on 1/1. In January, Connie Alwood reported 2 Great Horned Owls (seen copulating), 2 Barred Owls, a Screech Owl and a Purple Finch on 1/9 at his Ferguson home; this is only the 2nd Purple Finch reported in the area this winter.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Nick Barber, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Dick Coles, Jack Cowan, Joe Eades, Jack Harris, Frank Holmes, Dan Kassebaum, Randy Korotev, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Mark Peters, David Rabenau, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Dorcas Wanner, Clarence Zacher, Jim Ziebol.

Abbreviations: BCA, Busch Conservation Area; CC, Clarence Cannon NWR; CL, Carlyle Lake; CSP, Castlewood State Park; FP, Forest Park; HL, Horseshoe Lake; LP, Lafayette Park; LCCL, Little Creve Coeur Lake; MTC, Marais Temps Clair; TGP, Tower Grove Park.

DOUG LADD SPEECH, MARCH 5

Doug Ladd of The Nature Conservancy, and a WGNSS member, will speak to a Friends of the University City Public Library program on March 5 at 7 PM. He will speak on "Grassland Redux: The Origin, Destruction and Resurrection of our Tallgrass Heritage" The talk will be given at the Library. The talk will be similar to the talk on the same subject that Doug gave at the WGNSS spring banquet last May. Doug is a fine speaker, and any WGNSS member who missed his talk last May is encouraged to hear him when he speaks at the University City Library in March. For additional information contact Jo Seltzer at the library or via E-mail at seltzejl@swbell.net

ORCHARD FARM CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – Randy Korotev

As has been customary in recent years, January 1 was the day for the Orchard Christmas Bird Count. This year we had 29 participants in the field and 2 feeder watchers, the most observers since 1992. Each year volunteers count all the birds they see in a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on the town of Orchard Farm in St. Charles Co. (That portion of the circle lying in Illinois is excluded from the count for historical reasons.) This year we

found a total of 73 species, which is also the average number for the past 10 years (range: 55-88). The variety of duck species was low because the weather had been warm for some time prior to the count. (I saw a dandelion blooming while doing the count!) For the same reason; we found "only" 59 bald eagles, a species that is more plentiful when the river has some ice. The most unusual species were 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 14 Am. White Pelicans, 1 Herring Gull, 1 Winter Wren, and 1 Brown Thrasher. Except for 150 Great-tailed Grackles, numbers of all blackbird species were low. We missed some usuals: Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Cedar Waxwing. On the other hand, we had the highest numbers ever of Red-tailed Hawk (70) and Eastern Bluebirds (57) and near-high numbers of Cooper's Hawk (6), Northern Cardinal (312), and meadowlarks (37). Finally, we managed to find 581 Eurasian Tree Sparrows, one of the specialties of the count circle.

DECEMBER 2006 BOTANY GROUP REPORT – Jack Harris

December 4, 2006 Botany Field Trip

Due to the widespread power outage and predictions for frigid temperatures, the St. Louis Science Center was our destination today. Six botanists attended with our own Wayne Clark, who is a volunteer at the Science Center, leading our group. We attended the Omnimax Theater and watched "Greece: Secrets of the Past". Jack Harris noted that "it was a brief visual blast and elegant presentation about the culture, art, and architecture of ancient Athens and its neighbors". Jack further speculated that due to the excellence and efficacy of the society and its leaders, some people had plenty of time to study plants and think up strange names for them (Greek, of course) that have come down to us today. Modern botany started in ancient Greece; this was ample justification for our trip to the Science Center.

December 11, 2006 Botany Field Trip

Six botanists met at the Hilda J. Young Conservation Area in Jefferson County. It was an unseasonably warm (45° F to 55° F during the trip), mostly cloudy morning. The last remnants of the ice and snow storm of November 30-December 1 remained on parts of the trail, but by the end of the walk most of the ice had melted. The plant life is fully into winter mode now and the botanists identified trees, shrubs, and herbs by their winter features. Some of the trees identified by the group included *Quercus macrocarpa* (bur oak), *Ptelea trifoliata* (common hop tree), *Sideroxylon lanuginosum* (gum bumelia), *Gleditsia triacanthos* (honey locust), *Gymnocladus dioica* (Kentucky coffee tree), *Zanthoxylum americanum* (common prickly ash), and *Ulmus rubra* (slippery elm). You can blame the ancient Greeks for many, but not all, of these names. For instance, *Sideroxylon* comes from two Greek words, σιδηρος (sideros = iron), and ξυλον (xylon = wood); so named because of the hardness of the heartwood. Another example is *Zanthoxylum* meaning yellow wood (ξανθος (xanthos) = yellow), from the color of the heartwood of some species. *Gymnocladus* is Greek for "naked branch", while *Gleditsia*, though it looks as though it might be Greek, is a Latinized version of Johann Gottlieb Gleditsch, 1714-1786, director of the Berlin Botanical Garden.

December 18, 2006 Botany Field Trip

On a chilly, cloudy morning, 8 botanists met at the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area in St. Charles County. We then drove to nearby Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park. We walked the Path to the Point, identifying plants by their winter characteristics. One interesting species, of which there were many specimens, was *Artemisia annua* (mugwort). When the dried stems and leaves are crushed in the hand, they give off a strong, distinctive aromatic odor which reminded one of the botanists of Italian seasoning. This species has not previously been recorded in St. Charles County according to *Steiermark's Flora of Missouri* Volume 2, and apparently is a county record for this county. We also identified the dried skeletons of *Persicaria amphibia* var. *emersa* (water smartweed) leaves. The leaves were skeletal because only the veins, the leaf's support structures, remained. Father Sullivan thought that the damage was probably caused by a beetle named *Gastrophysa dissimilis*. Another species we saw was the vine *Cynanchum laeve* (climbing milkweed). We broke open some of the pods and the silky parachutes unfolded and the seeds blew away on the breeze.

December 26, 2006 Botany Field Trip

Seven, - count 'em - (7), hardy botanists (Bill Knight, Wayne & Nancy Clark, Ed & Gladys Kullman, Jack Harris and Juanita) braved the cold (mid thirties), cloudy day with an occasional peek-a-boo sun, at Faust Park, St. Louis County. The objective was to seek the seasonally conspicuous gray/green leaves of *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam & Eve orchid). The quest was richly rewarded. Several dried stalks with remnant pods were indicative that this last season's seed production was likely successful also. In some areas an understory thicket or grove of *Asimina triloba* (paw-paw, Indiana banana), identified by their chocolate colored paint brush tip buds, seemed to mix compatibly with the orchid population. The group also took note of a few of the scattered plantings of introduced evergreen trees, e.g., *Pinus strobus* (eastern white pine) with fascicles of five leaves, and *Picea* sp. (spruce) with individual sessile leaves on "woody pegs". Winter botany features of the frequently encountered *Ageratina altissima* var. *altissima* (white snakeroot), which used to be *Eupatorium rugosum*, were noted. An additional touch of green was old reliable *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern). Fr. Sullivan stopped by for a few minutes prior to the beginning of the field trip, while enroute to his official duties of the day.

QUOTEABLE QUOTES

I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter. – Sir Winston Churchill.

No, I never did get lost, but I was bewildered for three days once. - Daniel Boone

The successful woman is the average woman—focused. - Ruth Williams

When you have a number of disagreeable duties to perform, always do the most disagreeable first. – Josiah Quincy

ORCHARD FARM CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – Randy Korotev

As has been customary in recent years, January 1 was the day for the Orchard Christmas Bird Count. This year we had 29 participants in the field and 2 feeder watchers, the most observers since 1992. Each year volunteers count all the birds they see in a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on the town of Orchard Farm in St. Charles Co. (That portion of the circle lying in Illinois is excluded from the count for historical reasons.) This year we found a total of 73 species, which is also the average number for the past 10 years (range: 55-88). The variety of duck species was low because the weather had been warm for some time prior to the count. (I saw a dandelion blooming while doing the count!) For the same reason; we found “only” 59 bald eagles, a species that is more plentiful when the river has some ice. The most unusual species were 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 14 Am. White Pelicans, 1 Herring Gull, 1 Winter Wren, and 1 Brown Thrasher. Except for 150 Great-tailed Grackles, numbers of all blackbird species were low. We missed some usuals: Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Cedar Waxwing. On the other hand, we had the highest numbers ever of Red-tailed Hawk (70) and Eastern Bluebirds (57) and near-high numbers of Cooper’s Hawk (6), Northern Cardinal (312), and meadowlarks (37). Finally, we managed to find 581 Eurasian Tree Sparrows, one of the specialties of the count circle.

MISSOURI WILDLIFE COLLECTOR’S PERMIT – CHANGE IN REQUIREMENT – Ted MacRae

For the biologist, proper collecting permits are a necessary part of field research. In Missouri, the collecting of wildlife is regulated by provisions of the Missouri Wildlife Code (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp>). The Code is administered by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and mandates a Wildlife Collector’s Permit for collecting wildlife within the state of Missouri. Such requirement extends to collecting on all lands within the state, not just those owned by the MDC, and is in addition to any other permits that may be required for collecting on lands owned by other public or private agencies. Beginning in 2007, however, Wildlife Collector’s Permits will no longer be required for invertebrates other than crayfish, mussels, and Species of Conservation Concern (www.mdc.mo.gov/documents/nathis/endangered/checklist.pdf) **on lands not owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation**, providing that the appropriate permission has been obtained from the landowner, whether on public or private lands. Wildlife Collector’s Permits will still be required for collecting any wildlife on MDC-owned lands.

Application forms for a Wildlife Collector’s Permit can be obtained at: <http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/applications/MDCLibrary/MDCLibrary2.aspx?NodeID=236>. Completed applications may be submitted by email to: collector.permit@mdc.mo.gov. Contact Nathan Bess by phone at (573) 522-4115, ext. 3574 or by email at Nathan.Bess@mdc.mo.gov if you have questions or need additional information.

BE PREPARED!

Register now for WGNSS Spring Banquet! More details about program, award winners, etc. will appear in the next issue of Nature Notes, but preliminary information and a registration form will be found on the next to the last page of this issue.

WALTER LIDDELL ART EXHIBIT – POWDER VALLEY

The exhibit of wildlife photographs taken by Walt will be up for the entire month of March. Birds dominate the exhibition, but there are also mammals, reptiles, insects and scenics. Most are from the U.S. but also include subjects from Africa, Asia, South America, and Antarctica.

Walt and his wife Vivian have been members of WGNSS since 1961, and Walt has held several offices in WGNSS, including the presidency. Through the years Walt has given many programs for WGNSS and has been the principal speaker at two annual banquets. Vivian has been a traveling companion and is also a long time member of the *Nature Notes* mailing team. Betty and I first met the Liddells when in the early eighties they visited a cabin we once owned in the shut-ins of Marble Creek in Madison County, along with Edgar Denison and numerous other well-known WGNSS members.

Over 50 plus years Walt has taken thousands of pictures of birds and other wildlife around the world. Walt feels strongly that the wildlife of the world should be managed and protected for future generations to enjoy. We can all take pride in the accomplishments of these long time members of our Society.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

MacRae, T. C. 2006a. *Buprestis sexsignata* Say, 1839 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence of the specific name over those of *Chrysobothris ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838 and *Chrysobothris germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 63(1):36–38.

MacRae, T. C. 2006b. Distributional and biological notes on North American Buprestidae (Coleoptera), with comments on variation in *Anthaxia (Haplantaxia) cyanella* Gory and *A. (H.) viridifrons* Gory. *The Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 82(2):166–199.

Walters, G. C., Jr., R. L. Westcott, S. G. Wellso, J. M. Cicero, **T. C. MacRae** and C. L. Bellamy. 2006. Gayle H. Nelson (1926-2005): biography and memories, taxa and publications. *The Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 82(2):116–135.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES BY MEMBERS

Clubb, Shawn – Winged predator calls tall buildings home – South County Journal, Jan. 10, 2007

Peregrine falcons have taken up residence on St. Louis buildings, such as Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington University and the South Side National Bank Building.

Clubb, Shawn – Cloud Forest Crusade; Local group works on behalf of rainforests – South County Journal, Jan. 24, 2007

Describes work of St. Louis Rainforest Advocates (SLRA), Rachel Crandell, president. (Crandell is a WGNSS member)

(Editor's Note: Shawn is WGNSS Publicity Chair.)

THE NATURE PLACE – YOU'D LIKE IT!

Dick Coles, long time WGNSS member and former Director of Washington University's Tyson Research Center, is exploring the possibility of forming a group to visit The Nature Place near Colorado Springs in Colorado. For about 25 years Dick has served as visiting summer professional naturalist at The Nature Place and has gotten to know it well. For many years St. Louis groups have gone there for week-long immersions in the natural communities of the southern Rockies. Groups from the Zoo and from the Missouri Botanical Garden have attended. He's wondering if there might be interest in WGNSS in the formation of a group to visit there this summer. Groups typically contain 10-50 individuals.

Located on a beautiful mountain ranch near Florissant in the heart of the Rockies, TNP is an ideal place for a group, family or personal getaway. It offers 50 deluxe studio apartments that are built for comfort and provide views of the natural beauty of the area, including nearby Pikes Peak. Rooms for meetings, field studies, crafts and recreation are available. Meals are served from a superb kitchen. Double occupancy is 100 with double occupancy, or 150 if the loft beds in each unit are used. TNP welcomes groups but also families and individuals.

If you have an interest in joining a group or visiting as a family/individual, call Dick at 636-938-5271 or write Dr. Richard W. Coles, 220 Hickory Lane, Eureka, MO 63025-33137 for more information.

WGNSS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Tom and Rose McClarren, St. Louis, MO, 63111

Sandy Laurie, Ballwin, MO 63021

TOP BIRDERS OF 2006 – Jackie Chain

Replies to an inquiry by Jackie Chain are listed below. If any one was inadvertently missed please contact Jackie or the Editor. Numbers are species seen within the St. Louis 50-mile Area .

Alphabetically

Connie Alwood - 286
Loy Barber - 252
Rose Ann Bodman - 261
Jacquelyn Chain - 267
Richard W Coles - 270
Joseph W Eades - 291
Dr Steve Ewer - 239
Christian Hagenlocher - 155 (new birder)
Donald Hays - 216
Dottie Herweg - 225
Sherry McCowan - 232
Charlene Malone - 279
Jim Malone - 275

By Rank.

Joseph W Eades - 291
Connie Alwood - 286
Charlene Malone - 279
Jim Malone - 275
Richard W Coles - 270
Jacquelyn Chain - 267
Rose Ann Bodman - 261
Loy Barber - 252
Dr Steve Ewer - 239
Sherry McCowan - 232
Dottie Herweg - 225
Donald Hays - 216
Christian Hagenlocher - 155

(Great for a new birder and full-time student)

Good luck in improving our totals in 2007. The runaway winner for best bird of the year was the glamorous and beautiful Swallow-tailed Kite. It didn't just hide in a small tree and munch on frozen berries like the Townsend's Solitaire or make the list because of the split of lumped subspecies like the Cackling Goose. It really put on a show. What a bird!

CELEBRATIONS TO HONOR 18th CENTURY SCIENTIST

(*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Jan. 28, 2007, p. A11)

Sweden on Saturday began year-long celebrations that will mark the 300th anniversary of its most famous scientist, Carolus Linnaeus. He is best known for creating a system of classifying organisms that became the international standard. Linnaeus' famous book, *Systema Naturae* classified 4,400 species of animals and 7,700 species of plants. Celebrations began in Vaxsjo, a town 275 miles south of Stockholm, where Linnaeus attended primary school.

MDC ACQUIRES LaBARQUE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES

The January, 2007 issue of *Missouri Conservationist*, (inside front cover) announces "Acquisition of 505 acres near the St. Louis urban area to conserve over a mile of Jefferson County's LaBarque Creek and tributaries. This beautiful stream is worthy of protection for its excellent biological diversity, including over 40 species of fish." The acquisition is included in a list of the Commission's top 2006 conservation accomplishments.

This acquisition is good news to the WGNSS naturalists, who, as recorded in *Nature Notes*, have made visits to this beautiful natural area over the years.

NEWS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Academy of Science of St. Louis/The St. Louis Zoo – Science Seminar Series - 2006-2007

All events on **Wednesday** evenings in the Living World (North Side of the Zoo), **7-9:30 PM**. Parking free in the north lot. The general public is invited to attend these **no-cost** lectures on topical issues in Science.

March 21 – Navigating Clear Waters—Providing Sustainable Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Across the Globe – Speaker – Dr. Craig Adams, Professor of Environmental Engineering, University of Missouri-Rolla.

Audubon Society of Missouri

The Society will hold its 2007 Spring Meeting April 27, 28, and 29. It will be headquartered in Salem, MO. Birding at Montauk Springs, Meramec Spring, Alley Spring, or Round Spring will be available. There will also be floating activities. On the Current or Jack's Fork

BIRDS REPORTED IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA (50 MILE CIRCLE) FOR 2006 – CHARLOTTE AND JIM MALONE – Pt. 1

With more experienced birders regularly out in the field as well as range expansion of several western and southern species, more species are being seen each year in the St. Louis area. In 2006, 313 species were reportedly seen within the 50-mile circle. Below is a list of those birds reported only. Documentation has been verified for some Missouri and Illinois review-list birds, while the documentation status of others is unknown to this reporter.

Send corrections/additions to Charlene Malone, 2bbirdn@charter.net

Order based on "Annotated Checklist of MO Birds"
MO Bird Review Com. (MBRC) revised Sept 2005
Bold print = Rare birds
Bold print + caps = Casual/Very rare birds
* = MBRC Review List bird, documented
** = MBRC Review List bird, documentation status unknown
= IORC Review List bird, review pending
= IORC Review List bird, doc status unknown
MBRC = Missouri Bird Records Committee
IORC = Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

Abbreviations:

HSL = Horseshoe Lake,
CC = Clarence Cannon NWR
BKL = B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln co.
CL = Carlyle Lake
RMBS = Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanc.
WSIC = Weldon Spring Interpretive Center, St. Charles co.
SLCC at M = St. Louis Comm. College at Meramec
M = male; F = female

Greater White-fronted Goose
 Snow Goose
Ross's Goose – much higher numbers
 Canada Goose
 Cackling Goose – rare in winter
Mute Swan – only accepted in IL
 Trumpeter Swan – accepted in MO now
Tundra Swan – RMBS
 Wood Duck
 Gadwall
EURASIAN WIGEON # - M @ CL, Parking lot #3
 American Wigeon
 American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
CINNAMON TEAL – M&F @Eagle Park. IL
 Northern Shoveler
 Northern Pintail
 Green-winged Teal
 Canvasback
 Redhead
 Ring-necked Duck
 Lesser Scaup
 Greater Scaup
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck
 Bufflehead
 Common Goldeneye
 Hooded Merganser
 Common Merganser
 Red-breasted Merganser
 Bald Eagle
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
Golden Eagle – Linc. co
 American Kestrel
Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
PRAIRIE FALCON – casual in East
King Rail – far fewer numbers seen/heard
 Virginia Rail
 Sora
Common Moorhen
 American Coot
SANDHILL CRANE – 1-4 birds spr -fall @ CC & BKL
 Black-bellied Plover

Ruddy Duck
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
Red-throated Loon – CL AND Busch CA
PACIFIC LOON - CL
 Common Loon
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Horned Grebe
RED-NECKED GREBE – Carlyle
 Eared Grebe
WESTERN GREBE – Carlyle AND HSL
 American White Pelican
NEOTROPIC CORMORANT ## – HSL
 Double-crested Cormorant
 American Bittern
 Least Bittern
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Snowy Egret
 Little Blue Heron
 Cattle Egret
 Green Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – harder to find
WHITE IBIS ## - private property in IL
Glossy Ibis
White-faced Ibis
Black Vulture - almost yr. round St. Gen. Co. now
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE * - WSIC, seen for weeks.
 Mississippi Kite
LITTLE GULL* – adult, age rarely seen; MBRC species
 Bonaparte's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
CALIFORNIA GULL** - MBRC review bird
 Herring Gull
Thayer's Gull
Iceland Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull – seen more @ CL & RMBS
Glaucous Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Sabine's Gull – seen yearly @ CL
Black-legged Kittiwake – CL, reg. in IL
 Caspian Tern
 Common Tern
 Forster's Tern
Least Tern
 Black Tern
 Rock Pigeon
 Eurasian Collared-Dove
White-winged Dove – B.K. Leach
 Mourning Dove

(Pt. 2 will appear in the next issue)

Webster Groves Nature Study Society – Founded 1920
GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES
 February 2007 Update

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
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ORNITHOLOGY – SATURDAY Bird Walks – David Becher (314-576-1146)
 (If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)

March 3	County Library	8 AM	Becher
March 17	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
March 24	County Library	8 AM	Becher
March 31	County Library	8 AM	Becher
April 7	County Library	8 AM	Becher
April 14	Busch Wildlife Area	8 AM	Becher

Alden Knight Hampton Lake

Exit from US 40 at first exit after crossing Missouri River (Rt. 94) and follow signs

April 21	County Library	8 AM	Becher
April 28	Tower Grove Park	8 AM	Becher

Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance

May 5	Castlewood State Park	8 AM	Becher
	Near Boat Launch		

From Manchester Road, go south on New Ballwin Rd. to Kiefer Creek Road and follow signs east to park.

May 12 WGNSS BIRDING – BIG DAY

May 19	Tower Grove Park	8 AM	Becher
	Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance		

May 26	County Library	8 AM	Becher
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ORNITHOLOGY – THURSDAY BIRD WALKS – Jackie Chain – Leader (314-644-5998)

The Thursday trips will continue to meet at Des Peres Park. Beginning with the first Thursday in September (Sept.7), the meeting time will change to 8:30 AM to help accommodate the increased road traffic once school begins. There will be no formal trip on Thanksgiving Day. The 8:30 time will continue until Spring with the date for the time change to be advised later. Also, any changes following 2007 Highway 40 chaos will be decided upon in 2007.

ORNITHOLOGY – SUNDAY BIRD WALKS

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

March 11, 2007	Riverlands Visitor Center	8 AM	C. Alwood
March 18, 2007	Horse Lake Causeway	8 AM	F. Holmes & J. Ziebol

(Cont'd)

April 1, 2007	Busch Conservation Area Hdqtrs. Parking Lott	8 AM	J. Cowan & S. Clubb
April 15, 2007	Castlewood S. P. Hdqtrs.	8 AM	S. McCowan & D. Rabenau
April 29, 2007	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Bird Garden	8 AM	D. Garcia & B. Bailey
May 6, 2007	Lost Valley Trail Parking Lot (Hwy 94, about 4 mi. past Hwy D, on right)	8 AM	J. Cowan & S. Clubb

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 41st yr. in January, 2007)**

Botany walks are on Monday. 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.

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

Sunday, March 25, 2007 at 7 PM – “Of Lice and Men” will be presented by George Winkler, Sr. Louis Zoo emeritus entomologist and long time WGNSS member. This meeting will take place at George's home, 10 Covington Ln., Olivette, MO (314-993-1652)

Sunday, April 22, 2007 at 7 PM – “Landscape Ecology of a Neotropical Walkingstick (*Lamponius portoricensis*), from Tree Falls to Hurricanes” will be presented by Dr. Gerardo Camilo of St. Louis University. Dr. Camilo has been studying the life history strategies of walkingsticks when disaster strikes the forested Caribbean islands. We will again be meeting in Conference Room 142, Biology Department, Macelwane Hall on the campus of St. Louis University. Directions to this event will be mailed 1 to 2 weeks before the meeting. If you have additional questions, contact Richard Thoma (314-625-6744) or thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net.

(For general information about WGNSS, contact Membership Chairman Paul Brockland at 314- 961-4461).

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (Cont'd)

Making Nature Notes Useful

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 - Stuart O'Byrne, June 1948 issue.

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 at time noted 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 below

NN Deadline	Mailing Party
Fri. 3/9	Mon. 3/19, 1-4 P
Fri. 4/6	Mon. 4/16, 10-1 A/P
Fri. 5/11	Mon. 5/21, 10-1, A/P
Fri. 8/10	Mon. 8/20, 10-1, A/P
Fri. 9/7	Mon. 9/17, 10-1, A/P

Next Board Meeting

Wed., March 7, 2007, 7 PM, at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold, 63122, Tel. 314-301-1500. Near I-44/I-270 intersection, enter from Geyer Road. Visitors are welcome. Come see your Board in action!
(If snowy or icy conditions prevail, call ahead to find if the meeting has been canceled.)

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 or transmit via E-mail to adams9054@sbcglobal.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.

NOW HEAR THIS! NOW HEAR THIS!

The 87th Annual Spring Banquet will be held at Eden Seminary Commons in Webster Groves. The banquet will be on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, beginning at 5:45pm. Please plan to attend and enjoy the company of fellow WGNSS members, hear presentations from this year's recipients of the Scudder and Menke scholarships, honor the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award winners, and learn a little something from the evening's keynote speaker.

The excellent folks of Designing Chefs will provide a delicious three-course dinner.

We will also have a special silent auction of ceramic bird figures donated to WGNSS by Mark Mittleman.

Please make your reservation for the 2007 Annual Spring Banquet by sending the form below along with a check (made out to WGNSS) to:

Kimberlie McCue
5056 Milentz Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63109
(kimberlie.mccue@swbell.net)

Date: _____

Name(s): _____
(please print)

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ X \$25.00 = _____

Vegetarian Dish required? Please indicate number of vegetarian plates needed. _____

Deadline to register: April 23, 2007

*webster groves nature
study society ****

PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

Address service requested

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WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

www.WGNSS.org

Renew **Your** Membership today

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone (____) _____ E--mail _____

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

Student.....\$10

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Please mail this form with check to:

Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook

Lane, St. Louis, MO 63132

Make check payable to Webster

Groves Nature Study Society