

Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line (314) 935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings
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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Ann Earley

The waning weeks of the summer season, shortening hours of daylight, and resumption of classes for most students are reminders that autumn, and the beginning of a new program year for WGNSS, are right around the corner. I hope that you had a pleasant summer and were able to participate in some nature activities (like WGNSS field trips!) that you enjoy.

A special program planned by the WGNSS Ornithology Group will kick off the fall season. Randy Korotev, WGNSS Webmaster and former Treasurer, will be sharing his experiences and photography from a recent birding trip to the upper Midwest. His presentation will be held at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on Lindbergh on Thursday, September 6 at 7 p.m. All WGNSS members and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend, so mark your calendars, and don't miss this opportunity to enjoy Randy's program and photography!

The WGNSS Board has voted to endorse the proposal by the Missouri Wilderness Coalition (MWC) for permanent legislative protection of seven "sensitive areas" of the Mark Twain National Forest and Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The seven areas, ranging in size from 2,500 to 13,800 acres, contain important habitat for many types of plants, birds, and other wildlife, including endangered species, and would receive enhanced protection under the provisions of the National Wilderness Preservation Act, under the MWC proposal. Nearly twenty state and local environmental and conservation organizations have formally endorsed the proposal. Information about the proposal and MWC is available at www.mowild.org or from MWC by calling 573-626-1021.

After a hiatus during the summer months, the WGNSS Board will meet on September 5 at 7 p.m. at Powder Valley. WGNSS members are welcome to attend meetings of the Board. We are always looking for members willing to donate their time and talents to our organization, either by serving on the Board or a committee, or by assisting with a Society activity or event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me or one of the other officers or Board members. WGNSS needs your skills and expertise!

We hope to see everyone at our first program meeting of the season on September 6!

IN MEMORIAM – KATHERINE H. FREIN – Jim Adams

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of long-time WGNSS member, Katherine H. Frein (nee Pickens). Katherine died on May 26, 2007. Katherine joined WGNSS in 1968. I frequently contacted her for information about long-ago WGNSS members. Her family were close friends of the Steyermarks, and she was a fount of information about them and other prominent early WGNSS families. She was buried in Calvary Cemetery on May 30.

VIRTUAL HITCHHIKERS

You can purchase almost anything on line, so be careful! Invasive, exotic species can be obtained and start their destructive journeys, Webmasters can help by warning about the dangers of trading exotic species and by pointing out the various regulations governing the movement of biological material (*Natural History*, June 2007, p. 14)

THE NORTH FORK WILDERNESS AREA – John Karel and Scott Merritt

The North Fork Wilderness is one of seven “sensitive areas in the NTNF that the Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) has worked to protect for over thirty years. The North Fork is one of the finest and most beloved of the Ozark float streams. A large block of wild forest cradles the North Fork in the Willow Springs unit of the MTNF. Recently issues regarding full federal designation have been resolved, and MCE and other Missouri conservation organizations have begun a campaign to enter the North Fork and six other sensitive areas into the National Wilderness system. (*MCE Alert*, Summer 2007)

MISSOURI BIRD CONSERVATION CONFERENCE SET FOR AUGUST

The fifth annual conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia, Aug. 24 and 25. For more information visit www.mobci.org or call 573-447-2249

VOLUNTEER WITH THE LITSINGER ROAD ECOLOGY CENTER.

If you're looking for a reason to be outdoors more and you enjoy working with school children, consider volunteering at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center (LREC). The center, managed by the Missouri Botanical Garden, is located on 34 acres in the heart of the metro area. LREC partners with students and educators will investigate and restore local ecosystems, including a bottomland woodland, tall grass prairie, and a creek. Education training will begin Sept. 10 and runs on succeeding Mondays through Nov. 12, 9 AM to 3 PM. Contact Jackie Juras at (314) 577-5187 for more information.

WGNSS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Carol Stecher	63127
Larry and Shirley Sievers	63123
William Boyce	63130
Janis Londe	63119

HISTORIAN'S CORNER - Jim Adams

In Memoriam - Rachel Carson (1907-1954)

The year 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of marine biologist Rachel Carson. She was born May 27, 1907 in Springdale, PA and died April 14, 1954 in Silver Spring, MD of cancer. She received an M. A. degree from Johns Hopkins University. She is remembered for her hugely successful book, SILENT SPRING (1962), but two other books, THE SEA AROUND US (1951) and THE EDGE OF THE SEA (1955) have added to her fame. In SILENT SPRING Carson called attention to the environmental hazards of DDT. In her 1951 book she included a chapter calling attention to the earth's oceans as the global thermostat and "the startling alteration of climate" now being observed (i.e., global warming), a very prescient observation.

The United States and Europe eradicated malaria by 1960 by the use of DDT. However, DDT was not used so extensively in Africa. As a result, many Africans remain at risk from malaria. In an article in the WALL STREET JOURNAL (June 12, 2007, "Give Us DDT"), Dr. Sam Zaramba, Ugandan Health Minister, says that "Misguided environmentalists are killing Africans". The pros and cons of DDT create a cruel dilemma: protect the environment or protect people? Other insecticides can be used, but DDT's low cost makes it the only viable agent for mosquito control in poor countries.

Today some in the U. S. believe our DDT ban is unnecessary. Recently Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma blocked two resolutions honoring Carson, declaring "her work was based on 'junk science' and that DDT's ban is causing millions of deaths from malaria". Many Africans feel the same way, blaming Carson for the DDT bans still in place in much of Africa. (Some of the information in this article was taken from the POST-DISPATCH, June 5, 2007, p. B7)

Editor's Note - There's an ancient adage that seems to apply here: "One man's meat is another man's poison". The DDT problem is a first-class conundrum. Comments, anybody?

WHAT'S AHEAD?

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SOME HELPFUL ADVICE:

Drive carefully; it's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

SPRING ENTOMOLOGY SPEAKERS – Rich Thoma

The entomology group had a great series of speakers in the spring of 2007. Presentations covered many of the major groups of insects including butterflies, dragonflies, walkingsticks, lice and beetles. We had a range of subjects from discussions about endangered species to unique insect collecting techniques. A short review of each presentation follows:

Phil Koenig, 20+ year veteran member of WGNSS, started the year with a talk about his butterfly collecting expedition to the Loess Hills of northwestern Missouri in 2006. One of the goals for this trip was to locate populations of butterflies that are on the Missouri Department of Conservation "Species of Concern" checklist. On this trip, Phil visited over a dozen sites including State Parks, Conservation and Nature Conservancy Lands. One species of particular interest to Phil on this trip is the Ottoe Skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*). This butterfly has only been found on high quality, undisturbed prairies in Missouri. There are no recent reports of this butterfly in Missouri and it is thought to be highly endangered in the state. Unfortunately, no Ottoe Skippers were found on this field trip. Phil reported that two of the sites where this butterfly was found in the past, no longer have prairie habitat and are not likely to have any Ottoe Skippers. Two other "Species of Concern", the Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) and the Cross-lined Skipper (*Polites origenes*) were found on the prairies of northwestern Missouri. Phil found for the first time European Skippers (*Thymelicus lineola*) at Dunn Ranch, a Nature Conservancy site. This invasive species has been steadily moving westward and has only recently been reported in Missouri. The find of the trip though was a Two-spotted Skipper (*Euphyes bimaculata*). Phil reported at the entomology meeting that this is a new state record.

In February, Jane Walker, vice-president of WGNSS, gave us a review of the work she has been doing to locate populations of the federally listed endangered Hine's Emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). This midwestern dragonfly was first collected in Ohio in 1929. The dragonfly is believed to be extinct at this site today. Hine's Emerald dragonflies have been reported in small scattered populations throughout the Midwest, including Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Missouri. In Missouri, the Hine's Emerald has been located in 10 counties, at 25 + sites, primarily in and around the St. Francois Mountains. None of the populations are thought to be large. Jane reports that the dragonfly requires fens that have shallow water flowing over the surface and a dolomite or limestone substrate. In Missouri, these sites are typically small, an acre or two in size and isolated. Larvae of the Hine's Emerald live in burrows of the Devils Crayfish (*Cambarus diogenes*). Adults are seen for only a few weeks each year and can easily be confused with two other closely related species. The information Jane has gathered about the Hine's Emerald dragonfly in Missouri is being used to support a federal recovery effort for this species.

George Winkler, longtime WGNSS member and former St. Louis Zoo Insect caretaker gave a talk titled "Of Lice and Men" at the March entomology group meeting. For a subject, not many want to hear about, George made the topic one that all should learn. We learned that most mammal and bird species have their own species of lice. Lice found on dogs and cats for example cannot survive on people. Typically there is a one to one relationship, one louse species for each mammal or bird. Humans are an exception having two species that occupy specific regions of the body. We learned that lice parasitism in people is on the rise and that the lice can transmit some nasty diseases. George finished his talk with a medical description of how to control this unwanted pest. After his talk was over, the entomology group wanted to thank the Winkler's for allowing us to use their home as a meeting location over the past two years. The Winkler's are moving away from St. Louis in the summer of 2007 to be with family. George and Pat were presented with two art prints of Saturniid moths for their many years with the Entomology group and their support of our group.

In April, we had a guest speaker from St. Louis University, Dr. Gerardo Camilo. He talked about his work with a tropical walkingstick, *Lamponious portoricensis* in the Caribbean. The walkingstick is very large, 12 to 18 inches long and feeds on pepper plants (in the genus *Piper*). Toxins from the pepper plants are sequestered in the tissues of *Lamponious*. When attacked by a predator, *Lamponious* is able to defend itself by secreting these toxins. Dr. Camilo has been sprayed by these insects while studying them in their native habitats. He described the sensation as extremely nasty. Red welts form on the skin and if the chemical gets in the eye, it feels like your eyeballs are on fire. Dr. Camilo studied how populations of these insects change when the forest habitat disappears. He discovered that there is a high turnover of the tropical rainforest on Caribbean islands. In Brazil tropical rainforests last for hundreds of years without change. In the Caribbean, there is a complete forest turnover every 57 years. Hurricanes are the biggest destroyer of Caribbean rain forest. We learned that after a hurricane, *Lamponious* walkingsticks have a difficult time returning. Even after the forest has regrown, it can be many years before a walkingstick population returns to normal. Dr. Camilo ended the evenings talk by speculating that

with global warming, more hurricanes could develop causing more frequent forest loss in the Caribbean. Insect species like *Lamponious portoricensis* may find it more difficult to adapt to a changing environment.

Our final talk for the spring 2007 season looked at unique insect collecting techniques. Ted MacRae and Larry Watrous, longtime members of WGNSS, gave demonstrations on the specialized insect collecting techniques they use. Larry demonstrated how to use a Berlese Funnel to collect leaf litter and soil insects. The Berlese Funnel is considered a behavioral extractor because heat and light are used to drive insects out of the soil and into an alcohol trap. Most insects that are collected with a Berlese Funnel are tiny, less than ¼ inch in size. The commonest species are often found in open forest floor litter. To get a wider variety of insect species, Larry has learned to sample a variety of leaf litter habitats. Some of the best litter to sample includes areas directly under specific tree species, damp meadows, and wet and dry stream drift. Ted MacRae demonstrated his technique for raising wood boring beetles from the orders Cerambycidae and Buprestidae. Ted does a lot of his collecting in the winter, looking for dead trees and branches. These he brings home and stores in large drums. Throughout the spring and summer, Ted routinely checks these drums for insects that have emerged from the wood. The advantage of this technique is that he not only collects an adult insect but he also knows the host wood the species fed upon as a larvae. For most wood boring beetle species, a location is the only thing known about the species. Ted has added tremendously to our knowledge about the life histories of these beetles using this unique collecting technique.

Entomology talks during the fall of 2007 look to be just as exciting. Our first group meeting will be the traditional "Show and Tell" night. Everyone that comes to the meeting is encouraged to bring insects they have collected over the summer and anything else insect related that others may enjoy. If you have a new interest in insects, this is a chance to learn about something out of the ordinary. If you have a photo of an insect and would like to know what it is, now is your chance. September's meeting will have many experts who can help you to identify that insect you found on one of the summer's field trips you took. All are welcome.

HABITATS – Jim Adams

Habitat is a familiar word for naturalists. Each of us has his or her personal definition for the word, and likely an accompanying mental image of a favorite spot, a place where we see flora or fauna that we enjoy. But it's unlikely that a reader of this article has attempted to classify habitats mentally except in such generic terms as prairie, woodland, or seashore.. You may be surprised to learn that a familiar government agency, the Postal Service, has publicized a number of natural habitats and has issued elegant pictorials of each. Each pictorial contains embedded postage stamps portraying the flora and fauna of the area.

As an example, on Oct. 4, 2006 the Postoffice issued its eighth pictorial souvenir sheet, "Southern Florida Wetland" at Naples, Florida. As customary, the sheet displays the flora and fauna of this hypothetical habitat, with ten different first class stamps. While the beautiful souvenir sheet is intended for framing, the embedded postage stamps can be peeled off by anyone crass enough to destroy the lovely scene. This "Nature of America" series was initiated in 1999, with the Sonoran Desert habitat featured. The writer hopes the Postoffice will continue this practice.

A "CURE" FOR HOT WEATHER – Jim Adams

The July 15 issue of the *Post-Dispatch*, Explore section, contains a full-page color photo of two people in a rubber raft in the canyon of Alaska's upper Kenai River. White water, rugged rock outcrops, verdant evergreens, and snow-capped peaks are much in evidence. The two men in the rubber raft are WGNSS member Charlie Hoessle, former Zoo Director, and his son Kirk. If you still have the copy lying around, look at the picture and cool off. Kirk runs Alaska Wildland Adventures.

MAY BIRD REPORT - Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Early Arrival Dates:

5/5	Dickcissel	Confluence Park	BR
	Dickcissel	Horseshoe Lake	FH
	Alder Flycatcher	Horseshoe Lake	FH
	Willow Flycatcher	Horseshoe Lake	FH, JZ
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Tower Grove Park	YH, JZ
	Western Grebe	Carlyle Lake	CM
5/6	Black-billed Cuckoo	Tower Grove Park	MJ
5/7	Black Tern	Riverlands	TF
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Tower Grove Park	SM
5/10	Painted Bunting	Weldon Springs/Katy Trail	DR
5/13	Common Tern	Horseshoe Lake	J Moorman, MP
5/14	Least Bittern	BK Leach	DR/TB
5/15	Sanderling	Winfield Dam	BS
5/21	Connecticut Warbler	Tower Grove Park	MR
5/25	Spotted Towhee	Tower Grove Park	MT
5/26	Least Tern	Riverlands	DR, TB
	Glossy Ibis	Indian Lake	P&BJ
6/8	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Shaw Nature Reserve	JH

Sightings: Four hundred Pelicans were observed on 5/1 at HL (FH). John Solodar reported a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in FP on 5/9 and Rose Ann Bodman saw 2 there on 5/21. Frank Holmes reported 9 Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests in Wilson Park, Granite City. Good birds for 5/14 at BK Leach included American and Least Bittern, Sora, and Lark Sparrow (P&BJ). A pair of Hooded Mergansers were seen at HL on 5/2 (FH) and 3 females were observed at Indian Lake on 5/19 (DBecker, Saturday Group). The Saturday Group also found a Common Moorhen at HL that day. On 5/5, Jackie Chain found a Virginia Rail in TGP; this is only the third one seen there since the early 1990s. Dave Rogles reported 14 species of shorebirds at Riverlands on 5/2, including 3 Avocets, 5 Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plover, and 50 Dowitcher species. Ten Sanderlings, a very high number for the St. Louis area, were seen at Winfield Dam on 5/15 (BS). Two Black-bellied Plovers and an American Golden Plover were located at Riverlands on 5/28 (DR). Laughing Gulls were seen on 5/2 at Riverlands (JU, DR), one at HL on 5/16 (FH), and 3 at Riverlands on 5/21 (JE). Two Herring Gulls and 10+ Caspian Terns were reported at Riverlands on 5/2 (DR). A dark-mantled gull was seen at Riverlands on 5/4 and was thought to be a Lesser Black-backed by Frank Holmes but this bird was not identified on 5/5 by Dave Rogles and Tom Bormann. This third-winter gull was indeed a puzzle. On 5/26, a Least Tern was reported at Riverlands (DR, TB). Shawn Clubb found 12 Black Terns at HL on 5/16. Good numbers of Forster's Tern included 10 at HL on 5/3 (FH) and 23 at HL on 5/5 (FH, YH). The first Common Terns were reported at HL on 5/4 (MP, JMoorman). On 5/15, Scott Schuette found 300 Black Terns and 3 Common Terns at Winfield Dam, and Frank Holmes found 132 Black Terns at HL on 5/16.

Clarence Zacher reported 2 Turkey Vultures in FP on 5/13. An Osprey being mobbed by crows and 3 Mississippi Kites were seen near Big Bend and Berry Road on 5/7 (PL). On 5/13, 2 Mississippi Kites were perched in tall oaks in Brentwood (YH) and on 5/15, 2 were seen at CSP (MB). The first Black-billed Cuckoo of the year was seen at TGP on 5/6 by Margaret Johnson. Sherry McCowan checked out Walker Island, HL, on 5/13, where she encountered Black-billed Cuckoo, Prothonotary Warbler, Cape May, Lincoln's Sparrow and 6 Blackpolls. Four Nighthawks were seen at McCausland and Clayton on 5/7 (JChain). Good birds seen at TGP by the Thursday Group on 5/17 included Red-headed Woodpecker, Redstart, and Magnolia Warblers (JChain). Mike Thelen found an Olive-sided Flycatcher at TGP on 5/24. Alder Flycatchers were reported at HL on 5/5 (FH), at the Weldon Spring/Katy Trail on 5/11 (CM) and at HL on 5/20 (FH).

Rad Widmer reported a Prairie Warbler at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 5/3. It was a good year for Hooded Warblers, with multiple sightings, including 1 near Alton on 5/5 (SC), 1 at SNR on 5/20 (DB), 1 at CSP on 5/29 (MB), and 1 at Tyson on 5/31 (NB). A Canada Warbler seen at Confluence Park on 5/5 was somewhat early (BR). Two Mourning Warblers were observed at CSP on 5/8 (MB). Others were reported at Weldon Spring/Katy Trail on 5/12 (YH), at TGP on 5/13 (JP), and BCA on 5/13 (JMoe). A Mourning Warbler, along with a Connecticut Warbler, were found in TGP on 5/21 (MR). Sherry McCowan visited Lafayette Park on 5/4 where she found Veery, Indigo Bunting and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The Saturday Group was at CSP on 5/5 and found 6 Baltimore Orioles, 5 Scarlet Tanagers, and a perched juvenile Bald Eagle being harassed by 2 Red-shouldered Hawks (MB). On 5/8, 3 Grasshopper Sparrows were observed at Confluence Park (JChain). A Spotted Towhee was found in TGP on 5/21 (MT, JP). The first Painted Bunting in the St. Louis area was a female seen on 5/28 at the usual spot at Weldon Spring/Katy Trail (DR). On the SLAS field trip to Columbia Bottoms on 5/19, participants found several Great-tailed Grackles, Peregrine Falcon, Grasshopper Sparrow and Blue Grosbeaks (MT, CA).

A typical day in Kennedy Forest, FP, on 5/2, included Redstart, Black-and-white, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Golden-winged, Nashville, Parula, Yellowthroat, Tennessee, and Yellow-rumped Warblers (JMajka). A typical day at TGP on 5/25 included Black-and-white, Redstart, Magnolia, Canada, Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, and E. Wood Pewee (JChain, Thursday Group).

Back Yard Birds: Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and an Indigo Bunting visited Linda Virga's feeder in early May. Linda also saw a Pewee and a hummingbird on 5/14. On 5/5, Margy Terpstra photographed a male Cerulean Warbler in her yard, one of 50 species present that day. A Mississippi Kite was a new species for Wally George in Cedar Hill; he also saw a male Spotted Towhee. A Blackburnian Warbler was a good yard bird for Jane Walker on 5/23. On 5/7, Ron Goetz observed 6 Indigo Buntings simultaneously in his yard. A late report for April: a Pine Siskin at Wally George's home on 4/30.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Loy Barber, Nick Barber, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb,

Joe Eades, Tom Fuller, David Garcia, Wally George, Jim Hickner, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Margaret Johnson, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Randy Korotev, Vivian Liddell, Pat Lueders, Jurik Majka, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Mark Paradise, Mark Peters, Joe Pinnell, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Bruce Schuette, John Solodar, 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 Crevè Coeur Lake; MTC, Marais Temps Clair; RMBS, Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, SNR, Shaw Nature Reserve, TGP, Tower Grove Park.

STATEWIDE WATER TRAIL WOULD BE NATION'S LONGEST

Work continues on the information campaign on the Missouri River water trail, named after Lewis and Clark. Missouri departments are developing an information campaign for Missourians and state visitors. At 500 miles, this would be the nation's longest water trail and could emulate the tourism and economic success of the Katy Trail State Park, which is used by more than 300,000 people each year. For more information, visit www.missouririverwatertrail.org. (*Missouri Resources*, Spring/Summer 2007, p. 17)

MAY-JUNE BOTANY REPORTS – George R. Van Brunt

May 7, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Fourteen WGNSS botanists met at 10:30am on a warm, sunny day at the boat launch parking lot at Sioux Passage Park. This park is in far north St. Louis County, on the Missouri River, and the boat launch is directly across from Pelican Island. The WGNSS botanists met here because many were going to participate in River Camp 07 on Pelican Island from 1pm to 5pm. Before lunch, however, we botanized along a gravel trail that meandered along the river.

The habitat we explored was Missouri River bottomland. We identified many native and non-native species on our walk. We saw *Humulus japonicus* (Japanese hops), an invasive species native to Asia, and *Phytolacca americana* (pokeweed), an American native which is an invasive exotic in Japan. Other European and/or Asian natives that we identified included *Rumex patientia* (patience dock), *Rorippa sylvestris* (creeping yellow cress), *Verbascum thapsus* (woolly mullein), *Arenaria serpyllifolia* (thyme-leaved sandwort), *Ornithogalum umbellatum* (Star-of-Bethlehem), and *Glechoma hederacea* (ground ivy). For a moment, we thought that a plant we found was *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock) because of its fern-like leaves, but its camphor-like scent identified it as *Artemisia annua* (sweet wormwood). Among the native plants we identified was *Carex hyalinolepis*, a particularly large bladed sedge. This species is a wind pollinated species and has separate male and female flowers. Other native plants were *Packera glabella* (butterweed), *Erigeron philadelphicus* (Philadelphia fleabane), *Agastache nepetoides* (yellow giant hyssop), *Geranium carolinianum* (wild cranesbill), *Oenothera biennis* (common evening primrose), *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), and *Galium aparine* (cleavers).

When flower development is initiated, four whorls of cells are present in the floral embryonic tissue or meristem. These differentiate into the calyx, corolla, stamens, and carpels. The calyx consists of the sepals and the corolla consists of the petals. In lilies like *Ornithogalum*

umbellatum, the sepals look very much like the petals. The sepals and can be distinguished from the petals by their slightly lower insertion on the receptacle. Also, the underside of the sepals in *Ornithogalum umbellatum* has a larger green area than the underside of the petals. When sepals and petals look alike they collectively are called tepals. The word tepal is a combination of petal and sepal.

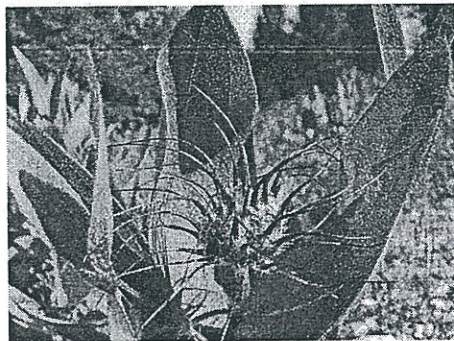
May 14, 2007 Botany Field Trip

We had planned to botanize at Lower Meramec County Park in St. Louis County, but due to flooding on the Meramec River the park was closed, so instead we traveled to Mastodon State Historic Site. There 13 botanists walked the trails through upland forest and open meadow. One interesting plant we found flowering was *Ptelea trifoliata* (wafer ash), a member of the Rutaceae, the citrus family. There are only two native members of the Rutaceae in Missouri, and the other is prickly ash, *Zanthoxylum americanum*. We identified two species of the tomato/potato family in bloom. They were *Physalis heterophylla* (clammy ground cherry) and *Physalis virginiana* (Virginia ground cherry). Another blooming plant was *Silene antirrhina* (sleepy catchfly). The stems of this plant have inch long sections that are darker than the rest of the stem and very sticky. The function of these sticky sections may be to stop ants and other walking insects from reaching the top parts of the plant. Other plants in bloom were *Triodanis perfoliata* (common Venus' looking glass), *Arenaria serpyllifolia* (thyme-leaved sandwort), *Glandularia canadensis* (rose verbena), *Viola striata* (white or striped violet), *Aristolochia serpentaria* (Virginia snakeroot), *Triosteum perfoliatum* (late horse gentian), *Aquilegia canadensis* (columbine), and *Sanicula odorata* (black snakeroot). Plants not in bloom included *Arisaema dracontium* (green dragon), *Trillium recurvatum* (purple trillium), *Trillium viride* (green trillium), and *Passiflora lutea* (small passion-flower).

May 21, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Eighteen eager botanists met on a sunny, warm morning at Victoria Glade Preserve in Jefferson County. Parts of the glade had been burned in March and the effects were evident. Most cedar trees in the burned area were dead and there was a healthy profusion of herbaceous plants. Prominent on the glade were the large yellow flowers of *Oenothera macrocarpa* (Missouri evening primrose). These large, almost glowing, flowers are pollinated by a night flying sphinx moth. *Clematis fremontii* (Fremont's leather flower) was also very abundant on the glade. We found one lone flower on one plant, while the rest of these plants were in fruit. Each flower produces a silky cluster of achenes, each with its own long spine or beak.

Clematis fremontii fruit



The blooms of *Castilleja coccinea* (Indian paintbrush), *Echinacea simulata* (glade coneflower), *Asclepias viridis* (green-flowered milkweed), and *Coreopsis lanceolata* (sand

coreopsis) decorated the hillsides. Also blooming, but in smaller numbers, were *Scutellaria parvula* (small skullcap), *Psoraleidum tenuiflorum* (scurf-pea), *Parthenium integrifolium* (feverfew), *Verbena simplex* (narrow-leaved vervain), *Lithospermum canescens* (orange puccoon), *Amorpha canescens* (leadplant), *Hedyotis longifolia* (long-leaved bluets), and *Baptisia australis* (blue wild indigo). We also found *Pedimelum esculentum* (prairie turnip). The name *Pedimelum* comes from Greek and means "apple of the plains", while the name *esculentum* comes from Latin and means "edible". None of us, however, ventured to eat this plant, although Native Americans ate its roots like we eat potatoes.

May 28, 2007 Botany Field Trip

It was a partly cloudy, warm morning at the Dana Brown Woods in the Shaw Nature Reserve where 14 WGNSS botanists met. We walked through forest, glade and savannah habitats. Much of the glade area had been burned recently and we were interested in seeing the results. As we observed last week, most of the cedar trees were dead and the herbaceous plants showed vigorous growth. Among the more interesting of the many plants we found blooming were *Matelea decipiens* (climbing milkweed), *Asclepias purpurascens* (purple milkweed), *Cryptotaenia canadensis* (honestwort), *Aristolochia serpentaria* (Virginia snakeroot), *Scutellaria ovata* (heart-leaved skullcap), *Polytaenia nuttallii* (prairie parsley), *Delphinium carolinianum* (wild blue larkspur), *Parietaria pensylvanica* (pellitory), *Lespedeza violacea* (violet bush clover), and *Callitriche terrestris* (starwort).

June 11, 2007 Botany Field Trip

During the past year or two, WGNSS botanists have visited various parts of the LaBarque Creek watershed in Franklin County. This is an unusual area because the bedrock is St. Peter's sandstone, whereas much of Missouri bedrock is limestone. The acidic and sandy nature of the soils in the LaBarque Creek watershed promote the growth of many species not found in much of the rest of Missouri. Most of our visits have been to private property, with the owner's permission of course, and sometimes we have visited an area owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Nels Holmberg has been very active in cataloging plant species in the watershed, having spent much more time there than the Monday WGNSS botanists. Bob Coffey, a landowner whose property is at the edge of the watershed, is very active in the preservation and conservation of the area. These two botanists set up still another visit to some private property within the watershed for this field trip.

Ten botanists met on a mild, but cloudy, sometimes drizzly morning. We explored a small unnamed tributary of LaBarque Creek, a large field once used for agriculture, sandstone bluffs, and upland forest. During our explorations we found a number of sedges of the genus *Carex*, in the family Cyperaceae. *Carex* is the largest plant genus in Missouri with 128 species and, while the genus is fairly easy to identify, the species are not. These grass-like plants are commonly referred to as nut grasses. We identified *Carex glaucoidea* (blue sedge), *C. lurida* (lurid sedge), *C. eburnea* (bristle-leaved sedge), *C. vulpinoidea* (fox sedge), *C. bushii* (Bush's sedge), *C. jamesii* (Jame's sedge), *C. normalis* (spreading oval sedge), *C. retroflexa* (reflexed sedge), *C. blanda* (eastern woodland sedge), *C. amphibola* (eastern narrowleaf sedge), *C. oligocarpa* (richwoods sedge), *C. hirsutella* (hairy green sedge), *C. torta* (twisted sedge), *C. leavenworthii* (Leavenworth's sedge), and *C. rosea* (curly-styled wood sedge). Another group of grass-like plants are the rushes, family Juncaceae. We identified *Juncus effusus* (soft rush), *Juncus tenuis* (path rush), and *Luzula campestris* (wood rush). The true grasses, family Poaceae, that we identified included *Danthonia spicata* (poverty grass), *Glyceria striata* (fowl meadow grass), *Sorghum halepense* (Johnson grass), *Bromus pubescens* (Canada brome), *Panicum acuminatum*

(panic grass), *Panicum clandestinum* (deer-tongue grass), *Panicum laxiflorum* (few-flowered panic grass), *Panicum linearifolium* (panic grass), *Panicum oligosanthes* var. *scribnerianum* (panic grass), and *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem). The identification of grasses and grass-like plants is a challenging exercise in plant identification. There were, of course, many other non-grass(like) species present on our walk.

June 18, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Eleven botanists met at the same time, same place, and under the same weather conditions as last week. This week we explored a sandstone box canyon located in the upper reaches of the unnamed tributary of LaBarque Creek. Here we identified many plants that we have previously seen in similar box canyons in the LaBarque Creek watershed. These included *Aristolochia serpentaria* (Virginia snakeroot), *Circaea lutetiana* (enchanter's nightshade), *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Aralia racemosa* (American spiknard), *Actaea pachypoda* (doll's eyes), *Huperzia lucidula* (shining clubmoss), *Saxifraga pensylvanica* (Forbes' saxifrage), *Hydrastis canadensis* (golden seal), *Samolus parviflorus* (water pimpernel), *Sullivantia sullivantii* (sullivantia), *Silene stellata* (starry campion), *Scutellaria ovata* (heart-leaved skullcap), *Hydrangea arborescens* (wild hydrangea), and *Vaccinium pallidum* (lowbush blueberry). Among the ferns we identified was *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive fern), so called because the plant is sensitive to the cold and the leaves wither during the first frost of the fall.

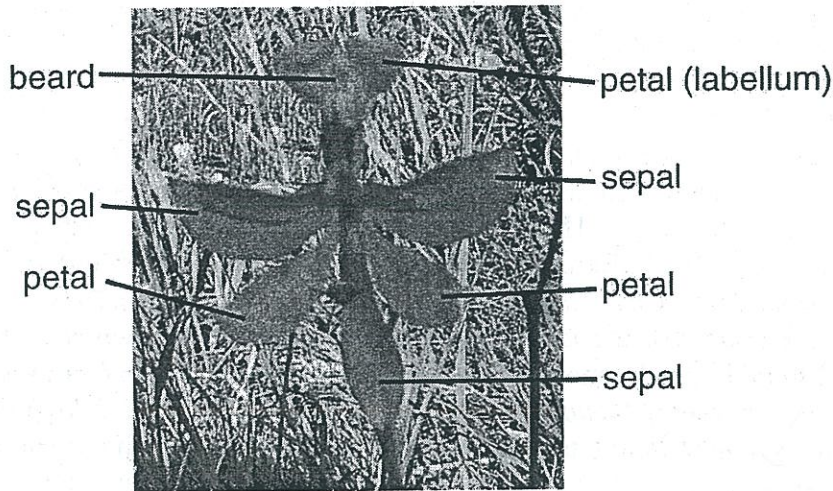
June 25, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Eleven WGNSS botanists met in the northern part of St. Francois State Park. We did not enter the park through the main entrance, but through a service road off Route 67. We parked on the sides of the service road and immediately found a highlight. It was *Cirsium carolinianum* (Carolina thistle), a native thistle found only in 12 Missouri counties, all but one in the southeastern part of the state.

We walked the service road to reach the Coonville Creek Natural Area which included a large fen of many acres. The fen was an open area something like a glade, but there the resemblance ended. Unlike a glade which is rocky and dry, the fen is constantly wet, fed by springwater seepage; Coonville Creek coursed through the fen. The vegetation reflected the abundant supply of springwater and included such springwater loving species as *Lysimachia quadriflora* (narrow-leaved loosestrife), *Pycnanthemum virginianum* (Virginia mountain mint), *Pedicularis lanceolata* (swamp wood betony), *Oxypolis rigidior* (cowbane), *Rudbeckia fulgida* (orange coneflower), *Packera aurea* (golden ragwort), *Arnoglossum plantagineum* (Indian plantain), *Calamintha arkansana* (low calamint), *Liatris pycnostachya* (prairie blazing star), *Hypericum punctatum* (spotted St. John's wort), *Asclepias verticillata* (horsetail milkweed), and *Lobelia spicata* (spiked lobelia). We also identified *Sabatia angularis* (rose pink) which is neither a rose nor a pink, but rather a member of the gentian family.

Another highlight of our walk was seeing numerous *Calopogon tuberosus* (grass pink orchid) in bloom on the fen. This orchid is only found in four Missouri counties, St. Francois, Iron, Reynolds, and Shannon. Orchid flowers are bilaterally symmetrical, having 3 petals and three sepals, and in most orchids the sepals are as showy as the petals. The median petal, or lip, also called the labellum (Latin for lip), takes many different forms, has many colors and patterns, and serves as an attractant for the pollinator. The labellum is the highest petal of the three but in most orchids the flower stem, or pedicel, is twisted so the flower is upside down, or resupinate, and the labellum is the lowest petal. The labellum of *Calopogon tuberosus* is nonresupinate; the flower is right side up and the labellum is the highest petal. A part of the *Calopogon tuberosus*

labellum is covered with yellow club-shaped hairs. The name *Calopogon* is Greek meaning "beautiful beard", as this patch of yellow hairs looks something like a beard. The flowers of this orchid reminded this writer of a very large, pink, dragon fly.



PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

"*Ptychomitrium serratum* (Musci: Ptychomitriaceae) New to Missouri and the Interior Highlands of North America", by Carl Darigo & Nels Holmberg. 2006. *Evansia* 23(4): 98-99.

"*Sphagnum fallax* (Musci: Sphagnaceae) New to Missouri and the Interior Highlands of North America", by Carl Darigo & Nels Holmberg, 2007. *Evansia* 24(1): 15-16

Evansia is published by the American Bryological and Lichenological Society of America.

THE NATURE NOTES ARCHIVES

A bound index volume has been prepared for the bound volume file of *Nature Notes* in the Missouri Botanical Gardens Library for volumes bound without indexes (Vols. 1-72, 1929-2000). (Indexing was not accomplished during until recently, with the completion of a three-year indexing project.) Subsequent bound volumes in the MBG file (currently Vols. 73-76, 2001-2004) contain bound-in indexes. Any one wanting to consult the MBG File of *Nature Notes* should contact the Serials and Continuations Librarian, currently Ms. Victoria McMichael. WGNSS greatly appreciates the invaluable assist of the MBG in maintaining this file. This archival file will insure long-term retention of the irreplaceable botanical and ornithological field notes published each issue of *Nature Notes*..

IMPORTANT NOTE; Indexes for annual volumes from 1929 through 2006 are also available from the WGNSS website, www.wgnss.org..

JUNE BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: Without a doubt, the best bird of the summer was the Neotropic Cormorant at Horseshoe Lake, first found on 6/28 by Frank Holmes.

Sightings: Pelicans were reported, with 40 individuals at HL on 6/3 (FH), and 100+ at Moredock Lake on 6/1 (WG). Besides spotting the Neotropic Cormorant, Frank Holmes also located a Least Bittern and 6 Yellow-crowned Night Herons at HL on 6/28. Jackie Chain and Rose Ann Bodman recorded 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, 2 Black-crowned Night Herons, along with Green Heron and a Snowy Egret, on Bend Road at HL on 6/29. On 6/1, Wally George located 40 Great Egrets, 30 Snowy Egrets, and 30 Little Blue Herons just south of the J.B. Bridge in Monroe County, IL. Both Sherry McCowan and Clarence Zacher reported Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, and Snowy Egret in FP during June. In FP, Sherry McCowan photographed a Green Heron eating an adult Bull Frog, which is quite a feat. Duck sightings in June included 26 Wood Ducks, 2 Ring-necked, and 12 Hooded Mergansers at Two River NWR on 6/9 (MT), and on 6/16, Mike spotted a possible Whistling Duck at B.K. Leach. A first summer Franklin's Gull was seen at Riverlands on 6/9 (D Becher). Between 6/1 and 6/3, an adult Laughing Gull was being seen at HL (FH) and on 6/7, Frank observed a Herring Gull in Madison County. Forty-seven Black Terns, probably late migrants, were found at Two River NWR, Swan Lake, on 6/9 (MT).

An Osprey spent part of the summer at Riverlands, where it was seen on 6/2 by Josh Uffman and on 6/19 by Jim Malone. David Becher reported a Mississippi Kite on 6/8 in the vicinity of Olive and Mason Roads. Western Kingbirds were found at Levee and B Roads in Monroe County on 6/1 (WG). Another Western Kingbird and a Cattle Egret were seen on Confluence Road on 6/9 (SM). An Alder Flycatcher was heard at Lost Valley Trail on 6/2 (MT). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, found by Jim Hickner at SNR on 6/8, was a very good find. Several Pewees and Phoebes, plus Prothonotary Warbler and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, were seen at CSP on 6/29 (J Chain, Thursday Group). On 6/2, 35 Purple Martins were observed at Katy Access/Weldon Spring (MT). Mike also counted 12 Prothonotary Warblers at Two Rivers NWR/Gilbert Lake, on 6/9. Connecticut Warblers are typically seen in the first week of June, and Mike Brady found one at CSP on 6/5. A Lark Sparrow was observed at Katy Access on 6/2 by Mike Thelen; they probably bred there this year, and have been reported at that spot last year as well. On 6/9, Bill Rowe and Josh Uffman visited Katy Access, where they observed 2 Painted Buntings, Blue Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and at Busch C.A., they observed Pine and Prothonotary Warblers. On 6/2, a Blue Grosbeak was seen near Hampton Lake, BCA (YH, DR), and on 6/3, 2 Blue Grosbeaks were found at HL (YH, EL). Another Blue Grosbeak was reported on 6/28 at Columbia Bottoms by Ken Thompson. Twenty Meadowlarks and 4 Fish Crows were present at Riverlands on 6/19 (JU). On 5/31, the Thursday Group visited SNR and reported Henslow's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Prairie Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush (JChain), plus a Marsh Wren found by Dick Coles. On 6/23 at CSP, Mike Brady hiked the 8 mile Cedar Bluff Loop Trail, where he observed Hooded Warbler, 4 Redstarts, Prairie Warbler, 3 Cerulean Warblers, 2

Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 7 Acadian Flycatchers, 2 Yellow-throated Vireos, 2 Blue Grosbeaks, 1 Broad-winged Hawk, and a Chuck-will's-widow, which he flushed. Castlewood State Park is the most reliable place to find breeding Redstarts.

Back Yard Sightings: Tom Kennedy was surprised to find a female Black-and-white Warbler at his yard on 6/19, near the Mississippi River. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found by Sherry McCowan in her Soulard yard on 6/3. Mike Thelen saw 10 Cardinals at his feeder in University City on 6/1. Mike Brady reported an Armadillo at CSP on 6/23.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Dick Coles, Jean Cook, Evelyn Luecke, Wally George, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Sherry McCowan, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, 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.

JULY BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Sightings: The Neotropic Cormorant, first reported in June, was seen throughout the month (JChain, RAB, FH), and many people, both local and out of the area, had a chance to see this unusual bird. Jackie Chain and Rose Ann Bodman got very good looks at a Least Bittern at the Hwy. 111 boat launch. At least 105 Double-crested Cormorants were present at HL on 7/15 (m. ob.). On 7/19, 194 Pied-billed Grebes were reported in the HL area (FH). On 7/25, a Black-crowned Night Heron nest in FP contained 6 young and 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons were also seen that day (M Botz, M. Johnston). By 7/8, Clarence Zacher had observed the following species in FP: Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 7 Green Herons, and a Red-headed Woodpecker. Two adult and 2 juvenile Moorhens were seen at HL on 7/27 (J&CM) and on 7/28, Dick Coles refound these birds for the Saturday Group. On 7/28, Jean Cook found 2 Semipalmated Plovers at HL. On 7/7, 2 Stilt Sandpipers, 11 Least, and 1 Spotted were seen at Confluence Park (DR, TB). On 7/22, Bill Rowe reported 2,000 Pecs, 1000 Kildeer, 200 Least Sandpipers, 8 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowleg and Spotted Sandpiper at Two Rivers NWR/Swan Lake. Good birds for David Rogles on 7/23 included Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Pecs, and Least Sandpipers, plus a Blue Grosbeak, at Riverlands. The Thursday Group visited Sandy Slough on 7/26 where they encountered Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a few Pecs, 2 Spotted, and a Solitary Sandpiper. Connie Alwood reported Short-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Yellowlegs, and 2 Common Terns at Riverlands, and 1,000 Pecs at Two Rivers NWR on 7/28. Dan Kassebaum reported that California Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and a Laughing Gull were present at CL on 7/30; ages of the birds are unknown. Two Black Terns were found at HL on 7/19 (FH). Steve Ewer saw 3 Caspian Terns and an Osprey at Riverlands on 7/14. The nesting pair of Cooper's Hawks in TGP produced 3 young, seen on 7/14 (SM) and 7/19 (JZ). Connie Alwood reported 3 Broad-winged Hawks perched near the

headquarters at Two Rivers NWR on 7/28. While attending a baseball game at Busch Stadium on 7/28, Mike Thelen observed a Peregrine Falcon.

A Western Kingbird was seen at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex on 7/2 (A&LS). Several Red-headed Woodpeckers and a calling Sedge Wren were found on the Chubb Trail, CSP, on 7/3 (MB). An adult Lark Sparrow was observed on Bend Road, HL, not far from the Neotropic Cormorant tree, on 7/8 (JZ). On 7/16, Jackie Chain saw both a male and female Painted Bunting at Katy Access/Weldon Spring. Unfortunately, on 7/22, the male was found dead on the parking lot.

A typical day at HL for the Thursday Group, on 7/12, included Neotropic Cormorant, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 2 Least Bitterns, Least and Solitary Sandpipers (JChain). A typical day at Confluence Park on 7/15 included 25 Least Sandpipers, 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper, a Long-billed Dowitcher (early), 180 Great Egrets, 100 Snowy Egrets, 20 Little Blue Herons, and at Riverlands the usual Pelicans, Cormorants, Ring-billed Gulls, and a Caspian Tern (BR).

Back Yard Birds: On 7/8, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a very good yard bird for Randy Korotev in University City. A Black-crowned Night Heron was seen throughout the summer at the lake at the Brentwood Forest condos, and Mississippi Kites have been seen soaring over the area (YH).

Contributors: Connie Alwood, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Jean Cook, Steve Ewer, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Randy Korotev, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Sherry McCowan, Al & Lois Smith, Mike Thelen, 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.

WHO NEEDS IT?

According to the *Wall Street Journal* (June 26, 2007) climate changes are making poison ivy more potent. Reason: "Rising levels of ambient carbon dioxide levels create ideal conditions for the plant, "producing bigger leaves, faster growth, hardier plants, and oil that's even more irritating".

WEST NILE VIRUS DECIMATES SEVEN SPECIES OF BIRDS ACROSS CONTINENT

Most affected have been the American crow (the worst), blue jay, tufted titmouse, American robin, house wren, chickadee, and eastern bluebird. Only the blue jay and house wren had bounced back by 2005. (*Post-Dispatch*, May 17, 2007)

Webster Groves Nature Study Society – Founded 1920
GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES
 September 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.)			
Sept. 1	Des Pere Park	8 AM	Becher
Sept. 8	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance	8 AM	Becher
Sept. 15	Des Pere Park	8 AM	Becher
Sept. 22	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance	8 AM	Becher
Sept. 29	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 6	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 13	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 20	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 27	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 3	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 10	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 17	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 24	Des Park	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 1	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 8	Des Peres Park	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 – Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372)

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

Sept. 16	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance	8 AM	Bob Bailey & David Garcia
Sept 23	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Bird Garden Entrance	8 AM	David Rabenau
Oct. 14	Castlewood St. Park Park Headquarters	8 AM	Sherry McCowan (Margy Terpstra)
Oct. 28	Riverlands MBS* Headquarters	8 AM	Ian Hunt
Nov. 4	Busch Conservation Area Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden	8 AM	Tom Parmeter
Nov. 11	Riverlands MBS Headquarters	8 AM	Mike Thelen

*Riverlands MBS – Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

SPECIAL ORNITHOLOGY/ PROGRAM

Oct. 2	“Hawks of the St. Louis Area” St. Louis County Hdqtrs. on Lindbergh.	7 PM	J. Ziebol & Y. Homeyer
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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, September 23, 2007 at 7 PM – “Insect Show and Tell Night”. Come and hear stories about insect collecting trips over the summer. This is an opportunity to show everyone all those insects and insect-related items that have been added to your collection. A computer and projector will be available for you to show those powerpoint slides of the insects you saw. Experts will be present to help you with insect identification. We will be meeting in Room 142, Biology Department, MacElwane Hall on the campus of St. Louis University. For directions to this event, feel free to contact Richard Thoma at (314-965-6744) or thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net.

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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/
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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. 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, Sept. 5, 7 PM, at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold, 63122, Tel. 314-301-1500. Near I-44/I-270 intersection, enter from Geyer Road. Visitors are welcome. Come see your Board in action!
(If snowy or icy conditions prevail, call ahead to find if the meeting has been canceled.)

Publication Policy

Notices/Proposed Articles/Letters to the Editor must be signed to be considered. They will be considered for publication based on content and availability of space. Some editing may be done. Communications from non-member individuals or organizations must include the name and title (if any) of the sender along with a mailing address and telephone number. Send communications to the Editor, 35 Tulip Drive, Webster Groves, MO or transmit via E-mail to adams9054@sbcglobal.net

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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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