



Nature Notes

Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, February 2008, Vol. 80, No. 2
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Ann Earley

I hope 2008 is off to a good start for everyone. If your New Year's resolution is to learn more about nature, WGNSS offers many educational and volunteer opportunities to do so. Resolve to join us at an upcoming program presentation, field trip, or meeting of interest!

Following our break from program meetings in January, we will have several special programs in February, in addition to the scheduled Botany, Ornithology, and Entomology group events. Further details about all of these activities are included elsewhere in this newsletter. Our February general program meeting will be a joint meeting with St. Louis Audubon at the Creve Coeur Government Center. This program will be held on **Friday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.** and will feature **Laura Erickson**, author of 101 Ways to Help Birds. Her topic is "**Uncommon Facts About Common Birds.**"

The Ornithology Group has scheduled a special program on **Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m.** at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on Lindbergh. **Bob Bailey** will speak on "**Bird Song Identification.**" New and experienced birders alike will benefit from this timely topic in advance of the spring migration.

Another special event, to be held jointly with the St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, will be at **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24** at Grafica Fine Art Gallery at 7884 Big Bend. **Don Corrigan**, editor of *The Webster-Kirkwood Times* and faculty member of Webster University, will discuss his latest book, **Show Me...Natural Wonders: A Guide to Scenic Treasures in the Missouri Region.** We look forward to seeing you there!

Planning is underway for the WGNSS spring banquet to be held this May. Watch for further details in future issues of *Nature Notes*. New Board members will be installed at the banquet. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact me. New members are especially encouraged to volunteer.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER – Jim Adams

During the past month I've read two books that I would strongly recommend to our members:

1) *John Muir* – Magnificent Tramp by Rod Miller, published by Tom Doherty Associates, LLC, New York, NY, 2005, 207 pages. A book in The American Heroes Series.

Larry Fahn, President, The Sierra Club, has this to say about the book: “A fascinating new take on a true American icon—John Muir comes alive again in Rod Miller’s *Magnificent Tramp*”

2) *Last Stand* – George Bird Grinnell – The Battle To Save the Buffalo, and the Birth of the New West – Michael Punke - Harper Collins, 2007, 286 pages - A Smithsonian Book

Mentored as a small boy by Lucy Audubon, Grinnell was publisher of a prominent outdoor journal of the late 1800's. He had a major role in the start-up of Yellowstone National Park, was founder of Glacier National Park, and was a founder of the National Audubon Society.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON MISSOURI MIGRANTS IN WINTER – John and Nancy Solodar

In conjunction with the MDC effort to help preserve the wintering habitat of Missouri's migrant birds, the St. Louis International Conservation Committee has arranged to have presentation of the work at Pico Bonito National Park, in Honduras, on Friday, February 29, 2008. This meeting will be at 7:30 PM at Powder Valley Nature Center, off Geyer Rd near I-44.

The speakers will be Paul Salaman of the American Bird Conservancy and Fito Steiner of Fundacion Parque Nacional Pico Bonito or FUPNAPIB, the nongovernmental organization (NGO) guiding the Pico Bonito project in Honduras. They will discuss the important work that is going on to expand and protect this very important wintering area for our migrant birds.

In addition to the speakers we will have a display of high quality archival, framable, ink jet (giclee type from the old days) prints that MDC uses for reproducing the prints that they sell. These prints are from original paintings that MDC uses in its books. These will be available for order via donations of \$25-100 toward the work at Pico Bonito. They are very high quality.

In conjunction with this visit Brad Jacobs will be conducting a field trip for the visitors and interested St. Louis birders, probably at Riverlands. Contact John Solodar if you are interested in attending (Solodar@sbcglobal.net). (Cont'd next page)

We have received donations and pledges totaling more than \$2000 for the Pico Bonito project. If you wish to donate please send your contributions to John Solodar, 8135 Cornell Court, St. Louis, MO, 63130. Contributions are being funneled through the St. Louis Audubon treasury so please make checks out to St. Louis Audubon Society with an indication that the money is for International Conservation.

A SUGGESTION – Ted Macrae

I don't know if this is something you would want for *Nature Notes*, but I was thinking it would be good to put out a call for members to submit links and descriptions of their natural history oriented homepages and blogs. There may not be a lot, but I'd be interested in knowing about those that do exist. For example, I have a natural history blog (<http://beetlesinthebush.blogspot.com/>), on which I post trip accounts, photos, links to other natural history websites, etc. If you want, you could just post the info about my site and ask members to submit similar info about their sites if they wish.

Sounds like a winner to me! Let's give it a try! - JFA

DECEMBER BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: For part of December, two of the rarest and most impressive gulls – Slaty-backed and Glaucous-winged - were present at Carlyle Lake. Both were adults and were seen and photographed by many people. The Glaucous-winged was first seen at Carlyle Lake in September, and we mistakenly reported it as a Glaucous Gull in the September Bird Report. That should have been Glaucous-winged. St. Louis is currently tied in Second Place with Niagara Falls, Ontario for the most gull species seen (19). Last year, St. John's, Newfoundland, reported a Slaty-backed Gull, which for them is #20.

Sightings: Pat Lueders reported 2 Common Loons, another loon species, and 4 Horned Grebes at HL on 12/5, and on 12/1, Dan Kassebaum reported 3 Red-throated Loons at CL. A trip to Winfield Dam in late December yielded 20 Pelicans (Jim Koehne). On 12/26, a flyover Black-crowned Night Heron landed in a tree at the corner of 13th and Lami (SM). On 12/7, 2 Tundra Swans, 231 Trumpeter Swans, 350 Scaup species, 75 Green-winged Teal, in all a total of 21 duck species, were recorded at Riverlands. That same day, a Green-winged Teal was observed in Forest Park (SM). Another Green-winged Teal was seen at Hampton Lake, BCA, on 12/30/07 (YH). A few Cackling Geese were seen at Suntan Beach on 12/5 (D Rogles). On 12/14, Connie Alwood recorded 20 Greater White-fronted Geese and 15 Cackling Geese at Riverlands. Kraig Paradise found 100 Greater White-fronted Geese at Confluence Park on 12/23, and on 12/26, 20 were seen at Riverlands (KP, J Moe). Forty-two Greater White-fronted Geese, 400+ Snow Geese, a Ross's, several Canada, 2 Cackling, and 20 Pintails were seen in the HL area (FH, JZ). Two Wood Ducks were a good find, along with 2 Greater Scaup, at HL on 12/14 (JZ). Female Black Scoters were observed at Riverlands on 12/7 (CM) and at CL on 12/23 (CL). Oldsquaw was found at CL on 12/17 (SC) and on 12/22 (DK). A Black-bellied Plover was somewhat late at Teal Pond, Riverlands, on 12/1 (D Rogles). A Pomerine Jaeger, a really good find, was first reported from the Borrow Pit, HL, on 12/8 (BR). On 12/22, 30 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at HL (YH, JZ). A California Gull was

seen on the Illinois side at Riverlands on 12/1 (D Rogles). A beautiful adult Slaty-backed Gull was found at CL on 12/16 (DK). On 12/22, an immature Glaucous Gull was seen at the Borrow Pit, HL (YH, FH). On 12/23, an adult Iceland Gull and 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls joined the Glaucous-winged Gull at CL (DK, MS, KM).

Three Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Cooper's Hawk, and 3 possible light-phase Western Red-tailed Hawks were observed at HL on 12/22 (JZ, YH), and an adult Red-shouldered Hawk and a Cooper's were seen there on 12/30 (FH). Clarence Zacher observed a Sharp-shin at Calvary Cemetery on 12/30. An immature Red-shouldered was observed in TGP on 12/30 (SM). On 12/19, a Peregrine Falcon was found near HL (SC). A Great Horned Owl, apparently nesting, was seen in TGP on 12/30, along with 4 species of woodpeckers and a Red-breasted Nuthatch (SM). A Sapsucker was found near Cuivre River SP on 12/29 (YH, EL). A visit to FP on 12/25 yielded Red-bellied Woodpecker and Kingfisher (CZ). Lanny Chambers banded a hatch-year Rufous Hummingbird at the home of Susie Clemens in Festus on 12/31. A Northern Shrike, seen at Confluence Park on 12/2, was a very good find (BR); it was relocated several times after that (m.ob.). An eastern race Orange-crowned Warbler was found in FP on 12/7 (SM). On 12/10, Sherry McCowan found 6 species of sparrows, including Fox, in FP, and on 12/17, she had 6 Am. Tree Sparrows in the park. Connie Alwood observed a few Lapland Longspurs along Confluence Road on 12/14.

Back Yard Birds: A Pine Warbler and a Pine Siskin visited the feeders of the Bridgeton home of Al & Lois Smith on 12/6. On 12/30, Sherry McCowan observed a Cooper's Hawk taking a Mourning Dove in her Soulard yard. She also recorded a Red-tailed Hawk eating a pigeon near her home. In early December, Joe Pinnell watched a Kestrel grab a Goldfinch from his feeder. On 12/9, 6 to 11 Pine Siskins, along with Carolina Wren, were present at Margy Terpstra's home, and on 12/10, up to 34 Pine Siskins were seen there. On 12/16, Connie Alwood had a Great Horned Owl and 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches at his Ferguson home.

Christmas Count Highlights: 1) Pere Marquette: Rough-legged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Snipe, 6 Least Sandpipers, 3 Rusty Blackbirds, 1 Great-tailed Grackle, 80 Greater White-fronted Geese, and 36 Bald Eagles. 2) Collinsville Circle: Red-shouldered Hawk, Towhee, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pomerine Jaeger, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet. 3) Carlyle Lake: 113 species (an Illinois record), 7 species of gulls, including Glaucous-winged and Slaty-backed, Common Redpoll, Harris's Sparrow, Snow Bunting, and less than 5 Common Grackles. 4) Clarence Cannon: 93 species; 80 Bald Eagles, Merlin, 6 Short-eared Owls, 28 Pileated Woodpeckers, 2 Brown Thrashers, 2 LeConte's Sparrows, 3 Lapland Longspurs, and 2 Western Meadowlarks.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, David Becher, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Jean Cook, Joe Eades, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Evelyn Luecke, Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Keith McMullen, David Rogles, Bill Rudden, Mark Seiffert, Margy Terpstra, 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.

NOVEMBER BOTANY REPORT – George Van Brunt

November 5, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Eight botanists met on a mild morning, temperature in the 60's under sunny skies, at St. Joe State Park in St. Francois County. This large park has been heavily altered by human activity, especially lead mining and rock quarrying. Areas of trash, broken glass and rusting metal, are present along the walking trail. Despite this, the park is an area of considerable botanical interest. We started our walk on the Harris Branch Trail, a paved path. After a time, we left the trail to explore a powerline cut in which we found a small fen. We returned to the trail near the end of our explorations.

Along the trail we found many fruiting species including *Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos* (spotted knapweed), *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (coral-berry), *Eupatorium altissimum* (tall boneset), *Eupatorium serotinum* (late boneset), *Croton monanthogynus* (croton), *Belamcanda chinensis* (blackberry lily - a member of the Iris family), and *Chasmanthium latifolium* (inland oats). Plants still in bloom included *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* (aromatic aster), *S. urophyllum* (white aster), and *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan). Other species we identified included *Sideroxylon lanuginosum* (woolly buckthorn), *Quercus shumardii* var. *schneckii* (Schneck's oak), *Q. imbricaria* (shingle oak), *Q. velutina* (black oak), *Viburnum rufidulum* (southern black haw), and *Fraxinus americana* (white ash).

On the powerline cut, we discovered a small spring or seep coming from a small limestone outcrop. Although it wasn't very wet when we were there, we could follow the water flow by the plants that were growing in its path. These included such fen-loving plants as *Pycnanthemum virginianum* (common mountain mint), *Rudbeckia fulgida* (orange coneflower), *Helenium autumnale* (yellow sneezeweed), *Eupatorium perfoliatum* (perfoliate boneset), *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster), *Lysimachia quadriflora* (loosestrife), *Physostegia virginiana* (obedient plant), and *Packera obovata* (round-leaf ragwort). Although some of these species grow elsewhere, some grow only in fens.

The rest of the powerline cut was steep and rocky yet had an interesting variety of plants. Species in fruit included *Onosmodium molle* ssp. *hispidissimum* (marbleseed), *Liatris aspera* (rough blazing-star), *Aristida purpurascens* (arrow feather), *Trichostema brachiatum* (fluxweed), *Grindelia lanceolata* (spiny-toothed gumweed), *Nemastylis geminiflora* (prairie iris), and *Apocynum cannabinum* (dogbane). Plants in flower included *Symphyotrichum patens* (spreading aster), *Gaura longiflora* (long-flowered beeblossum), *Solidago nemoralis* (gray goldenrod), and, interestingly, *Nothoscordum bivalve* (false garlic), a spring-flowering plant. There were several false garlic plants in bloom, scattered over the powerline cut. It is not uncommon for spring flowering plants to bloom again in the fall.

November 12, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Fourteen botanists met on a mild, overcast morning to explore the east end of Klondike County Park in St. Charles County. This location is next to the Katy Trail and near the Missouri

River. Our explorations were cut short by a thunderstorm which began around 11:00 am. During our shortened field trip we walked along the Lewis and Clark Trail and observed prairie plants on our right and forest plants on our left. Later, we left the trail to explore several sandstone outcrops in the woods.

The prairie was not large, but it was diverse. Nearly every plant was in fruit or senescent, only *Symphyotrichum pilosum* (white heath aster) was still in bloom. We found *Desmanthus illinoensis* (bundle flower), *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower), *Physostegia virginiana* (obedient plant), *Symphyotrichum praealtum* (yellow-leaved aster), and *Ratibida pinnata* (gray-headed coneflower). The grasses we identified included *Andropogon gerardii* (big bluestem), *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem), *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass), *Elymus virginicus* (Virginia wild rye), *Tridens flavus* (purple top), and *Tripsacum dactyloides* (gamma grass). We also identified *Panicum virgatum* (switch grass), the species which has been in the news lately as a possible source of cellulose to make ethanol. The prairie had a number of small *Platanus occidentalis* (American sycamore) and *Salix exigua* (sandbar willow), an indication that it probably needed to be burned.

In the forest, we found *Celastrus orbiculatus* (round-leaved bittersweet), *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (coral-berry), *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust), and *Acer negundo* (box elder).

Around and on the sandstone outcrops, we found *Saxifraga pensylvanica* (swamp or Forbes' saxifrage), *Hydrangea arborescens* (wild hydrangea), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* (tall white aster), and *Climacium americanum* (American climacium moss). We found, as we did last week, a spring flowering plant in bloom; this time it was *Isopyrum biternatum* (lowland rue anemone). The *Saxifraga pensylvanica* was growing in such thin soil on the sandstone that we could see their corms. A corm is a short, solid, vertical underground stem.

November 19, 2007 Botany Field Trip

A warm, sunny fall morning found 16 botanists at the new LaBarque Creek Conservation Area parking lot on Valley Drive in Jefferson County. We walked about 0.3 mile from the parking lot to the Lakewood Hills subdivision where we walked up a hill to the remains of a burned log cabin. From there we descended into the head of a box canyon and followed it out to its end on Doc Sargent Road.

This area of the LaBarque Creek watershed has been more heavily settled than some other parts and the effects of settlement were evident in the flora of the area. Unlike many other parts of the watershed that we have explored, this area was rife with exotic invasive plants including *Lonicera mackii* (bush honeysuckle), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle), *Euonymus hederaceus* (wintercreeper), *Euonymus alatus* (burning bush), and *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry). Father Sullivan pointed out that the ground leaves of *Euonymus hederaceus* are different than the aerial leaves. The spreading ground phase of this species is nonreproductive and the leaves are more lance-shaped than those of the climbing phase which are broader and more elliptically shaped; the climbing phase is the reproductive phase.

Mosses and liverworts we found included *Conocephalum conicum* (great scented liverwort), *Bryum argenteum* (silverglen bryum moss), *Weissia controversa* (controverted green moss), *Climacium americanum* (American climacium moss), and the state listed *Preissia quadrata* (liverwort). The Latin word for silver is argentum; argenteum is the adjective form of argentum. *Bryum argenteum* is so named because the tips of its leaves lack chlorophyll and appear silvery in color compared to the rest of the chlorophyllous leaf.

Ferns we found included *Asplenium platyneuron* (ebony spleenwort), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), *Botrychium dissectum* f. *dissectum* (cut-leaved grape fern), *Botrychium dissectum* f. *obliquum* (grape fern), and *Woodsia obtusa* (blunt-lobed woodsia).

Other species we identified included *Tilia americana*, identifiable by its tiny, red terminal buds, *Opuntia humifusa* (common prickly pear), *Ilex decidua* (deciduous holly), *Saxifraga pennsylvanica* (swamp saxifrage), *Heuchera richardsonii* (prairie alumroot), *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger), *Galium concinnum* (shining bedstraw), *Galium triflorum* (sweet-scented bedstraw), *Boechea laevigata* (smooth rock cress), *Ribes missouriensis* (Missouri gooseberry), and the orchid *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam-and-Eve). We also found some *Solidago hispida* (hispid goldenrod) still in bloom.

Pam Schnebelen and Bob Coffing were two of the participants in this field trip. They are both part of an organization called **Friends of the LaBarque Creek Watershed**, a group working to preserve the unusual habitats and diversity of this unique area. Pam informed us that the organization now has a website which can be visited at www.labarque.org.

November 26, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Nine botanists met at the Ridgway Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden on a cold rainy morning. Our first stop was the Holiday Flower and Train Show in the Ridgway Center. The display included a number of train sets, one of which was a scene of the Yellowstone National Park lodge with a working model of Old Faithful. The train displays were enhanced by holiday plants including many poinsettias, euphorbs, chrysanthemums, and begonias. Our next activity was a walk along the edge of the Gladney Rose Garden, through the Scented Garden, Hosta Garden, and Goodman Iris Garden to the Dry Streambed Garden. Next, we visited the Climatron and finally, the adjoining Shoenberg Temperate House. We ended our tour at the Sassafras Cafe in the Ridgway Center for lunch.

FALL 2007 ENTOMOLOGY SPEAKERS – Richard S. Thoma

The entomology group had a great series of speakers in the fall of 2007. In addition to the Show and Tell meeting (September), three entomological experts gave presentations on varying subjects including the a talk on a trip to the Invertebrate in Captivity Conference and subsequent insect collecting in Arizona, a new way to photograph the smallest insects and a look at the social behavior of insects not including bees, wasps and termites. A short review of each presentation follows:

In October, the entomology group met at the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly house. Mark Deering, senior insect curator at the butterfly house gave a presentation about a trip he took in August 2007 to Arizona. Mark explained that the primary purpose for the trip was to attend the Invertebrates in Captivity Conference. The conference consisted of presentations, workshops and field trips primarily on the acquisition and care of insects and other invertebrates in captivity. Mark had the privilege to lead one of the day long field trips to the Arizona desert to collect butterflies. After the conference was over, Mark then spent several more days collecting insects throughout southern Arizona. We learned that southern Arizona has several unique habitats including the Sonoran and Chiricahua deserts and two mountainous regions, the Santa Aretas and Huachuca. Each is home to a unique assemblage of insects. Mark used his butterfly net to collect insects during the day and a blacklight to collect at night. We had the privilege to see many of the excellent photographs Mark took on his trip. Notable photos included several desert landscape shots that included saguaro cactus. Mark photographed several species of large Saturniid moths that were attracted to the blacklights. On this trip he also found and photographed the largest United States beetle, *Dynastes granti*. At this meeting, we were able to look at many of the insect specimens Mark collected on the trip. These specimens are now with the collection at the Butterfly House.

The subject for the November meeting was a demonstration of a new technique called automontage. Fr. Joe Fortier, assistant professor at St. Louis University uses this technique to create super clear photographs of minute insects. Betsy

Bardon a graduate student of Dr. Fortier's, demonstrated how the technique works. The insect is positioned very carefully under the microscope. A computer controls the microscope to focus on the insect starting at the top and working down. Fifty or more photos may be taken of the insect as the lens focuses lower and lower. Once all the pictures are taken, the computer then stitches them all together to create an enhanced depth of field microphotograph of the insect. Leg hairs, antennal segments and other body parts are all brought into sharp focus with the automontage technique. Dr. Fortier uses the automontage technique to understand the taxonomy of his favorite subjects, parasitic wasps in the insect family, Braconidae. Dr. Fortier talked about recent efforts to collect parasitic wasps that emerge from Geometrid moth caterpillars found at the Reis Biological station on the Meramec River. We learned that Dr. Fortier collected a new species of parasitic wasp, *Aleiodes reisi* from this collection. The automontage technique was instrumental in this identification.

Our final topic for the fall season dealt with social insect biology. Keefe Reuther, graduate student at St. Louis University and winner of the WGNSS Menke Scholarship presented a talk entitled, "Moths, Aphids and Roaches – Oh My! The Other Social Insects". Ants, bees, wasps and termites, which most of us consider the social insects were not talked about in Keefe's talk, except for comparison purposes. Instead Keefe used the many other insect orders to demonstrate that they too behave socially. For example parental care is common in insects. Endangered American Burying Beetles (*Nicrophorus americanus*) are great parents. They provide both a burrow home and all the food in predigested form for their larvae offspring. Male Giant Water Bugs (Belostomatidae) are another example of parental care. Females of these insects glue their eggs to the backs of males. The males then protect the eggs until the young hatch. Another example of social behavior Keefe talked about is insect nest building. Tent Caterpillar Moth (*Malacosoma americanum*) is a good example. Caterpillars of this moth build huge silk nests that are used for protection from predators at night. All the caterpillars from an egg case work together to make a nest. Another example of interspecies social interaction is aphid herding by ants. Aphids behave very much like cows. Ants may be thought of as aphid ranchers, guiding, corralling and protecting the aphids. The ants do this to obtain a sweet food known as honey dew from the aphids. Aphids in return obtain protection from predators. Interestingly, all aphids in a herd are female and they are born pregnant. Keefe described social behavior as a spectrum, one end being no interactions (solitary) to colonial with division of labor among castes. Bees, wasps, ants and termites are just on the extreme colonial end of the spectrum. The many examples, Keefe described at this entomology meeting are more in the middle of this spectrum.

Entomology talks during the winter and spring of 2008 look to be just as exciting. Two talks have been lined up for the winter and spring of 2007. The first, in January, will be on the Butterflies of Missouri's Northwestern loess hills and presented by Phil Koenig. Mike Arduser will speak in March for the Missouri Department of Conservation, Natural Heritage program. This program is looking for enthusiastic volunteer entomologists to help gather information about the states lesser known creatures, primarily insects. Both talks promise to give us a greater understanding of those insects considered species of concern within Missouri. If you have a desire to learn about something out of the ordinary, consider attending one of the WGNSS entomology talks. All are welcome.

Webster Groves Nature Study Society--
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GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES
January 2008 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.)			
Date	Meeting Place	Time	Leader
Jan. 26	Riverlands Teal Pond Pkg.Lot**	8 AM	Becher
Feb. 9	Des Peres Park*	8 AM	Becher
Feb. 23	Riverlands Teal Pond Pkg. Lot	8 AM	Becher
March 8	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
March 15	Riverlands Teal Pond Pkg. Lot	8 AM	Becher
March 22	Des Pere Park	8 AM	Becher
March 29	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
April 5	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
April 12	Tower Grove Park	8 AM	Becher
April 19	(Gaddy Bird Garden) April Busch Wildlife Area (Alden Knight Hampton Lake)	8 AM	Becher
(Exit from US 40 at first exit after crossing Missouri on Rte. 94 and follow signs)			
April 26	Tower Grove Park (Gaddy Bird Garden)	8 AM	Becher
May 3	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
May 10	WGNSS Birdng, BIG DAY		
May 17	Castlewood State Park (Meet near Boat Launch)	8 AM	Becher
May 24	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher

*On Ballas Rd, just north of Manchester)

**From I-70 go north on Route 367 toward Alton. Turn right into Riverlands at gasoline station just before bridge over Mississippi River.

**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 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.)

Date	Meeting Place	Time	Leader
Jan. 27	Check Website		
Feb. 10	TBA		
Feb. 24	TBA		
March 2	Busch CA Visitor Center	8 AM	S. Clubb
March 16	Kennedy Forest, Wells Ave	8 AM	Bob Bailey, D. Garcia
March 30	Busch CA Visitor Center	8 AM	T. Parmeter
April 6	Horseshoe Lake Causeway	8 AM	F. Holmes, J. Ziebol
April 20	Castlewood S. P. Hqtrs.	8 AM	TBA
April 27	T.G. Park, Maddy Bird Gdn.	8 AM	S. Clubb
May 4	T.G. Park, Maddy Bird Gdn.	8 AM	B. Bailey, D. Garcia
June 1	Busch CA Visitor Center	8 AM	T. Parmeter

*Riverlands MBS – Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

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 42nd yr. in January, 2008)

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