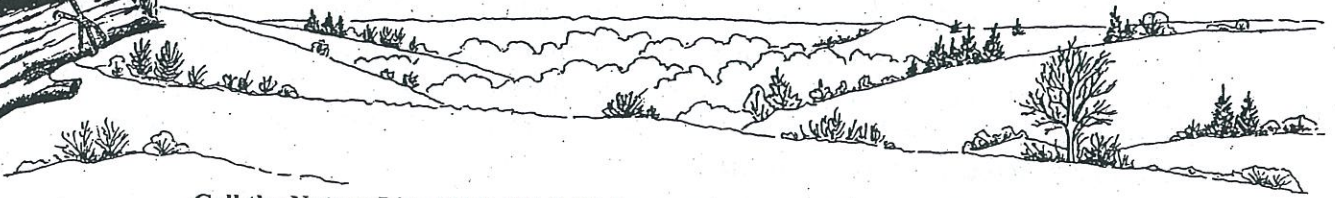


Nature Notes



Call the Nature Line (314) 935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings
Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, June 2007, Vol. 79, No. 6
First Issue November, 1929

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Ann Earley

Our annual spring banquet which was held on May 9 at Eden Seminary was a great conclusion to our WGNSS program year. The 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Bob and Martha Gaddy. This year's WGNSS scholarship recipients were introduced and gave presentations about their research projects. A silent auction was also held, and we thank Mark Mittelman for donating the auction items.

Our keynote banquet speakers were educators Tom and Gloria Bratkowski, whose presentation was entitled "You Can't Eat Butterflies." Attendees enjoyed hearing about their work with the Monarch Watch organization, and their trip to the monarch butterfly over-wintering grounds in Mexico. In appreciation for their program and work promoting butterfly conservation and awareness, the Bratkowskis received a collection of notecards featuring the photography of Margy and Dan Terpstra, and WGNSS is making a contribution to the Monarch Watch organization in honor of the Bratkowskis.

Many thanks to Second Vice President Kim McCue, who organized and coordinated our entire banquet evening. Kim's work in doing all this was more challenging than usual since she had already begun a new job in Nashville and did much of the banquet planning and preparation from Tennessee! Thank you, Kim, for all that you did to make the evening so special, and thanks to everyone who helped make this year's banquet a success.

Outgoing Treasurer Randy Korotev was honored for his eleven years of service in that office, receiving a gift certificate for photography equipment of his choice, and framed original artwork by Jim Ziebol in appreciation for his service. Randy will still be active in WGNSS, continuing to serve as our Webmaster, and we will have an opportunity in the fall to hear from Randy and see some of his photography in a special ornithology program, so watch for further details about that in *Nature Notes*.

In elections held April 5, Anne McCormack was elected to serve a second term as Board Member-at-Large, and Mike Olson was elected to serve as Treasurer. They were both recognized and installed at the banquet.

Currently, we have two openings on the Board, one for Secretary (replacing Mike Olson), and the other for Second Vice President (replacing Kim McCue). If you are interested in volunteering for either of these opportunities, please contact me.

(Cont'd next page)

President's Corner (Cont'd)

As summer approaches, *Nature Notes* and our monthly program meetings will be taking a break until fall. Before you leave on summer vacation, please remember to renew your WGNSS membership for the coming year. Plans are already underway for many fun and informative activities and programs for 2007-2008. Don't miss out on these events—renew today, and enjoy your summer!

TRIBUTE TO WGNSS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS BOB AND MARTHA GADDY – By Ann Earley, with comments from Marjorie Richardson and John Karel of Tower Grove Garden

They have been interested in nature since they were kids involved in scouting. They both love birds and have been on many bird walks. These characteristics describe many WGNSS members, but these members have each served as WGNSS President, and they have a very special and well-known bird garden named after them. I am referring, of course, to Bob and Martha Gaddy, co-recipients of this year's WGNSS Lifetime Achievement Award. You may have seen the article about the Gaddys receiving this award in recent issues of the Suburban Journals newspapers. The article was written by WGNSS Publicity Chair and Board Member-at-Large Shawn Clubb.

The Gaddys have been members of WGNSS for more than 30 years. During that time, they have participated in many WGNSS activities, including bird walks, and helping with the Birding Hotline. Bob was President of WGNSS from 1987 to 1989. Martha was President of WGNSS from 1991 to 1993. They have birded on many of their travels, and here at home, they started people birding at Tower Grove Park, showing them what a great birding spot we have here in the city, and contributing to efforts to preserve it for birding. For over 35 years, Bob served as a Commissioner of Tower Grove Park (serving as President of the Board for 14 years), and he still serves on the Board as an emeritus member. The Gaddy Wild Bird Garden in the northwest corner of Tower Grove Park was funded by WGNSS and the Missouri Department of Conservation and was dedicated 15 years ago this month.

Bob and Martha, your longtime interest in nature and the environment, generosity with your time and talent in serving WGNSS and the community, affable personalities, and dedication to birds and birding personify the finest qualities of WGNSS and its members. But don't just take my word for it! Tonight we will hear some special comments from two people who have known the Gaddys for years. To continue our tribute, I would ask Marjorie Richardson, herself a WGNSS award recipient, to come forward at this time. (Her comments follow in the next nine paragraphs.)

A number of years ago, while attending an ornithology meeting at Bob and Martha Gaddy's home, Martha suggested that I go to the kitchen to look at their refrigerator. We all know that the secondary function of a refrigerator is as a bulletin board for "important stuff"—children's school pictures, kids' artwork, dates of meetings that must not be forgotten, etc. So, expecting this type of very important stuff, I went to look. There on

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

THE Organization Man

The very apt title, "Organization Man", was given to an article by Kenneth Warne in the May, 2007 issue of SMITHSONIAN honoring the 300th anniversary of the birth of Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778). The son of a Swedish small town curate, he became the greatest botanist of his time. He applied the social hierarchy of his time (kingdoms, provinces; parishes and villages) to the natural world. He organized plants and animals into a framework of five main categories: kingdom, class, order, genus and species. His decision to call each living thing by just two Latin names, the binomial nomenclature system, has proved to be his greatest gift to the world. "Out of the babel of competing nomenclatures he devised a single, universally applicable language." His magnum opus, System Naturae, was published in 1735 as an 11-page tract. He kept adding to it throughout his life, and when the 13th edition was published in 1770 it had grown to 3000 pages. It was the last omnibus list of species ever attempted by a single person. So great was the proliferation of scientific discovery after his death (in part because his classification system was so comprehensive and easy to use), that no one individual could ever again hope to take nature's measure.

Glacier Tracks

N.N. Sept. 1954 - An article by Adolph Dreyer, "Geology Notes", p. 42, reports observations made possible by low water in the Mississippi. (4 ft. on the river gage). In the exposed St. Louis formation. The exposed strata is very smooth and shows in places deep grooves in the strata. The grooves, in some places 1 inch deep, are oriented in one direction. To observe, drive down to the railroad station at Jefferson Barracks and from there two blocks south. No charge for parking. LITHOSTROTIAN PROLIFERUM corals are abundant here. The area will be of special interest to amateur paleontologists. But visit when the river level is low.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Interest Group Activity Schedules - p. 14-15
May. 21 - N. N. Mailing Party - p. 17
Jun. 1 - Holsen Memorial Service - p. 11
June 24 - Grow Wild Garden Tour - p. 13
Aug. 1 - WGNSS Board Meeting - p. 17
Aug. 10 - Sept. N.N. Deadline - p. 17
Aug. 20 - Sept. N.N. mailing party - p. 17
Aug. 31 - Membership Renewal Deadline - p. 11
Sept. 6 - Korotev Birding Program - p. 9

No issues of N.N. will be published in July/August

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM - p. 18

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Historian's Corner - p. 3
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WGNSS Welcomes New Member - p. 10
Members in the News - Dick Coles - p. 10
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One Book of Life - p. 10
Uncommon Property - p. 10
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WGNSS Support Staff Roster - p. 16
N.N. Deadlines/Mailing Party Schedule - p. 17
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM - p. 18

Good News!

The first phase of St. Louis County's new Broemmelsiek Park opened for public use on Sunday, April 15. The county's seventh new park development includes trails, an off-leash dog area, a fishing lake and picnic shelters. The new park is along Highway DD about four miles southwest of Highway 40 and the Winghaven development. For now the park has two entrances--off Schwede and Wilson roads. A main entrance on DD won't be open until work on the second phase begins. A temporary viewing site will offer periodic stargazing events, with the first scheduled for May 19. (from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, April 14, 2007)

TRIBUTE TO THE GADDY'S (Cont'd from page 2)

the 'fridge was one picture only. To my delight it was a picture I had taken of Bob and Martha standing by the handsome sign designating this newly refurbished part of Tower Grove Park as the "Robert and Martha Gaddy Wild Bird Garden."

It was not a bad picture, but it was NOT the picture that I wished I had taken. That would have been a priceless photo of the surprise and astonishment on both Bob's and Martha's faces when the curtain came off the sign to reveal the park board's choice of a name for their refurbishing efforts—"Robert and Martha Gaddy Wild Bird Garden." Their amazement was real, genuine and never to be forgotten!

I think we all know that in the life of any park, parts of them get a reputation for being "unsafe, overgrown, untidy, scrubby, unhealthy—muddy—I wouldn't let my children go there—etc., etc." --those sorts of comments. These are usually the places that the birds and the birders find so attractive—a little water, lots of shrubbery, brush piles, leaf litter—even muddy trails.

We can all be SO thankful that our own Bob Gaddy was on the board of Tower Grove Park when these concerns came up. He had been birding in the park during lunch hours for several years and had been spreading the word, in his quiet but knowledgeable way, that this "untidy, scrubby, overgrown area" was very good birding and exceptional during migration.

Now I firmly believe that you don't get your name put on a sign designating an area in your honor unless your comments were very influential in shaping the type of "clean up" activity that was to happen! And what a GREAT happening it has become!—a wild bird garden that still has a little water (a memorial fountain that usually works), more beautiful bird-friendly shrubbery, brush piles that are sculpturally exciting, more native trees and plants, and wonderful wood chip paths that make wandering in this special place so pleasantly un-muddy! Tower Grove Park has always been a good birding park, but now it's even better, bringing birders from all over the midwest and often beyond. This now famous Gaddy Garden is their preferred destination.

Now we all know that behind every good man there is an equally good and influential woman—in this case our Martha. I know of NO ONE who is more in tune with nature and sensitive to its mindless and senseless destruction as Martha. When she was President of WGNSS, she had little cards printed saying, in effect, "Thank you for letting us bird on your land. It is a special place." We left them wherever it seemed suitable. As Martha Stewart would say to Martha Gaddy, "That is a GOOD thing." Martha was a very thoughtful and gracious President.

Of the many good times I've had birding with the Gaddys, one stands out for sheer beauty. We were near the river's edge in St. Charles County on a specially grey, misty winter day. There, not too far away, were a dozen or more great blue herons silhouetted against several layers of different tones of grey, looking like a carefully designed
(Cont'd next page)

TRIBUTE TO THE GADDY'S (Cont'd from page 4)

Japanese print. Another day, a Jan. first, it was so warm, we ate our lunch outside, wishing we had brought along a bottle of champagne to properly greet another year of good birding adventures!

These days, Martha and Bob usually just stay for half days when they come with the Thursday birders. We are always glad to see them. It makes those half days very special. So—THANK YOU to Bob and Martha, two quiet and modest people, who seemed truly surprised to have the Wild Bird Garden named for them. It is a tribute very well deserved.

John Karel, the Director of Tower Grove Park, is traveling and unable to attend this evening, but he asked me to share his congratulations and some comments with you. John noted that it has been a privilege for him to work with the Gaddys, and that doing so rekindled his own interest in birding. John also noted that the Gaddys have reminded us of the importance of wildlife habitat and its preservation, which has had a very beneficial effect on the direction of Tower Grove Park's overall restoration activities. This in turn should result in a richer park which is better for wildlife. The Gaddys also are involved with broader conservation issues. Bob is currently working with John Karel and others to gain support for a proposal for permanent legislative protection for seven "sensitive wilderness areas" in the Mark Twain National Forest. At its next meeting in a few weeks, the WGNSS Board will formally act on a recommendation that WGNSS endorse this proposal.

Bob and Martha, we have all benefited from and enjoyed your many contributions to WGNSS and our natural world. I ask that you now come forward. I am pleased to present you both with the 2007 WGNSS Lifetime Achievement Award. I would also like to give you this original artwork especially for you from Jim Ziebol. Congratulations!

Note: Many thanks to Rose Ann Bodman, Shawn Clubb, Marjorie Richardson, and John Karel for providing information for this tribute.

APRIL BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: April was not a good month for migrating birds, because of cold weather and adverse winds. The best movement occurred between the 19th and 23rd. Freezing temperatures injured or retarded the spring growth of flowering trees and shrubs, causing new leaves to emerge much later than usual.

Early Arrival Dates:

3/30/07	Marbled Godwit	Carlyle Lake	DK
3/31/07	Whimbrel	Riverlands	CM
4/2/07	Yellow-throated Vireo	Franklin County	DC
	Broad-winged Hawk	Franklin County	DC

(Cont'd next page)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

4/6/07	House Wren	Webster Groves	PL
4/8/07	Common Loon	Horseshoe Lake	JZ
4/9/07	Snowy Egret	Forest Park	SE
	Chimney Swift	Forest Park	SE
	Loggerhead Shrike	Hwy. C, St. Charles Co.	CM
4/11/07	Bank Swallow	Horseshoe Lake	JZ
	Spotted Sandpiper	Horseshoe Lake	JZ
	Avocet	Riverlands	Berger, BJ
	Hudsonian Godwit	Riverlands	Berger, BJ
4/12/07	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Riverlands	JU
4/15/07	Yellow Warbler	Elsa, IL	CH
	Black-bellied Plover	Little Creve Coeur Lake	MT
4/16/07	Scarlet Tanager	Tyson	NB
	Green Heron	Forest Park	SM
4/17/07	Worm-eating Warbler	Tyson	NB
	Kentucky Warbler	Tyson	NB
	Prothonotary Warbler	Castlewood	MB
4/18/07	Cerulean Warbler	Castlewood	MB
	Virginia Rail	Benton Park	LV
4/19/07	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Tower Grove Park	DC
	Swainson's Thrush	Tower Grove Park	J Chair
	Nashville Warbler	Shaw Nature Reserve	DH
	Tennessee Warbler	Shaw Nature Reserve	DH
	American Bittern	Clarence Cannon	DR
	White-faced Ibis	Clarence Cannon	DR
4/20/07	Wood Thrush	Tower Grove Park	J Cook
	Lark Sparrow	Tower Grove Park	JZ
	Summer Tanager	Tower Grove Park	EJ
	Blue-winged Warbler	Shaw Nature Reserve	WG
4/21/07	Solitary Vireo	Tower Grove Park	TK
	Willet	Riverlands	CA
	Common Yellowthroat	Busch	CH
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Tower Grove Park	JL
	Baltimore Oriole	Tower Grove Park	JZ
4/22/07	Palm Warbler	Blue Grosbeak Trail	DB
	Indigo Bunting	Busch	DB
	Ovenbird	Lost Valley Trail	LB
	Great-crested Flycatcher	Simpson Park	MB
	Orchard Oriole	Simpson Park	MB
	Eastern Kingbird	Simpson Park	MB
	Mississippi Kite	Webster Groves	RK
4/23/07	Bay-breasted Warbler	Tower Grove Park	DS
	Northern Waterthrush	Tower Grove Park	<i>fide</i> BH
	Chat	Lost Valley Trail	SC, J Cowan
	Nighthawk	Tower Grove Park	SC

(Cont'd next page)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

	Chuck-will's-widow	Greensfelder Park	MB
	Acadian Flycatcher	Shaw Nature Reserve	DH
	Cape May Warbler	Tower Grove Park	DG
4/24/07	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Jefferson County	M Peters
4/26/07	Hooded Warbler	Tower Grove Park	CS
	Common Moorhen	Monsanto	M Paradise
4/27/07	Clay-colored Sparrow	South St. Louis	DS
	Semipalmated Plover	Riverlands	DR
4/28/07	Philadelphia Vireo	Young C.A.	JZ
	Blue Grosbeak	Shaw Nature Reserve	CA
	Palm Warbler (eastern race)	Fults Hill Prairie	SM, YH
4/29/07	Veery	Tower Grove Park	<i>vide</i> BH
	Grasshopper Sparrow	Horseshoe Lake	FH
	Grasshopper Sparrow	Columbia Bottoms	Bormann, DR
4/30/07	Western Kingbird	Hwy. 203	FH
	Pine Siskin	Jefferson County	WG
5/1/07	Spotted Towhee	Jefferson County	WG
5/2/07	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Horseshoe Lake	FH
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Forest Park	J Majka
	Redstart	Tower Grove Park	BH
	Redstart	Forest Park	J Majka
	Magnolia Warbler	Tower Grove Park	JZ
	Black-necked Stilt	Riverlands	Unknown
	Mourning Warbler	Mallard Lake	Lorrie Vit
	Blackburnian Warbler	Forest Park	J Majka
	Stilt Sandpiper	Riverlands	DR
	White-rumped Sandpiper	Riverlands	DR
	Upland Sandpiper	Riverlands	DR
	Stilt Sandpiper	Riverlands	CM
	Laughing Gull	Riverlands	JU
5/3/07	Short-billed Dowitcher	Schoolhouse Road	FH

Sightings: The only Common Loon seen in April was in breeding plumage at HL on 4/8 (JZ). Common Loons are long-lived and they have not been replacing themselves for many years. An impressive 14 American Bitterns were seen at CC on 4/19 (DR) and Rose Ann Bodman found one at BCA on 4/30. A Cinnamon Teal was a good find at Winfield Dam on 4/7 (JE, JM). Allen Smith observed 3 Sora at St. Stanislaus Park on 4/20. Twelve Avocets were present at RMBS on 4/12 (JU). On 4/15, Mike Thelen reported Black-bellied Plover at LCCL. Two Marbled Godwits were found at CB on 4/12 (PB). Charlene Malone observed the following at RMBS on 4/11: 7 Hudsonian Godwits, 3 Whimbrels, 1 Franklin's Gull, 2 Baird's Sandpipers, 2 Am. Golden Plovers, and 4 Avocets. The Thursday Group found 8 Hudsonian Godwits, 2 Whimbrels, several Bonaparte's, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal at RMBS on 4/12. Seven Willets and 2 Dunlin were observed at RMBS on 4/27 (CA). Bill Rowe found 2 Wilson's (Cont'd next page)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

Phalaropes at CB on 4/29. Bonaparte Gull sightings at RMBS included 12 on 4/7 (MT) and several on 4/14 (J Moe). A Caspian Tern was found at RMBS on 4/15 (RW). On 4/26, Frank Holmes located 2 Forster's Terns at HL. Mick Richardson watched an Osprey soar over Mo. Botanical Garden on 4/7. A nesting pair of Red-shouldered Hawks was found in University City (JS).

Jim Malone found a Short-eared Owl at RMBS on 4/12. A Long-eared Owl was being harassed by crows at the east end of TGP on 4/26 (Peggy Zimmerman). Pairs of Great Horned Owls were found in FP on 4/10 (SC) and at McNair Park on 4/15 (J Moe). Several people reported a single Great Horned Owl in TGP (VL, CS). Mike Thelen visited SNR on 4/2 and found 6 Brown Creepers and Bewick Wrens. On 4/21, 10+ Winter Wrens, House Wren, Solitary Vireo, and Summer Tanager were seen in TGP (TK). A Brown Thrasher and 2 Chipping Sparrows were seen in Resurrection Cemetery on 4/15 (CZ). A very early Yellow-throated Vireo was found on 4/2 in northern Franklin County (DC) and one occurred in TGP on 4/21 (JL). On 4/28, a Yellow-throated Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker were seen in TGP (J Moe). Randy Korotev spent 4 hours at SNR on 4/22 and found 8 Henslow's Sparrows and 20 N. Parulas. During a NABA butterfly count at BCA on 4/15, counters observed 3 N. Parulas, an Osprey, and heard Yellow-throated Warbler (JZ, J Moe). David Rabenau visited CSP on 4/22 and saw 2 Cerulean Warblers. Three Cerulean Warblers, one very low, were found at LVT on 4/24 (J Chain). Claudia Spener and others viewed a Hooded Warbler in TGP on 4/26. Black-throated Green, Kentucky and White-eyed Vireo were good birds in TGP on 4/23 (SM). The eastern race of Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*, was seen at Fults Hill Prairie on 4/28 (YH, SM) and at BCA on 4/29 (JZ). A male and female Scarlet Tanager were viewed at Fults Hill Prairie on 4/28 (SM, YH). Several singing Henslow's Sparrows were reported at SNR on 4/21 (WG). A Lark Sparrow found at TGP on 4/20 was only the second one ever seen in the park (JZ). Another Lark Sparrow was seen at SNR on 4/23 (DH). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at RMBS on 4/27 (D Rogles). Because of a shortage of natural weedy habitat, birds like Rose-breasted Grosbeak and sparrows are coming to feeders this year. David Scheu reported a Clay-colored Sparrow at his home on 4/27, and on 4/28, Sherry McCowan found one in her Soulard garden, which was the fourth *Spizella* species for the year. Due to the current conditions, it is important to put out seeds and fruit for the birds all year long, and manage your yards to encourage insects. The Thursday Group went to LVT and BCA on 4/26, where they found Broad-winged Hawk, Orchard Oriole, and 13 species of warblers, including Cerulean at LVT. On 4/29, Frank Holmes found the following at HL: Horned Grebe, Grasshopper Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Bell's Vireo, Chat, and 18 Palm Warblers. Bill Rowe also reported 18 Palm Warblers at Columbia Bottoms that same day. Connie Alwood found the following at CB on 4/29: Willet, Sora, 50 Snipe and 60+ Yellowleg species. A Sunday WGNSS group, led by Margy Terpstra and Linda Yust, observed N. Parula, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, and Cerulean Warblers at CSP on 4/22.

(Cont'd next page)

APRIL BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

A typical day at FP on 4/22 included 30 Yellow-rumps, 6 N. Parulas, 2 Palms, 2 Nashvilles, Tennessee, Black-throated Green, and Blue-headed Vireo (RK).

Back Yard Birds: At Linda Virga's garden, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited her feeder and a Tufted Titmouse was feeding babies. A Baltimore Oriole was seen at Wally George's house in Cedar Hill from Jan. 19 to March 21 of this year. By 4/1, a Bewick's Wren had taken up residence at Don & Cheryl Delashmit's house in Franklin County, and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were nesting on their property. Cheryl stated that House Wrens had ejected Bewick's Wrens from their nest boxes in the past. Connie Alwood had 3 species of owls at his Ferguson home: Great Horned, Barred and Screech. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is a very good yard bird and was seen at CZ's home on 4/3. Sherry McCowan had several visits from a Brown Thrasher in April, and on 4/19, she found a Chipping Sparrow. Good birds in Tom Kennedy's yard included Phoebe, Towhee, White-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, and Cedar Waxwing. Other animals reported by WGNSS members were: an Otter at BCA (Margaret Johnson) and a Coal Skink at Bee Tree Park (SC).

Contributors: Gail Ahumada, Connie Alwood, Loy Barber, Nick Barber, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Dick Coles, Jean Cook, Jack Cowan, Dick Coles, Joe Eades, Steve Ewer, David Garcia, Wally George, Chris Hagenlocher, Jack Harris, Donald Hays, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Bill Hoss, Brad Jacobs, Eric Jeltis, Dan Kassebaum, Tom Kennedy, Randy Korotev, Vivian Liddell, Jennifer Lowe, Pat Lueders, Jurik Majka, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Mark Paradise, Mark Peters, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, David Scheu, John Solodar, Claudia Spener, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Lorrie Vit, Rad Widmer, Clarence Zacher, Jim Ziebol.

Abbreviations: BCA, Busch Conservation Area; CC, Clarence Cannon NWR; CL, Carlyle Lake; CSP, Castlewood State Park; CB, Columbia Bottoms; FP, Forest Park; HL, Horseshoe Lake; LP, Lafayette Park; LCCL, Little Creve Coeur Lake; MTC, Marais Temps Clair; RMBS, Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, SNR, Shaw Nature Reserve, TGP, Tower Grove Park.

RANDY KOROTEV SPECIAL PROGRAM

Randy Korotev, WGNSS webmaster, archivist for Missouri Xmas statewide bird count records, and distinguished amateur ornithologist, will present a special program "Birding North Dakota in June" at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters in Frontenac at 7 PM, Thursday, Sept. 6, 2007. This talk is sponsored by the WGNSS Ornithology Group. Mark your calendars for a program you won't want to miss!

WGNSS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

We welcome:

Margaret Johnson
St. Louis, MO 63130

We hope you will find a spot in one or more of our interest groups and begin your exploration of the world of nature. If you have questions, call any of the officers or interest group leaders, or the Editor. Names and telephone numbers of the officers/Editor will be found near the end of this (and every) issue. See the issue index on page 3.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Richard (Dick) Coles was pictured in the May 9, 2007 issue of the *Post-Dispatch* with uplifted binoculars, birdwatching. According to the newspaper, Dick's current goal is spotting more than 200 types of birds within a 50 mile radius of the St. Loits, in one year. He has already spotted 213 according to the newspaper.

PALISADES PRESERVE IS CREATED

The *Post-Dispatch* in its April 20, 2007 issue, reports that a "Palisade Preserve is created". 430 acres of native forest and limestone bluffs, overlooking the Illinois and Mississippi rivers will be permanently protected as a nature preserve.

ONE BOOK OF LIFE – Jim Adams

In my Historian's Corner, this issue, I mentioned that Carolus Linnaeus attempted to maintain a list of all known living species but eventually abandoned the project when the list became too large. The *Post-Dispatch*, in its May 9, 2007 issue, p. A-1, carried an article announcing that a consortium including the Missouri Botanical Garden and five museums, universities and labs, will create a website archiving information on the known 1.8 million living species. The Missouri Botanical Garden will make a major contribution, since its collections contain data on the 400,000 plants included in the 1.8 million known living species to be listed in the new website. MoBot will be one of the five major partners in creating this "One Book of Life" website. This new website hopes to bring together data on other groups of living things now maintained separately around the world.

UNCOMMON PROPERTY – Jim Adams

Wide-ranging WGNSS naturalists seek out areas of unusual interest for exploratory field trips. An article having this title (*Smithsonian*, May 2007 issue, p. 48-49) by Robert H. Mohlenbrock, distinguished professor emeritus of plant biology at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, describes such an area. Reportedly the area in Louisiana with the state's most unusual flora, the area is known as The Copenhagen Hills Preserve, near
(Cont'd next page)

UNCOMMON PROPERTY (Cont'd)

the small community of Copenhagen, in northern Louisiana. The author reports finding (in a three day visit) 87 species of trees, 26 kinds of shrubs, and 20 species of woody vines, 133 woody species in all. Totalling about 1500 acres, the property was acquired by the Nature Conservancy in 1999. In northern Louisiana, soil with an ancient link to the sea invites a unique flora. Visitor information can be obtained from The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA, 70821 (P.O. Box 4125 or Tel. 225-338-1040 or 318-412-0472).

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME – Paul Bockland

Renew your membership now. This is the last reminder you will receive before September when most memberships expire.

Continue to join with nearly 400 other nature lovers who have interests in Botany, Conservation; Entomology and Ornithology. You will continue to receive *Nature Notes* and be aware of opportunities to participate in a variety of nature-related activities.

It's easy to renew. Fill in the membership application form on the back page, write a check, and put both in the enclosed envelope. Mail to Michael Olson. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON.

If you gave a question about your present membership status, look at the upper right corner of your address label. If it says "exp. 31-08-2007", your membership expires this August and you'll stop receiving *Nature Notes* soon thereafter. If your label reads "exp. 31-08-2009", you've probably overpaid and you're really OK. If it reads "exp. 31-12-99", you are a life member and we hope you live that long. For those who joined in the middle of the year, the label may indicate your membership expires the end of a month other than August. We recommend you send your renewal soon any way (\$20) so you don't forget.

JIM HOLSEN II MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Jim Holsen will be held on Friday, June 1, 3 PM., at the Grace Episcopal Church, 514 E. Argonne (314-821-1806), in Kirkwood.

MARCH 2007 BOTANY GROUP REPORT – Jack Harris

March 05, 2007 Field Botany Trip. 10:00 am - 1:10 pm; Temperature in: mid 40s >> upper 50s, bright & sunny. Eight (8) Monday field trippers basked in the season's brisk sunny day as they explored Pea Ridge State Forest, Washington County, MO. Participants were: Fr. Sullivan, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jack Harris, Dave Alspaugh, Tom Kullman, Bill Knight, Bob Coffing, and John Oliver.

Two plants competed for plant of the day - the only flowers seen that day. They were: *Veronica sp.*, (speedwell) and *Hamamelis vernalis* (Ozark witch hazel). The native Ozark witch hazel was by far the winner with robust populations in full bloom on the gravel bars of Indian Creek. And winter leaves of *Anemone americana* (bluntleaf liverleaf) ((nee: *Hepatica nobilis v. acuta*)) could be seen on the small bluff on the opposite side of the creek.

(Cont'd next page)

MARCH 2007 BOTANY GROUP REPORT (Cont'd)

On a tour around the edge of the managed tall grass prairie bottom land on the south side, a sample listing of plants noted in their winter habit included: *Astragalus canadensis* var. *canadensis* (rattleweed), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (river oats), *Hypericum punctatum* (spotted St. John's wort), *Zanthoxylum americanum* (prickly ash), *Vitis aestivalis* (summer grape), *Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium ifolium* (fragrant cudweed), *Prunella vulgaris* (self-heal), *Helianthus mollis* (ashy sunflower), *Dianthus armeria* (Deptford pink), *Andropogon gyrans* var. *gyrans* (Elliott's broomsedge), *Pinus echinata* (short leaf pine), *Ptelea tripholiata* (common hop tree), and a small plantation and landscape plantings of *Pinus strobus* (eastern white pine).

Fr. Sullivan pointed out the distinctions between the winter characters of *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), compared to *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan). A cross section of the stem of the *Monarda* confirmed that it was indeed fistular (= hollow).

March 12, 2007 Field Botany Trip. 9:30AM - 12:45PM; Temperature in: upper 40s >> low 70s, partly sunny. Ten (10) Monday field trippers gathered at the Mooner's Hollow Trailhead: Rex Hill, Martha Hill, Diane Meyer, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, John Oliver, and Bill Knight accompanied by cohort Cody. The plan for the day was to explore the area south of the Park Office that lies between the south facing bluff and the Big River. Following that to hike a portion of Mooner's Hollow Trail. While exploration planning was in progress, Cody demonstrated the acceleration capacities of one person powered kick scooter operations in the parking area.

On the first leg of the journey anticipation was elevated by the flowers of *Draba verna* (vernal whitlow grass) and *Corylus americana* (hazelnut) in the vicinity of the adjacent picnic area. Those hopes were barely sustained. On the remainder of this hike, very few of any one species were found. The flowers found were *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Erigenia bulbosa* (harbinger-of-spring), *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), *Acer rubrum* (red maple) and *Cardamine concatenata* (toothwort). Testing the scope of knowledge of the group were various emerging leaves of *Trillium* sp., *Polemonium reptans* (Jacob's ladder), *Hydrophyllum* sp. (waterleaf). A population of paint brush tipped branches of *Asimina triloba* (paw paw) was wide spread along the lower slope of the bluff.

Turning to Mooner's Hollow, Martha Hill early discovered a single *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot) in bloom. *Anemone americana* (bluntleaf liverleaf) ((nee: *Hepatica nobilis* v. *acuta*)) was subsequently found in good bloom along the rocky outcroppings. A *Carpinus carolinianum* (hornbeam) with an uncharacteristically strongly twisted trunk was the focus of attention, discussion and several photographs.

Several itty-bitty minnows and darters were clearly visible in the clear, cold waters of Coonville Creek. Another sign of the much anticipated spring season.

March 19, 2007 Field Botany Trip. 9:30 am - 12 pm: Temperature in: low 50s >> upper 60s, overcast. Eleven (11) Monday field trippers gathered at the trailhead at Emmenegger Nature Park, Kirkwood, MO: Rex Hill, Martha Hill, Diane Meyer, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jack Harris, Nels Holmberg, Mary Havlicek, Karen Staloch, Jeannie Moe, and Fr. Sullivan..

With official spring looming near (i.e., 20 March), and aided by the warmest Monday weather so far this year, the early spring flora seekers were rewarded with the following plants in bloom: *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Lindera benzoin* (spice bush), *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), *Anemonella thalictroides* (rue anemone), *Cardamine concatenata* (toothwort), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot), *Glechoma hederacea* (ground ivy), *Veronica polita* (wayside speedwell), *Stellaria media* (common chickweed), and *Acer saccharinum* (silver maple).
(Cont'd next page)

MARCH 2007 BOTANY GROUP REPORT (Cont'd)

In close pursuit of those listed above were plants with emerging foliage or buds including a few that presented an identification challenge at that stage. Notwithstanding the challenge, the following is a sample list that were subjected to scrutiny and naming with close oversight by Fr. Sullivan: *Forestiera acuminata* (swamp privet), *Ornithogalum umbellatum* (star of Bethlehem), *Phlox divaricata* (wild sweet William), *Trillium sp.* (trillium), *Boechea laevigata* (smooth rock cress), *Carya ovata* (shagbark hickory), *Geum canadense* (white avens), *Sideroxylon lanuginosa* (gum bumelia), *Hydrophyllum virginianum* (waterleaf), and *Ptelea trifoliata* (common hop tree). Unfortunately the two invasive exotics *Lonicera maackii* (bush honeysuckle) and *Euonymus hederacea* (wintercreeper) were conspicuously ubiquitous

Nels Holmberg pointed out a population of *Anomodon minor* (tree apron moss) among other bright green mosses.

March 26, 2007 Field Botany Trip. 10:00 am - 12:30 pm; Temperature in: low 50s >> upper 60s, overcast. Eleven (11) Monday field trippers gathered at Silver Mines Recreation Area, Mark Twain National Forest, Madison County, MO: Participants were: Allen Brant, Kathy Thiele, Rex Hill, Martha Hill, Ann O'Donnell, Diane Meyer, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Bob Coffing, Jack Harris, Pat Harris and Fr. Sullivan.

One of the objectives of the days trip was to observe *Erythronium albidum* (white trout lily) and *Erythronium americanum ssp. americanum* (yellow trout lily) in bloom. Several plants of both species were soon found in bloom near the camp ground parking area by Fr. Sullivan. These were in close association were other spring flowering species, e.g.: *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Viola striata* (pale violet), *Viola sororia var. sororia* (common violet), *Phlox bifida* (cleft phlox), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot) and *Holosteum umbellatum* (jagged chickweed) and the introduced *Muscari comosum* (grape hyacinth).

Next the group caravanned to the Turkey Creek picnic area and walked the footpath parallel and near the St. Francois River which leads toward Millstream Gardens C. A. Many early bloomers were noted, some of the more showy being: *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), *Mertensia virginica* (bluebells), *Sedum ternatum* (three-leaved stonecrop), *Ranunculus harveyi* (Harvey's buttercup), *Nothoscordum bivalve var. bivalve* (crow poison), *Erysimum repandum* (bushy wallflower), and *Isopyrum biternatum* (false rue anemone). Not overlooked were *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass), *Pinus echinata* (shortleaf pine), *Carex albicans*, and *Diarrhena obovata* (American beakgrain).

GROW WILD GARDEN TOUR

What: 3rd annual Wild Garden Tour

When: June 24, 2007, 9 AM-3 PM

Sponsors: Sponsors: Shaw Nature Reserve, Wild Ones (Organization. promoting use of native plants in gardening)

Sites: 7 homes in SW county & Kirkwood plus Green Center plus former garden of author Edgar Denison

More information: Green Center (314) 725-8314/On-line: www.shawnature.org/

Linda Virga, 9740 Antonia, Dr. 63123 (314) 631-4488

Tickets: \$10 advance; \$14 at door

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
ORNITHOLOGY – SATURDAY Bird Walks – David Becher (314-576-1146) (If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)			
May 19	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance	8 AM	Becher
May 26	County Library	8 AM	Becher

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

Beginning Thursday, 3 May 2007, the group will begin meeting at 8 AM instead of 8:30 AM. For the first four May Thursdays we will meet at Tower Grove Park at the Maddy Bird Garden in the northwest corner of the park. We suggest parking on Magnolia Avenue. Those "westerners" who wish to carpool may meet at 8 AM at Des Peres Park. Beginning on 31 May **throughout the summer**, we will all resume meeting at Des Peres Park and proceed to where we hope there are birds.

Starting Thursday, 6 September, we will revert to the 8:30 AM meeting time due to school traffic.

For questions prior to birding days, my home phone is 314-644-5998 and my email is chainjac@sbcglobal.net. Beginning by 7:30 AM on birding days, my cell phone should be turned on at 314-497-1628.

There may need to be changes made down the line due to traffic problems with the onset of I-64/Hwy 40 construction, so stay tuned.

ORNITHOLOGY - SUNDAY BIRD WALKS

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

June 3, 2007	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) 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, May 20, 2007 at 7 PM – Did you know there are many ways to collect insects, other than using an aerial net or black light? Join us for an evening where WGNSS experts will demonstrate several other “Unusual Insect Collecting Techniques”. They will bring along insect specimens to show us the kinds of insects that can be collected using these techniques. We will be meeting in conference room 142, Biology Department, Macelwane Hall on the campus of St. Louis University. For directions to this event, feel free to contact Richard Thoma (314-965-6744) or thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net.

(For general information about WGNSS, contact Membership Chairman Paul Brockland at 314-961-4661)

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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.

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Jim Ziebol - Busch WA Breeding Bird Survey
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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
	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
Fri. 10/5	Mon. 10/15, 10-1, A/P
Fri. 11/9	Mon. 11/19, 10-1, A/P
Fri. 12/7	Mon. 12/17, 10-1, A/P

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 7-9 PM, 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.)

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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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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.

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