



# Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line (314) 935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings

Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, April 2007, Vol. 79, No. 4

First Issue November, 1929

## APRIL MEETING – Jane Walker

Please join us and welcome our speaker, Jeff Ettling, Curator of Herpetology at the St. Louis Zoo, at 7 PM, April 5, 2007, at the St. Louis County Library Main Branch in Frontenac.

The title of his talk – “From the Ozarks to Mt. Ararat: The St. Louis Zoo’s Conservation Programs for Amphibians and Reptiles”. Jeff is a native to the St. Louis metro area, growing up across the river in Wood River, IL. Working his way up in the St. Louis Zoo hierarchy, Jeff started as a reptile keeper in the Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium in 1987. From 1991-1995 he did a stint as Curator of Herpetology at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, KS. He returned to the St. Louis Zoo in 1995 as Associate Curator of Herpetology and was promoted to Curator a year later. He holds a B.S. (1986) and M.S. (1994) in Biology from Southern University of Illinois-Edwardsville. Currently he is pursuing a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. His thesis dissertation looks at the movement patterns, habitat preferences, and phylogeography of the Armenian viper (*Montivipera raddei*) in Armenia. He is active in several conservation projects with amphibians and reptiles worldwide as well as here at home in Missouri. Local conservation efforts involve the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) and the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*). His talk will highlight some of these programs. **AGAIN JOIN US FOR A GOOD TURNOUT!**

## PRESIDENT’S CORNER – Ann Earley

The sounds of woodcocks and spring peepers and the joy of spotting the earliest of wildflowers in bloom mean one thing for WGNSS members and friends—it’s **banquet time!** This year’s event will be held on **Wednesday, May 9** at Eden Seminary Commons. Our speakers will be Tom and Gloria Bratkowski, who will present a program about monarch butterflies, their visit to the butterflies’ wintering grounds in Mexico, and their longtime involvement with the Monarch Watch organization. So plan on “migrating” over to Eden Commons on May 9—but don’t “wing-it”—as those of you who attended last year can attest, WGNSS banquets are popular events and fill up fast. **Use the registration form in this newsletter to reserve a spot, and don’t delay—the deadline to register is April 23.**

(Cont’d next page)

Also at the banquet, we will be honoring the winners of the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award, Bob and Martha Gaddy. The Gaddys are both past presidents of WGNSS, provided funding to establish the Gaddy Bird Garden in Tower Grove Park, and have served and supported WGNSS in many other ways over the years. Please join us on May 9 to honor the Gaddys and thank them for their many contributions to WGNSS.

An additional highlight of the annual banquet is the recognition of the latest Menke and Scudder scholarship recipients and presentations about their work. The Environmental Education Committee, chaired this year by Rich Thoma, has been busy in recent weeks accepting and reviewing scholarship applications. Many thanks to the volunteers serving on this committee. We look forward to the announcement of the 2007 scholarship recipients!

The spring banquet is also the time when **new officers and Board members of WGNSS** are installed. **This year, the terms of the Society Treasurer, Secretary, and one Board Member-at-Large are to be filled.** Anne McCormack has agreed to serve an additional two-year term as Member-at-Large. With Randy Korotev retiring as Treasurer, current Society Secretary **Mike Olson** has agreed to be nominated and serve as Treasurer. We are currently seeking a replacement for Mike as Secretary.

**Elections to fill these officer and Board positions will be held at our upcoming general membership program and meeting on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on Lindbergh.** Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time. Please plan to attend to participate in the election, and to hear that evening's program, presented by St. Louis Zoo Curator Jeff Ettl. He will be discussing the Zoo's conservation programs for amphibians and reptiles, including local favorites the hellbender and the timber rattlesnake. Enjoy the spring, and I hope to see you at our upcoming activities in April and May!

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER – MARCH 2007

### Oscar Petersen Revisited

Oscar Petersen (March 10, 1865-November 6, 1964) always referred to himself as the Vagabond Dreamer. He joined WGNSS about 1940 at age 75 and remained active until shortly before his death. He retained his faculties miraculously almost to the last, participating in field trips and other strenuous outdoor activities until near the end of his life. He was an outstanding botanist and poet. Dozens of his poems, almost all about nature subjects, were published in *Nature Notes* during the twenty-five years he was an active participant in the WGNSS Botany Group. His obituary, written by his long-time friend and fellow botanist Waldemar Palm, was published in the January 1965 issue of *Nature Notes* and reprinted in the Historian's Corner in the May 2006 issue.

The Palm obituary contains no information about Oscar's early life except his birth date. In preparing an index volume for the 1929-1999 issues of *Nature Notes* to accompany the archival copies of these volumes in the Missouri Botanical Garden Library, I spotted an article by Oscar about the advent of spring ("At The Turnstile of  
(Cont'd on page 4)

## SILVER CITY - UNEXPECTED MECCA FOR NATURALISTS - Jim Adams

After becoming WGNSS Historian, I undertook to index past issues of Nature Notes so that present members of WGNSS can benefit from its rich natural history lode. This project caused me to seek the present whereabouts of one of the important early members of WGNSS, Stuart O'Byrne. My curiosity was aroused by the sudden cessation of Nature Notes articles by him in the mid-sixties. (He founded Nature Notes in 1929).

With the help of several long-time members I learned that Stuart and his wife had relocated to Silver City, New Mexico and spent their retirement years there where he could pursue his life-long hobby of astronomy in a remote mountain area where ideal conditions for star-gazing are the norm. While Betty and I had traveled extensively in New Mexico in our earlier years, we had never visited the state's far south-western corner, where Silver City is located. Eventually it was learned that Stuart had celebrated his 100th birthday in September 2005 in Silver City. In early 2006 the WGNSS Board voted to award him a special Lifetime Achievement Award, to be presented at the 2006 WGNSS annual banquet. Unfortunately Stuart died about two weeks before the banquet, and the award was conferred post-humously,

I recently read an article about Silver City in the Post-Dispatch (Feb. 18, 2007, p. T5). The article ("Nature Takes Wing at This Bird and Breakfast") related that The Nature Conservancy has established a 1920's era lodge on a 178 acre tract at Silver City to teach the public about conservation. The topic here is desert flora and fauna. The region is reportedly home to more than 300 species of birds. Early issues of Nature Notes contain articles by Stuart and May, his wife, describing the abundant bird life at their new home. This newspaper report about The Nature Conservancy's lodge strongly supports the O'Byrne's early appraisal of the Silver City area as a desirable retirement area for naturalists with multiple interests in the natural world. It's interesting to speculate about how much research must have preceded a decision by the O'Byrnes to move to this remote area.

## WHAT'S AHEAD?

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## Reminders:

- 1) Recruit a new member.
- 2) Volunteer as WGNSS Board Secretary
- 3) Join the Membership Committee; call Paul Brockland, 314-961-4461
- 4) Write an article for Nature Notes.
- 5) Keep your boots muddy!
- 6) Sight the "best bird" of the year.
- 7) Find a new plant for Missouri.
- 8) Find a new bird for Missouri.
- 9) Identify a new conservation cause WGNSS should support.
- 10) Find a new insect for Missouri.

**Oscar Petersen Revisited – Cont'd from page 2**

Seasons”) that contains an embedded “thank you” response to a 91<sup>st</sup>. birthday greeting in the prior issue of *Nature notes*. The embedded message included a brief account of his early life and his philosophy about nature study. I found his statement so interesting that I am sharing it with you. It is reproduced as written except for minor changes in punctuation and spelling for increased clarity.

**Excerpt from Oscar Petersen’s April 1957 Article “At The Turnstile of Seasons”**

I pause for a moment looking backwards into a murky haze of long past episodes as a mere boy turning his back to his homeland in Scandinavia, to seek adventure and romance in the new world “America.”

To begin with my earliest recollection, I dimly recall an episode when I, a lad in skirts and wooden shoes, had found the garden gate unlatched and my way to the seashore, close by. Gone to the brink of the fjord to look into the mysteries of the sea, an undulating body of crystal clear salt water. A new world to a little tot as I was. It was a fascinating turn in events-so new and novel. I saw fishes of all sizes and kinds-going and coming-tall and small. My eyes were glued on a small Pike-like fish seemingly looking for something in the moss covered bulwark and coming higher, almost to the surface. When by some impulse I acted to grab him, I slipped into the sea. I yelled like a stuck pig, and a fisherman who happened to be near, repairing his nets, came to my rescue, and took me to my mother, who gave me something real to blare for, and sealed it with tearful kisses.

That was the beginning of my vagabondery, a salt-water baptism at the age of 3-and still going. A long stretch of tramps and trials, incidents and accidents, joys and sorrows. Still, the all in all, taking it in strides as time and circumstances brought it-and knowing, that at my age, my ship is approaching its final landing port. I confess there is very little in the long stretch of life from day to day that I would wish to blot out-even the harsh has been guiding aids in the final.

Wanderlust was in my blood. Seeing as much of the world as was possible, my craving, and learning nature study, in all its branches my greatest desire, my love and lore.

My father was a clock-maker, building clocks for church towers and public buildings. A profession which I was supposed to follow, but for which I had neither talent nor love. Science, and in particular, literature and nature study were my tonic-my love and life. But my desire to see the world was greater.

And so in 1888 I left Denmark, my home, for a supposed visit to my relatives in America. Stopping over at Glasgow, Scotland, where I visited the World’s Fair, from there I went to Larbie Harbor, Ireland, “a wonderland. I had left Denmark in ice and snow and here everything was green and in full bloom;. I am sure if I had stayed long enough in the lovely environ to find a sweet-heart, I would have become an emigrant of Ireland instead of America.

From there I left for New York, and on my way to Michigan visited the Niagara Falls. Then on to Port Huron, Michigan and from there to my destination, Elkton, a little settlement in the midst of a dense pine forest. with bears, wolves, deer, snakes,  
(Cont'd next page)

## Oscar Petersen Revisited – Cont'd from page 4

butterflies and mosquitoes, etc., plus a luxuriant variation of plant life, too much to describe. But one outstanding episode that took me by surprise, and left an indelible impression on; me, was when I observed a group of people markedly different from me in casual appearance, file into camp, one after another, coming from the woods and like a caravan going directly to the centrally located shanty my cousin maintained as his camp office. The leader, without knocking on the door went in, and after a pause came out laughing, then the next in the following, followed in the same way, and so on, until the whole string, 10 to twelve Indians, concluded the parade. After which I entered and asked my cousin what all this meant and who the strangers were. My cousin still owes me the complete answer, but he told me they were Indians out on a routine hunting trip. Of all the questions I asked and answers I received, the result was that my cousin spoke to the leader, and he came to me, put his hand on my arm and gesticulated what sounded to me as a dog's "wau", "wau". The chief grabbed me by the arm, while my cousin said: "Go on boy, it will be the experience of your life-don't worry- they will bring you back Saturday, whole and hearty-have a good time"! And off we were. I had felt like remonstrating but better judgement and a feeling of trust in the chief who guided me, overcame my fear. But this is a story in itself-worth its own cover.

Now what I am here telling you I should have saved for winter reading. Now it is March, and spring stands waiting at the door.....In the March *Nature Notes* at the foot of page 88 I find "A HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Vagabond!" Thanks!.....

## BLACKBURN PARK BIRD SANCTUARY DEDICATION – Sue Gustafson

The City of Webster Groves invites everyone to the dedication of the Blackburn Park Bird Sanctuary on Saturday, April 14 at 9:00 AM. The Bird Sanctuary, located in the southwest corner of Blackburn Park, had become severely overtaken by exotic plant species, and the banks of the spring-fed creek were eroding. An extensive restoration has been completed with the assistance of the **WGNSS Phoebe Snetsinger Memorial Fund**, and new educational signage discusses Phoebe and how she did her some of her early birding in the Bird Sanctuary. Additional funding for the restoration was provided by the Mo. Department of Conservation, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Webster Groves Parks and Storm Water ½ % sales tax.

The dedication will take place near the spring in the lower portion of the Bird Sanctuary. Park on Old Orchard (off of Jackson or Florence Avenues.) We hope to see you there!

**Editor's note:** Phoebe Snetsinger, a long time member of WGNSS and a Webster Groves resident, saw more species of birds, about 8,300, than anyone else in the world, earning a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*. She died November 23, 1999 from injuries suffered in a vehicle accident in Madagascar while on a birding tour. WGNSS contributed \$10,000 from memorial funds received at the time of her death toward the renovation of the existing Blackburn Park Bird Sanctuary in her honor.

## MAGNER WOODS HONEYSUCKLE CUT – Sue Gustafson

The Shady Creek Nature Sanctuary in Webster Groves will be holding its first honeysuckle cut in Magner Woods (named after longtime WGNSS member Marshall Magner) on **Saturday, April 7 from 10 AM to noon**. The woods is very overrun with exotic Japanese honeysuckle that is crowding out native plants and trees in the understory. We are looking for volunteers to join us for a few hours to cut honeysuckle and paint the stumps with Round-up. Please bring work gloves and loppers. If you don't have loppers, join us to paint the stumps, drag out the cut honeysuckle or do other clean-up. The Round-up and paint brushes will be provided.

Park on the street near the intersection of Rock Hill and Gore, and we'll meet at the grassy triangle at that intersection. Questions or for more info, contact Lee Falk at 314-963-0503 or Sue Gustafson at 314-968-8128.

**Editor's Note** – The Magner Woods, the western portion of the Shady Creek Nature Sanctuary in Webster Groves, was named for J. Marshall Magner (1913-2005), a founding member of WGNSS and a former Webster Groves City Councilman. Magner first proposed preservation of the woods bordering Webster Groves' Shady Creek twenty-five years ago and served as consultant in the development of the sanctuary. The Magner Woods portion of the sanctuary was formally dedicated in Magner's honor on June 22, 2005. (See June, 2005 issue of *Nature Notes* for an account of the dedication ceremony.) WGNSS made a financial contribution to the sanctuary project to help with land acquisition. I plan to join the lopping party.

## EXTINCTION MEANS GONE FOREVER – Paul Bauer

The WGNSS produced book, *Birds of the St. Louis Area; Where and When to Find Them*, will soon become extinct-- no longer existing! All printed copies will have been sold. The initial printing of 3000 copies was sold out in 18 months. The 1998 Revised Edition of 2100 copies with 80 revisions is nearly gone. A push is on to sell the remaining copies this year. Reprinting without another revision is not practical, nor is it financially sensible. Any new revisions for a few new bird species, or several added birding locations, can be provided on the WGNSS website at no cost to WGNSS or the birder.

This spring may be your last chance to obtain a copy if you are a new birder or new to the St. Louis area. For experienced birders with well worn copies, now is your final chance to get a fresh copy of the 17 colored maps, 343 bar graphs of seasonal abundance, and accounts of 380 species with rare dates and likely locations. And, did I forget to mention detailed directions to 125 birding locations, all within 50 miles of the St. Louis city limits? Consider buying a spare copy to sell to future new birders!!

**WHERE CAN YOU OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS UNIQUE REGIONAL BIRD BOOK?** All of the following locations have recently been restocked:

- The Missouri Conservation Commission's Powder Valley and Busch Conservation Area Gift Shops.
- The Missouri Botanical Garden and Shaw Nature Reserve Gift Shops

(Cont'd next page)

## Extinction Means Gone Forever – Cont'd from page 6

- Wild Bird Center at 5438 Southfield Center (314-842-1496)
- Wild Birds Unlimited at 9987 Manchester Road (314-821-2266)

BY MAIL : American Birding Association, Item 308 (1-800-634-7736)

If your local wild bird store doesn't have copies, ask them to contact Randy Korotev (314-993-0055). Randy has agreed to deliver any remaining orders. Also, if you see me on a local birding trip, ask me. I have about 12 copies left.

Decide quickly if you need a copy of this exceptional local birding resource.  
Remember: OUT OF PRINT = EXTINCTION.

## BIRDS REPORTED IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA (50 MILE CIRCLE) FOR 2006 – Charlotte and Jim Malone – Pt. 2 (Pt. 1 appeared in the Mar. 2007 issue, p. 15; refer to that issue for explanatory information)

American Golden-Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Piping Plover  
Killdeer  
Black-necked Stilt  
American Avocet  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Willet – seen more frequently this year  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Upland Sandpiper – seen more frequent  
WHIMBREL \* – accidental but more observers finding  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Marbled Godwit – seen more frequent spr & fall  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper – rare in spr; uncommon in fall  
Least Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper – casual in fall  
Baird's Sandpiper  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Dunlin  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper – seen more frequent at sod farms  
RUFF ## – near Bend road  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Long-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson's Snipe  
American Woodcock  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Laughing Gull – being seen more frequent @ CL & RMBS  
Franklin's Gull

Black-billed Cuckoo  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Barn Owl  
Eastern Screech-Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Barred Owl  
Long-eared Owl – LCCL & Carlyle  
Short-eared Owl  
Northern Saw-whet Owl – found yearly @ Carlyle  
Common Nighthawk  
Chuck-will's-widow – harder to find each yr.  
Whip-poor-will – not so common also  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Rufous Hummingbird – Columbia, IL  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Alder Flycatcher – seen/heard more freq.  
Willow Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Western Kingbird - #s of breeding birds growing!  
Eastern Kingbird

(Cont'd next page)

## Birds Reported in the St. Louis Area for 2006 (Cont'd from page 7)

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – SW St. L co & S. IL  
Loggerhead Shrike – mostly seen on IL side now  
White-eyed Vireo  
Bell's Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Blue-headed Vireo  
**CASSIN'S VIREO #** – Carlyle Lake  
Warbling Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow – seen/heard almost yr. round  
Horned Lark  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
**Bewick's Wren** – more in SW StL co & S. counties.  
House Wren  
Winter Wren  
Sedge Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE \*** – SLCC at M  
Veery  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Swainson's Thrush  
Hermit Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
American Pipit  
Cedar Waxwing  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Golden-winged Warbler

(Cont'd next page)

Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Cape May Warbler  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – M bird; TGP in fall  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
**Cerulean Warbler** – bird of concern  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Worm-eating Warbler  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
Kentucky Warbler  
Connecticut Warbler  
Mourning Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Hooded Warbler  
Wilson's Warbler  
Canada Warbler  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
**WESTERN TANAGER #** – Carlyle Lake  
**Spotted Towhee** – F in West Alton  
Eastern Towhee  
American Tree Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Lark Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
**Henslow's Sparrow** – yearly lately, BUT depends on habitat  
LeConte's Sparrow  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** – heard/seen spring. too  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
**Harris's Sparrow** – semi-regular winter Visitor



## Birds Reported in the St. Louis Area for 2006 (Cont'd from page 8)

Tennessee Warbler  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler

Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting

**PAINTED BUNTING** – doc breeding E St.L; M 5<sup>th</sup> yr.

Katy Trail

Dickcissel

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird

Eastern Meadowlark

**Western Meadowlark** – regular winter visitor

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Rusty Blackbird

Brewer's Blackbird

Common Grackle

**Great-tailed Grackle** – now reg. winter visitor

Brown-headed Cowbird

Orchard Oriole

Baltimore Oriole

Purple Finch

House Finch

**Red Crossbill** – sporadic; Busch CA

Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Lapland Longspur

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

### ST. LOUIS RAINFOREST ADVOCATES PROGRAM – Rachel Crandell

*Rhythm in the Clouds: Bio-  
diversity and Conservation in  
in Monteverde, Costa Rica.  
MoBot Garden, April 21, 7 PM.  
Monteverde is a region in the  
mountains that harbors more  
biodiversity than almost any other  
place on earth. Presented by Mark  
Wainwright. For more information  
call Rachel Crandell, 314-878-8427*

#### Seen/heard less than 5 -7 miles outside of the circle:

Swainson's Hawk – Carlyle Lake

Black Rail – Carlyle Lake

Yellow Rail – Carlyle Lake

### WGSS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS – Paul Brockland/Randy Korotev

WGSS welcomes the following new members. You are invited to join one or more of the interest groups in our natural history fellowship and commence your exploration of the flora and fauna of the wonderful outdoors. Activity schedules for these interest groups will be found elsewhere in this issue. We're all looking forward to getting to know you better and hope your boots will soon be muddy! If you have questions, call Membership Chairman Paul Brockland at 314-961-4461 He has the answers!

Joe Whittington, St. Louis 63117

Diane Meyer, St. Louis 63122

## JANUARY 2007 BOTANY GROUP REPORT – Jack Harris

January 1, 2007 Field Botany Trip : 10 AM - 1:15 PM; cloudy & cold(35 - 45 degrees); 2 miles(+/-). Beginning at the beginning (of 2007) nine native plant aficionados of the Botany Group(Fr. Sullivan, Wayne & Nancy Clark, Nevin & Joy Aspinwall, Jack Harris, Bill Knight (and enthusiastic cohorts Cody & Levy), set out on a cloudy and chilly New Year's day to explore the Pickle Springs Natural Area in Ste. Genevieve County, MO.

They were rewarded with speckles of green against the ubiquitous background of brown winter leaf litter and the green to blue-green to gray lichens and mosses growing on the large exposures of Lamotte sandstone. A scattered but robust population of *Goodyera pubescens* (downy rattlesnake plantain orchid), exhibiting their green but reticulated white veined leaves, was joined by the ferns *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), *Asplenium platyneuron* (ebony spleenwort), and *Polypodium virginianum* (common polypody) to add to the display. *Mitchella repens* (partridge berry), was pendant on the sandstone bluffs, and an occasional terrestrial *Carex glaucoidea* (blue sedge) contributed its distinctive color. Nevin discovered an unexpected small cluster of *Asplenium rhizophyllum* (walking fern) on the sandstone. This species usually prefers a dolomite or limestone substrate.

Fr. Sullivan pointed out some of the winter characters of *Quercus stellata* (post oak), *Quercus coccinea* (scarlet oak), *Rhododendron prinophyllum* (azalea), and *Boechea laevigata* (smooth rock cress). Blending in with the brown of the leaf litter were the remnants of the past seasons *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken). This fern is said to be one of the most broadly distributed species of vascular plants in the world. Cody & Levy exercised their ability to identify the winter habit of *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood) based upon only a few visible characters.

While we didn't explicitly 'stop and smell the roses', we did crush small pieces of the inflorescences of *Cunila origanoides* (dittany) and enjoyed the added dimension of a pleasant minty aroma to round out the New Year's field trip.

January 8, 2007 Field Botany Trip : 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM; cloudy & chilly(35 - 45 degrees); 2 miles(+/-). Hidden Valley Trail, Weldon Springs Conservation Area, St. Charles County, MO. Attendees: Marlene & Thane Bopp, Wayne & Nancy Clark, Kathy Thiele, Tom Kullman, Fr. Sullivan, Jack Harris, Rex & Martha Hill, Nels Holmberg, Tina Mathes, and Jim Wiant.

As the group proceeded along the trail beside the creek, active dam building activity by the local beaver community was the subject of discussion. Adding ponds in the local habitat, means places for over wintering aquatic plants to reside. At this stage the leaves were not familiar but speculation was that one was likely a *Potamogeton sp.*, (pondweed), and another a member of the *Ranunculus sp.* clan.

It was a generally brisk, but otherwise pleasant day to observe plants in winter : *Ambrosia trifida* (giant ragweed), *Typha latifolia* (common cattail), *Perilla frutescens* (beefsteak plant), *Orthotrichum sp.* (a moss), *Quercus shumardii* (Shumard's oak),  
(Cont'd next page)

*Stellaria media* (common chickweed), *Rubus occidentalis* (black raspberry), *Agastache nepetoides* (yellow giant hyssop), *Acer negundo* (box elder), *Verbesina alternifolia* (yellow ironweed), *Leonurus sibiricus* (motherwort), *Verbascum blattaria* (moth mullein), *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist), *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam & Eve orchid), *Equisetum hyemale* (winter scouring rush), *Celtis occidentalis* (hackberry), *Ulmus americana* (American elm), *Cercis canadensis* (eastern redbud), *Juniperus virginiana* (eastern red cedar), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (river oats), *Elephantopus carolinianus* (Carolina elephant's foot), *Cirsium discolor* (field thistle), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod),  
*Daucus carota* (Queen Anne's lace/wild carrot), and *Anomodon sp.* (a moss).

Just as the trip was ending, Kathy Thiele & Martha Hill spotted a mature bald eagle soaring over the trailhead parking area.

January 15, 2007 Botany Field Trip : No MONDAY field trip was scheduled due to adverse weather forecasts.

January 29, 2007 Field Botany Trip : 10:00 AM - 12 noon; cloudy & cold ('teens - 20s degrees F.), outside. Inside : toasty & comfortable.

Location: Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Bldg & Climatron

Attendees: Fr. Sullivan, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jack Harris, Tina Mathes, Dave Alspaugh, Jerry Brown, Sue Schoening..

The field trip group immediately headed for the main feature: THE ART OF ORCHIDS. Here the many, many tropical orchids presented a kaleidoscopic display of color, superimposed on an incredible variety of floral structures, and was an awesome sight. We tend to forget the degree of spectacle that this show impresses upon our visual senses from one year to the next. Annual reinforcement is needed.

The second order of business was to admire the art display on the walls of the Ridgway building. "Watercolors From the Tallgrass Prairie," is an exhibition of 35 original paintings by George Olson. These pieces were all of native plants and elicited an extended critical review and discussion among the veteran field trippers. There was some speculation that perhaps one or two of the caption labels may be in need of minor correction. The exhibit is recommended for all who may appreciate the detailed perspective of an inquiring eye and talented artist.

Subsequently the group made a dash through the cold, cold air to the CLIMATRON. Inside the glasses fogging climate of warm & humid was welcome. A small sampling from the list of tropical plants noted/discussed during the tour was as follows: *Thunbergia erecta* (bush clock vine), *Calliandra haematocephala* (powder puff tree), *Heliconia stricta* (fake bird of paradise), *Dichorisanthra thirsiflora* (blue ginger), *Calathea burle-marxii* (Joe blue), *Oxalis origiesii* (tree oxalis), *Dendrocalamus giganteus* (giant bamboo), *Orontium aquaticum* (golden club), *Euphorbia characias* (spurge), *Mimosa pudica* (sensitive plant) with leaves that shrink to the touch. The biomechanical processes associated with this curiously entertaining ability of some plants to physically respond to touch remain obscure.

## SPECIAL NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

**April 18, 2007**, 7 PM, Buder Library, 2 blocks south of the intersection of Hampton and Chippewa.

Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer will present "Raptors of the St. Louis Area." For more information call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372. Sponsored by WGNSS.

**April 30, 2007**, 7 PM, St. Louis County Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh

Video presentation by Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer. Subject: A visit to Big Bend N. P., Texas, including birds, snakes, lizards, butterflies, dragonflies, etc. Co-sponsored by WGNSS/NABA.

### FEBRUARY BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: I would like to thank the following people who have helped with the June bird count at Busch Conservation Area since 1999: Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Loy Barber, Torrey Berger, Dennis Bozzay, Shawn Clubb, Sue Gustafson, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Scott Marshall, Anne McCormack, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Tom Parmeter, David Rabenau, Kevin Renick, Mike Thelen, and Jim Ziebol. Because of the efforts of these people, we have a good idea of the avian population at Busch – and the situation isn't very good. Last year, 8 species of warblers were only observed once, and Pine Warbler was not found. There are probably several reasons for this decline but we've known for several years that many species are not replacing themselves. An extensive butterfly survey conducted by WGNSS members also shows a dramatic decline of many species, including sulphurs, hairstreaks, and emperors.

#### Early Arrival Dates:

2/3	Great Black-backed Gulls	Riverlands	D. Rogles, C. Malone
2/4	California Gull	Riverlands	Bill Rowe
2/12	Glaucous Gull	Horseshoe Lake	Jim Ziebol
	Iceland Gull	Riverlands	C. Malone, D. Rogles
	Thayer's Gull	Riverlands	Bill Rowe, D. Rogles
	12 Lesser Black-Backed Gulls	Riverlands	D. Rogles
2/17	Black-legged Kittiwake	Baldwin Lake	Pat Lueders
2/18	Swamp Sparrow	Fenton	Ian Hunt
2/21	Common Merganser	Horseshoe Lake	Frank Holmes
2/23	Woodcock	Spanish Lake Park	Kraig Paradise
2/24	Wood Duck	Horseshoe Lake	Frank Holmes
	Bonaparte's Gull	Horseshoe Lake	Frank Holmes
2/25	Brewer's Blackbird	Bruns Road	Frank Holmes
	Rusty Blackbird	Bruns Road	Frank Holmes
	Tree Swallow	Horseshoe Lake	Jim Ziebol

(Cont'd next page)

2/27	Fish Crow	Horseshoe Lake	Frank Holmes
2/28	Wilson's Snipe	Bruns Road	Linda Virga, Jim Ziebol
3/1	White-crowned Sparrow	Forest Park	Sherry McCowan
3/3	Green-winged Teal	Horseshoe Lake	Frank Holmes
3/04	Horned Grebe	Riverlands	Connie Alwood

Sightings: On 2/26, hundreds of Pelicans were found at Riverlands (J Chain, Pat Diener) and 70 were seen at Horseshoe Lake (L. Virga, JZ). Connie Alwood observed 2 Ross's Geese and a Mute Swan at Baldwin Lake. Five hundred Ring-necked Ducks were counted at HL on 2/15 (FH). Frank also reported 5 Wood Ducks there on 2/24. A hybrid duck, Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser, was seen at Riverlands on 2/18 (MT). On 2/23, 3,500 Canada Geese, 12 Cackling Geese, 500 Great White-fronted Geese, 1 Ross's Goose, 2 Kildeer, and 36 Pelicans were seen in the HL area (FH). The Thursday Group found 2 Glaucous Gulls and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Riverlands on 3/1 (J Chain). A third-winter Great Black-backed Gull was first found at Portage du Sioux on 2/3 (CM). An adult California Gull was a good find at Riverlands on 2/04 (Bill Rowe). The first migrant Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at HL on 2/24 (FH). While leading a SLAS bird walk at Baldwin Lake on 2/17, Pat Lueders found a first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake. On 2/18, the Kittiwake was re-found, along with 150 Bonaparte's Gulls (CA, DK). Connie Alwood stated that this was a very good winter for gulls, including several adult Thayer's Gulls. Kraig Paradise heard 2 Great Horned Owls and observed 2 Woodcocks at Spanish Lake Park on 2/23. A cold front at the beginning of February brought about 80 Bald Eagles to Riverlands (J Chain, FH). Frank Holmes reported 3 Bald Eagles' nests along Route 3 between Granite City and Riverlands, of which 2 appear to be active. Two adult Golden Eagles were seen about 2.5 miles north of Pere Marquette (JE). On 2/23, Mick Richardson observed a Bald Eagle flying over TGP. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were seen in the woods at Stump Lake on 2/8 (J Chain). A Rough-legged Hawk was reported at Riverlands on 2/18 (J Moe, KP); the only other report this year was from Columbia Bottoms by Shawn Clubb on 1/8. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was observed in Kirkwood Park on 2/21 (Pat Harrison).

Sherry McCowan found 2 Sapsuckers in FP on 2/7, and a Hairy Woodpecker in TGP on 2/8. Kraig Paradise reported a Hermit Thrush in Spanish Lake Park in the same area where he has had a Hermit Thrush for several years in a row. On 2/17, Mark Peters walked a mile along the creek that flows through his Jefferson County property and found 13 Hermit Thrush, 3 Winter Wrens, and a Brown Thrasher. The Thursday Group found Lapland Longspurs and several Horned Larks on 2/11 at Confluence Park (J Chain). Kent Lannert led a WGNSS group to the Baldwin Lake/Peabody Coal area on 2/4, where the group found Ross's Geese, Cackling Geese, many Snow Geese, a Loggerhead Shrike, and a Rusty Blackbird. Connie Alwood re-found the Loggerhead Shrike on 2/11.

A typical day for 2/11, during a WGNSS walk led by Mike Thelen at Riverlands, produced 132 Trumpeter Swans, 2 Black Ducks, 2 Ring-necked Ducks, a Hooded Merganser, 15 Wild Turkeys, 6 Pelicans, 2 adult Thayer's Gulls, 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 1 Glaucous Gull, 1 first-winter Great Black-backed Gull, more than 50 Am. Tree  
(Cont'd next page)

Sparrows, 4 Savannah Sparrows, 6 Song Sparrows, 15 White-crowned Sparrows, a few Red-winged Blackbirds singing on territory, thousands of gulls, and several Bald Eagles.

Backyard Birds: Kraig Paradise has a Mockingbird at his home that eats half an apple every day. Connie Alwood found a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Brown Thrasher several times in his yard. A Eurasian Tree Sparrow, seen on 2/13, was a first for Sherry McCowans' yard in Soulard. Ian Hunt found a Swamp Sparrow among several Am. Tree Sparrows on 2/18. Sherry McCowan, Kraig Paradise, and Mark Paradise also reported Am. Tree Sparrows at their homes. Years ago, in the 1980s, it took a very harsh weather event to get Am. Tree Sparrows to come to urban feeders. A Barred Owl was a new bird for Dennis Bozzay's yard on 2/18. Cedar Waxwings were present at Kraig Paradise's home on 2/18 and 100+ Cedar Waxwings were eating American Holly berries at Jack & Pat Harris's home on 2/24. Two Bluebirds were seen at the Manchester home of Sarah Moorman, who was participating in a feeder survey for a school project. Bluebirds seldom visit yard feeders. Clarence Zacher found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on 2/8.

Comments: A completely albino Turkey was photographed along Hwy. 143 on 2/10 (FH). Over 150 species of North American birds have been recorded in England and the European mainland. This year, a female Canada Warbler was the first of its species recorded on the other side of the Atlantic. Other birds reported from Europe included 2 Long-billed Murrelets, 2 Pacific Loons, and a Glaucous-winged Gull. When a Glaucous-winged Gull was first found at Riverlands in the 1990s, it brought the total number of gull species seen in the St. Louis area to 19. At that time, St. Louis was tied with Niagara Falls, Ontario and St. John's, Newfoundland, for the most species of gulls in eastern North America. This past year, the tie was broken when St. John's recorded a Slaty-backed Gull.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Joe Eades, Jack Harris, Frank Holmes, Dan Kassebaum, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Mark Peters, David Rabenau, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen, 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.

### **ROBOT WATCHES OUT FOR RARE BIRD – Jim Adams**

I am indebted to my son Richard for the information in this article. He found it on the Internet on the BBC News Page on Feb. 18, 2007,

Robot ornithologists have joined the search for a rare species of bird. The automated birdwatcher stands in a US wildlife reserve in Arkansas, scanning the skies for a glimpse of the elusive ivory-billed woodpecker. The bird was once thought to be extinct, but potential sightings in the area in 2004 renewed the search.

(Cont'd next page)

The system uses two video cameras to capture continuous images of the sky that are scrutinized for evidence of birdlife by sophisticated software. Any shot that it does not believe contains a bird is discarded.

"It's been running for three months continuously now for three months and only keeps one image in every 10,000 it collects," said Dr. Ken Goldberg of the University of California, Berkeley, who developed the system..

Some "very exciting" images of birds have been recorded, but no pictures of the "charismatic" red, white, and black ivory-billed woodpecker have yet turned up.

### NEW BIRD SPECIES AT RIVERLANDS – Jim Ziebol

The following species of birds have never been recorded at Riverlands. If anyone sees any of the birds listed below, please report your sighting to Jim Ziebol (314.781.7372) or Yvonne Homeyer at [swampmetalmark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swampmetalmark@sbcglobal.net).

Clark's Grebe  
Black Vulture  
Eurasian Collared Dove  
Screech Owl  
Whip-poor-will  
Northern Saw-whet Owl  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Cedar Waxwing  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Golden-winged Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Blackpoll  
Mourning Warbler  
Connecticut Warbler  
Kentucky Warbler  
Canada Warbler  
Hooded Warbler  
Worm-eating Warbler  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Lark Sparrow

(Cont'd next page)

Since the last list was published in the March 2006 issue of Nature Notes, the following species were added to the Riverlands Checklist: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, Bell's Vireo, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, and Harris's Sparrow.

### BOOK REVIEWS – Jim Ziebol

*Swimming to Antarctica*, by Lynne Cox (Grayson 2006). The author is an accomplished long-distance swimmer. She has swum the English Channel twice, as well as the Catalina Channel. In this book, she writes about her encounter with a baby Gray Whale that had lost its way.

*Food Plants of the World*, by Ben-Erik Van Wyk (2005). In this illustrated guide, every plant has a description, origin, history, explanation of the edible parts, information on cultivation and harvesting, plant properties, nutritional value, and more. I learned that a local plant, Beefsteak, is edible.

*The Charged Border: Where Whales and Humans Meet*, by John Nollman (1999). The author's specialty is interspecies communication, mostly involving Cetaceans – baleen whales, dolphins, and porpoises. A ghastly dolphin round-up in Japan is described in detail. Unfortunately, when fisheries are depleted, the fishermen often blame the natural predators that only feed on enough fish needed to live. Koko, a gorilla, has learned 2000 words of spoken English. Bottlenosed Dolphins have learned 60 words and basic grammatical rules that allow them to understand hundreds of simple sentences. An African Gray Parrot can identify seven colors, five shapes, forty objects, and can count numbers up to 6, all in plain English. It is obvious that many animals are sentient and can communicate. I recommend this book to everyone.

*Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, National Geographic, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2006). This is an excellent revision to the well-known field guide in many of our personal nature libraries. New illustrations by artists like David Beadle are softer than those in earlier editions and are beautifully done. New information that I found interesting – an illustration of the *intermedius* subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull that has been seen in St. Louis; an illustration of Iceland Gull, *Larus g. kumlieni*, showing an adult with white wing tips (has been reported at least twice in St. Louis). This is an excellent resource for serious birders.

### A NOTABLE EPITAPH – Jim Adams

I recently found the tombstone epitaph of the famous medieval astronomer, Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) in his biography and found it thought provoking. It reads as follows:

I measured the heavens,  
Now the earth's shadow I measure  
My mind was already in the heavens,  
Now the shadow of my body rests.

Kepler is buried in Regensburg, Germany.



Webster Groves Nature Study Society – Founded 1920  
**GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES**  
 March 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 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	<b>WGNSS BIRDING – BIG DAY</b>		
May 19	Tower Grove Park	8 AM	Becher
	Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance		
May 26	County Library	8 AM	Becher

**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.)

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

(Cont'd)

<b>April 22, 2007</b>	Castlewood S.P. Hdqtrs.	8 AM	M. Terpstra & P. Lueders
<b>April 29, 2007</b>	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Bird Garden	8 AM	D. Garcia & B. Bailey
<b>April 29, 2007</b>	Blue Grosbeak Trail Weldon Sprs. CA, Parking Lot, Hwy 94	8 AM	Ian Hunt
<b>May 6, 2007</b>	Lost Valley Trail Parking Lot (Hwy 94, about 4 mi. past Hwy D, on right)	8 AM	J. Cowan & S. Clubb
<b>June 3, 2007</b>	Busch Cons. Area Hdqtrs. Parking Lot	8 AM	T. Parmeter

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**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](mailto:jahar@mac.com)) or 314-368-0655 and receive an E-mail every Sunday, sometimes earlier, about the next Monday's trip.

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**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](mailto: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. April 4, 7 PM at The 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](mailto: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.

The 87<sup>th</sup> 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 the 2007 recipients of the Scudder and Menke scholarships, and honor this year's Lifetime Achievement Award winners, Bob and Martha Gaddy.

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

We will have a special silent auction of ceramic bird figures donated to WGNSS by Mark Mittleman. In addition, nature related art and products by Jim Ziebol and Margy and Dan Terpstra will be available for purchase (10% proceeds will be donated to WGNSS).

Keynote Speakers--Tom & Gloria Bratkowski will speak on Monarchs and Monarch Watch

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  
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