



Nature Notes

Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society
September/October 2009, Vol. 81, No. 6/7

First Issue November 1929

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ann Earley

The changing seasons have also brought changes to the WGNSS Board during the summer and fall months. Jeannie Moe has stepped down as Botany Group Co-Chair, and George Van Brunt will continue to chair this group going forward. Jeannie plans to remain active in WGNSS, and we appreciate all of her contributions to the Board and Botany Group during the past several years. Another change occurred when Shawn Clubb resigned in June as First Vice President and Program Chair. Shawn joined the Board in 2006 and has handled publicity for WGNSS during this time, in addition to arranging programs and various activities for the Society. Thank you, Shawn, for your service to WGNSS, and we wish you all the best in the future. **We are seeking a volunteer to serve as First Vice President and Program Chair** to succeed Shawn; if you are interested in this position, please let me know.

As discussed in the June issue of *Nature Notes*, newsletter editor Malinda Slagle relocated from the St. Louis area late this summer but has continued from afar to oversee the editing of this combined September-October issue of the newsletter. We appreciate Malinda's good work on the newsletter this year and her continuing to serve in this role during this time of transition.

Succeeding Malinda as our new editor is someone familiar to *Nature Notes* readers as a frequent

contributor to the newsletter—WGNSS member Ted MacRae. Ted is active in the WGNSS Entomology Group, is an experienced blogger, and serves as subject editor for two scientific journals. He is looking forward to continuing to implement the changes with the newsletter that Malinda has begun. Thank you, Ted, for your willingness to serve as our new editor!

You won't want to miss our **October General Program Meeting** featuring WGNSS member Layne Van Brunt's audiovisual presentation **on the birds and wildlife of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula and Glacier Bay National Park**. The program will be held on **Wednesday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Powder Valley**. **Please note the change in date, location, and time for this program from our usual program schedule**. We look forward to seeing you there!

The WGNSS Board agreed in September that the Society should take a position in opposition to the proposed casino development in North County, which would be located on a 377-acre area just south of Columbia Bottom Conservation Area in the Mississippi River floodplain. Besides increasing traffic, light pollution, and water run-off in the local area, the proposed development would adversely affect the flyway for migrating birds and habitat for other wildlife. Many residents and churches in the Spanish Lake area and various environmental groups have registered their objections to the project with county officials reviewing the development plans.

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The fall season brings a busy schedule of activities, detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, for our Botany, Entomology, and Ornithology Groups. We hope you will be able to join us at a WGNSS activity or event this fall!



CHANGE OF EDITORSHIP

Following a very short stint as editor of *Nature Notes* (since January 2009), I am resigning my position and turning things over to Ted MacRae. My family and I moved to Dallas, Texas on August 21. My husband's job transferred him here. I was born in Texas and my family still lives here, so it really was a return home for me. I am no longer

working outside the home so I can devote myself full time to my daughter, Mae. Despite warm temperatures, we have taken a few botanically and entomologically interesting hikes. We visited the Heard Nature Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney. They have a native butterfly house stocked with Giant Swallowtails, Queens, Gulf Fritillaries, and many others. They also have acres of prairie, woodland, and wetland restorations. These had some species also native to Missouri such as stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*) and blazing star (*Liatris mucronata*) but some were species that were new to me such as eryngo (*Eryngium leavenworthii*). The Heard is a highly recommended natural area for Dallas visitors.

Thank you for all that y'all have taught me and for all of the work y'all do to protect the environment. I will miss y'all. I'll have to start a WGNSS branch here in Dallas to find some new folks to teach me about nature!

Malinda Slagle

This issue marks my inauguration as incoming Editor of *Nature Notes*. It is a responsibility that I accept as a great deal of work, but also a richly rewarding experience. As a long-time active member of the WGNSS Entomology Group, I look forward to this opportunity to now serve the greater society. My predecessors have left me with some very large shoes to fill – Anne McCormack held the post when I first joined WGNSS more than 25 years ago and faithfully served for many years after. More recently, Jim Adams and Malinda Slagle have continued *Nature Note's* rich tradition. My goal as Editor will be to build on the improvements initiated by Malinda (e.g., color photographs, electronic subscriptions, etc.) to increase both the usefulness of *Nature Notes* and its visual appeal. To that end, I will be evaluating the use of desktop publishing software and the professional templates they offer for producing future issues of the newsletter. Until then, I've polished up some of the formatting in the current template and inserted a table-of-contents – changes that I hope you will find both useful and attractive. I thank Malinda, Ann Earley, and Rich Thoma for offering to me the opportunity to serve as Editor, and I look forward to working with both the WGNSS Board and the larger membership in performing these duties. If you have any specific comments or ideas regarding the

publication of *Nature Notes*, please feel free to contact me at ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com – remember, [this is your newsletter!](#)

Ted MacRae



GO NORTH TO ALASKA WITH WGNSS ON OCTOBER 7!

Visit "The Last Frontier" courtesy of a special audiovisual presentation by WGNSS member Layne Van Brunt highlighting the flora, fauna, and natural beauty of the 49th state. The birds and wildlife of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula and Glacier Bay National Park will be among the featured attractions. The program will be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:30 pm at Powder Valley. Don't miss this adventure! **Please note the change in date, location, and time for this program from our usual program schedule.**



TYPOCERUS DECEPTUS IN MISSOURI¹

Ted MacRae

It has been fifteen years now since I published an annotated checklist of the longhorned beetles (families Cerambycidae and Disteniidae) of Missouri (MacRae 1994). That publication (and a similar one on Buprestidae) was the product of eight years of collecting – of specimens in the field and of data in any other public or private collection I could find that contained Missouri specimens – during my stint as a field entomologist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. I collected during the week while on my rounds. I collected on weekends as well. I visited every college and university in the state that had an insect collection of any size, and a few in neighboring states as well. I made the acquaintance of private collectors with significant Missouri material – most notably Richard Heitzman, Marlin Rice, and the late Gayle Nelson. By the time I left Missouri for a new position in

¹ This article first appeared July 17, 2009 on the author's website <http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com>.



Typocerus deceptus on flower of *Hydrangea arborescens*.

Sacramento, I had documented 219 species and subspecies of longhorned beetles from the state – 66 of which were new state records.

Despite my best efforts, however, I knew the list was not complete – they never are. In the years since returning to Missouri, I've documented an additional 10 species and subspecies in the state (MacRae and Rice 2007), and in a newly published paper (McDowell and MacRae 2009) the rare species, *Typocerus deceptus*, is documented from Missouri for the first time. I cannot take credit for this discovery – that honor goes to the paper's lead author, Tom McDowell of Carbondale, Illinois. Tom first encountered this species in 2005 at Trail of Tears State Park in southeastern Missouri near Cape Girardeau while conducting routine insect surveys. After seeing additional individuals on a subsequent visit to the park the following year, Tom contacted me to tell me of his find and graciously invited me to join him on further studies of this rarely encountered species. I readily agreed, and in July of last year I met up with Tom at Trail of Tears to see the beetle for myself.

Typocerus deceptus has been recorded sporadically from across the eastern U.S. Nothing is known of its biology other than adult flower hosts and activity periods, and the larva and larval host(s) remains completely unknown. The species is aptly named, as its appearance is deceptively similar to the common and widespread species, *T. velutinus*. Both of these species belong to the so-called "flower longhorn" group (subfamily Lepturinae), characterized by adults that are largely diurnal (active during the day) and attracted to a great variety of flowers upon which they feed. Tom had found *T. deceptus* feeding on flowers of wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) in the company of several other flower longhorns, including *T.*



Typocerus deceptus on flower of *Hydrangea arborescens*.

velutinus. The similarity of *T. deceptus* to *T. velutinus* makes distinguishing individuals amongst the vastly more abundant *T. velutinus* quite difficult. However, Tom was able to recognize the species during his surveys as a result of prior experience with it in Illinois. As Tom and I searched the wild hydrangea plants growing along an intermittent drainage between the road and the park's unique mesic forest, we succeeded in picking out a total of four individuals of this species amongst the dozens of *T. velutinus* and other lepturines also feeding on the flowers.

I gradually developed a sense of the subtle differences that distinguish this species from *T. velutinus* and that allow its recognition in the field. *Typocerus deceptus* is slightly more robust than *T. velutinus*, and whereas the transverse yellow elytral bands of the latter are distinct and well delimited, they are weaker and often interrupted at the middle in *T. deceptus*, giving the beetle a slightly darker brownish appearance. The lateral margins of the elytra are also more strongly emarginated near the apices, giving the beetle a more distinctly tapered appearance. Finally, while both species possess a distinct band of dense, yellow pubescence along the basal margin of the pronotum, this band is interrupted at the middle in *T. deceptus*. My ability to recognize this species in the field was confirmed a few weeks ago when I returned to Trail of Tears (with longtime field companion Rich Thoma) to attempt what seemed to be an impossible task – photograph these active and flighty insects in the field on their host plants. Conditions were brutally humid, and I only saw two individuals that day – the first I immediately captured and kept alive as a backup for studio photographs should I fail to achieve my goal in the field, but the second individual (not seen until



Typocerus velutinus on flower of *Hydrangea arborescens*.

almost two hours later!) posed just long enough for me to whip off a series of frames, two of which turned out well enough to share with you here. The first photo clearly shows the interrupted basal pubescent band, and both photos show the distinctly emarginate lateral elytral margins and weak transverse yellow bands (compare to the uninterrupted pronotal pubescent band and well developed transverse elytral bands of *T. velutinus* in the third photo).

It is possible that *T. deceptus* is not as rare as it appears and is simply overlooked due to its great resemblance to another much more abundant species. However, I believe this is unlikely given its rarity in collections of eastern U.S. Cerambycidae by casual and expert collectors alike. Moreover, *T. deceptus* is not the only “rare” longhorned beetle to have been documented at Trail of Tears State Park – a number of other species have also been found there but not or only rarely elsewhere in Missouri (e.g., *Enaphalodes cortiphagus*, *Hesperandra polita*, *Metacmaeops vittata*, and *Trigonarthris minnesotana*). This may be due to the unique, mesic forest found at Trail of Tears, being one of only a few sites in southeastern Missouri



TCM with the discoverer of *Typocerus deceptus* in Missouri at Trail of Tears State Park, July 2008.

that support more typically eastern tree species such as American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and cucumbertree (*Magnolia acuminata*). Whether one of these trees serves as a larval host for *T. deceptus* is unknown. Nevertheless, I will be returning to Trail of Tears in the future to see what other treasures remain hidden within its unique forests.

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McDowell, W. T. and T. C. MacRae. 2009. First record of *Typocerus deceptus* Knull, 1929 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) in Missouri, with notes on additional species from the state. *The Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 84(4) (2008):341–343.



MAY BIRD REPORT

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Sightings: Frank Holmes reported a Horned Grebe, Chat, and a Nighthawk at HL on 5/1. A pair of yellow-crowned Night Herons and a Mourning Warblers were seen in FP on 5/16 (Peter Keyel). On 5/24, Dan Kassebaum reported a Tri-colored Heron at Indian Lake. Another Tri-colored Heron was seen at Simpson County Park on 5/26 (DM). During a heavy rainstorm at HL on 5/8, about 200 Pelicans, 37 Cattle Egrets, and a mink were seen there (JZ, PZ). The bird of the month and a St. Louis area record was a Brown Pelican reported on 5/11 at Riverlands (B Rudden). The bird remained at Riverlands until the end of May and was seen by many birders. On 5/21 on Bischoff Road, Frank Holmes photographed a Black-bellied Whistling Duck, the first documented sighting in the St. Louis area. A Whimbrel and a Least Tern were found at Riverlands on 5/12 by Joe Eades. On 5/17, Darrell Shambaugh observed 2 Whimbrels, 2

Avocets, a Hudsonian Godwit, 6 Ruddy Turnstones, a Willet, a Dunlin, 2 Stilt Sandpipers, and about 75 terns at Riverlands. Fifteen White-rumped Sandpipers were reported at Riverlands on 5/30 (B Rowe). A Little Gull – a really good sighting for our area – was found at Riverlands on 5/11 (DK). A large flock of Black Terns was seen at HL on 5/10 (D Becher). Jim and Charlene Malone found a Least Tern, 16 Common Terns, 2 Black Terns, 10 Caspian Terns, and 6 Black-bellied Plovers at Riverlands on 5/16. Seven Forster's Terns and 2 Willets were reported at HL on 5/2 (FH, B Rudden). Frank also saw 2 Caspian Terns at HL on 5/4. A Black Vulture was reported by a staff member at World Bird Sanctuary on 5/6. Another Black Vulture was soaring over Kirkwood on 5/7 (Peter Connelly). Mississippi Kites were reported in May as follows: 1 in Des Peres on 5/5 (Barbara Estill); 1 in Des Peres on 5/6 (Marjorie Richardson); 1 in Maryville, IL on 5/7 (FH); 1 in Kirkwood on 5/10 (AM); and 2 in Brentwood on 5/17 (YH). A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen at a nest with two young, plus 2 Cerulean Warblers, 2 Acadian Flycatchers, and a Least Flycatcher, at LVT on 5/7 (Boris Chevone). Several Nighthawks were seen in Brentwood on 5/12 (YH) and a small flock was encountered at CBCA on 5/13 (Ken Thompson).

Mike Brady found a Whip-poor-will on 5/20 and a Chuck-will's-widow on 5/31, both at CSP. On 5/7, Charlene Malone reported a White-winged Dove at BKL. Black-billed Cuckoos were seen at TGP on 5/11 (SM) and one at Simpson County Park (DM). Alder Flycatchers were observed at CBCA on 5/17 (J&CM) and one at MTC on 5/22 (JM). The first report of an Acadian Flycatcher was from World Bird Sanctuary on 5/7 (PL). Jackie Chain found a Western Kingbird in Soulard on 5/18. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned to its Hwy. N territory near Hwy. 94 on 5/5 (John Hitzeman) and Dick Coles refound the bird for the Thursday Group on 5/7. On 5/19, 2 males were seen there (JH) and on 5/22, Chris Hagenlocher reported a juvenile bird. On 5/23, a Western Kingbird was seen in the vicinity (CM). Another Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen in the HL area on 5/19 (Barbara Dietrich). Mike Thelen found an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pershall Park in Hazelwood on 5/20. On 5/2, a Marsh Wren was seen at Riverlands (CM) and on 5/9, one was

reported in Jefferson Barracks Park (B Rudden). Mike Thelen found a Wood Thrush at Hog Hollow Road on 5/21. On 5/5, the following birds were seen in TGP: Veery, Hermit Thrush, 2 Gray-cheeked, 4 Swainson's, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (JZ). Several Bell's Vireos were seen and photographed at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 5/10 (PB, AS). A Bell's Vireo and a Black-throated Green Warbler were found at HL on 5/4 (FH). Joe Eades encountered a singing Cerulean Warbler in TGP on 5/24. Two Mourning Warblers and a Canada were seen in TGP on 5/10 (PK). Another Mourning Warbler was photographed in TGP on 5/22 (B Rudden). Connecticut Warblers were reported at CBCA on 5/12 (JU), Hazlet SP on 5/16 (DK &MS), TGP on 5/23 (TB). Pat Lueders and SLAS found Orange-crowned, Cape May, Canada, and more warbler species on 5/13 in TGP. On 5/3, a Grasshopper Sparrow was spotted near Nichols Pond (FH). A Lincoln's Sparrow and Wilson's Warbler were present in TGP on 5/8 (PK). John Solodar, leading a SLAS group on 5/9, found the first Clay-colored Sparrow of the year in FP. Another Clay-colored Sparrow, plus Orange-crowned and Blackburnian Warblers, were seen at Blackburn Park on 5/9 (NB). Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at Jefferson Barracks Park on 5/12 (B Rudden). A trip to HL on 5/1 yielded Chat, 3 Bell's Vireos, 8 Dickcissels, 12 Bobolinks, 2 Forster's Terns, 6 species of herons and egrets, several Indigo Buntings, and 5 Blue Grosbeaks (SM, JZ). Nick Barber found Hooded, Golden-winged, Orange-crowned, 2 Grasshopper, and 1 Henslow's Sparrow at BCA on 5/3. On 5/10, a Mourning and 2 Hooded Warblers were seen at CSP (D Becher). On 5/17, 2 Black Vultures, 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 2 Prairie Warblers, and a Worm-eating Warbler were found at Klondike County Park (MT). On 5/14, the Thursday Group found the following at different locations: 1 Blue Grosbeak (BCA), 2 Blue Grosbeaks (Katy Trail), and Bobolink and Lark Sparrow at HL. Breeding Hooded Warblers were found at Castlewood by Mike Brady and at Busch CA by Marc Lund.

A typical day on 5/16 at Riverlands: 15 Franklin's Gulls, 2 Herring Gulls, 40+ Ring-billed Gulls, 6 Caspian Terns, 2 Forster's Terns, about 10 Common Terns, 2 Black-bellied Plovers, a

Hudsonian Godwit, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 2 Black-necked Stilts, 5 Least Sandpipers, 2 Spotted Sandpipers, 200+ Bobolinks among several flocks, a few Cedar Waxwings, and 1 Alder Flycatcher (B Rowe). A typical day on 5/13 at TGP: 3 Cape May Warblers, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 5 Magnolia, 4 Tennessee, 2 Blackpoll, 3 Ovenbirds, 3 Redstarts, 2 Wilson's, 2 Nashville, 1 Black-and-white, and 1 Canada Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, a few Cedar Waxwings, 1 House Wren, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 1 Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 Swainson's Thrush, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2 Pewees, and 1 immature Great Horned Owl (Jim Hickner).

Backyard Birds: Barbara Estill saw Yellow-throated Warbler on 5/2, Yellow Warbler on 5/7, and a Great-crested Flycatcher on 5/8 in Des Pers. Chris Kirmaier spotted a Mississippi Kite on 5/12. Mike Thelen had some fly-over Nighthawks on 5/18. Jane Allen found Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, and a Gray-cheeked Thrush on 5/18. A Pine Siskin was seen in the yard of John Hitzeman, Troy, MO, on 5/21. Margy Terpstra reported Golden-winged, Bay-breasted, Scarlet Tanager, and Mississippi Kite on 5/8, and Golden-winged, Black-throated Green, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Blackburnian Warbler on 5/12.

Contributors: Nick Barber, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Dick Coles, John Hitzeman, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Peter Keyel, Pat Lueders, Charlene & Jim Malone, David Marjamaa, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Bill Rowe, Bill Rudden, Mark Seiffert, Al Smith, John Solodar, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Jim Ziebol, Phil Ziebol.

Abbreviations: BCA, Busch Conservation Area; BKL, B. K. Leach; CBCA, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area; CC, Clarence Cannon NWR; CL, Carlyle Lake; CSP, Castlewood State Park; FP, Forest Park; HL, Horseshoe Lake; LCCL, Little Creve Coeur Lake; MBG, Missouri Botanical Garden; MTC, Marais Temps Clair; RMBS, Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary; SNR, Shaw Nature Reserve; TGP, Tower Grove Park.



JUNE BIRD REPORT

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Sightings: Frank Holmes found a Least Bittern at HL on 6/20. He also reported 7 active Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests in Wilson Park, Granite City. A White-faced Ibis was seen from Sand Prairie Lane on 6/20 (B Rudden). A drake Hooded Merganser in eclipse plumage was seen at Cahokia Mounds on 6/7 (JZ) and on 6/20, Frank Holmes reported 5 Hooded Mergansers there. On 6/10, a female Hooded Merganser with 6 young, were seen in the Shorebird Area at Busch CA (CA, CK). On 6/14, about 56 Wood Ducks were present at HL (J Chain). Also on 6/14, a Common Tern and a Ring-necked Duck were seen at HL, and a Common Tern and a Caspian Tern were found at Riverlands (FH). David Becher visited Clarence Cannon NWR on 6/7 and reported 3 Least Terns. Josh Uffman observed Franklin's Gull, 2 Least Terns, 5 Black Terns, 8 Caspian Terns, 15 Ring-billed Gulls, a Herring Gull, and 12 Cattle Egrets at Riverlands. Ten Mississippi Kites were seen by Bob Bailey at Simpson Lake County Park on 6/5. A very irritated Red-tailed Hawk was seen screaming at an adult Bald Eagle at Greensfelder Park on 6/8 (BP). By 6/23, John Solodar had noted 6 Least Terns using the barge, an artificial island, at Riverlands.

Mark Peters reported his first sighting ever of a Black Vulture in the St. Louis area; it was at his prairie in Jefferson County on 6/8. Shawn Clubb found several Eurasian Collared Doves at the junction of Route 141 and Marshall Road on 6/8. A SLAS group led by Pat Lueders to Columbia Bottoms on 6/6 found 8 Yellow-billed Cuckoos and 2 Blue Grosbeaks. A Tropical Kingbird was observed at Carlyle Lake on 6/14 (KM). Shawn Clubb saw a Western Kingbird at Katy Access/Weldon Spring CA on 6/8. Another Western Kingbird was found in Berkeley on 6/13 (MT).

Bryan Prather found a Yellow-throated Vireo and Prothonotary Warbler at CCL on 6/8. Bob Bailey noted the presence of a Yellow-throated Warbler from the first week of May throughout June at SNR. Blue Grosbeaks were reported from the Big Muddy NWR on 6/13 (CA), Busch CA on 6/13 (YH), in Hazelwood on 6/23 (MT), a pair at

CBCA on 6/25 (KP), and 3 males and one female at Route 66 SP on 6/26 (JZ). On 6/1, a Lark Sparrow and a Meadowlark were seen along Henke Road (Rebecca Secor) and David Rogles found 3 Lark Sparrows on Darst Road on 6/16. On 6/7, 25 Cattle Egrets and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak were seen at CBCA, and 2 Western Kingbirds and 2 Brown Thrashers were seen on Taussig Road (JH). Bob Bailey found Prairie Warbler, Pine Warbler, and a Chat at SNR on 6/6. Grasshopper Sparrow, Worm-eating Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, and Bell's Vireo were good birds at BCA on 6/13 (MT).

Backyard Birds: Sherry McCowan saw 2 Nighthawks flying over her Soulard yard on 6/11. On 6/12, Dennis Bozzay observed a fly-over Mississippi Kite and a Gray Catbird in his Crestwood garden. On 6/1, one Pike Siskin was present at a thistle feeder in Bel-Nor (Sam Kohler). On 6/18, Linda Virga reported a Bluejay chasing a Cooper's Hawk at her Affton home. Connie Alwood reported 2 Great Horned Owls still present in his neighborhood. Yvonne Homeyer saw up to 7 Mississippi Kites flying over Brentwood Forest condos or perched in trees there through August. On 6/24, Mike Thelen saw 2 Mississippi Kites over his University City yard.

Contributors: Nick Barber, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Dick Coles, Jim Hickner, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Peter Keyel, Pat Lueders, Charlene & Jim Malone, David Marjamaa, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Keith McMullen, Kraig Paradise, Bryan Prather, Bill Rowe, Bill Rudden, Mark Seiffert, Al Smith, John Solodar, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Jim Ziebol, Phil Ziebol.

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MAY BOTANY REPORT

Compiled by George van Brunt

May 5, 2009 – Fishtrap Hollow, Ozark Regional Land Trust (ORLT) property, Crawford Co., MO (contributed by Jack Harris).

This trip came about via an invitation to the WGNSS Botany Group to visit the area and to assist ORLT in preparing a plant survey.

Spring weather was highly welcome on this partly cloudy, 55-70°F day by the eight (8) WGNSS Botany Group field trippers: Rev. Jim Sullivan, George Van Brunt, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jack Harris, Rex Hill, Burt Noll, and Bob Coffing. Joining us were our hosts for the day: Ted Heisel, Executive Director, Abigail Lambert, River Stewardship Project Coordinator (ORLT), and Justin Early (accompanied by Bovine – his ebullient puppy), an area resident who contributed a familiar knowledge of the terrain and local color.

Following the trip an interim plant survey list of over 80 species was provided to the ORLT. A sampling from the list would include the following (species with an * identified by fruit, leaves or bud, all others in flower.): *Arisaema triphyllum* ssp. *triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Aristolochia tomentosa* (woolly pipe-vine), *Carex glaucoidea* (blue sedge)*, *Coreopsis palmata* (bigflower coreopsis), *Dodecatheon meadia* var. *meadia* (shooting star), *Hybanthus concolor* (green violet), *Hypoxis hirsuta* (yellow star grass), *Lithospermum canescens* (orange puccoon), *Lonicera flava* (yellow honeysuckle), *Panax quinquefolius* (American ginseng)*, *Parnassia grandifolia* (grass-of-parnassus)*, *Phlox divaricata* ssp. *laphamii* (blue phlox), *Polygonatum biflorum* var. *commutatum* (Solomon's seal), *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac)*, *Schizachyrium scoparium* var. *scoparium* (little bluestem)*, *Sideroxylon lanuginosa* ssp. *oblongifolia* (gum bumelia)*, *Silene virginica* (fire pink), *Taenidia integerrima* (yellow pimpernel), *Trillium sessile* (toadshade), *Vaccinium stamineum* (highbush huckleberry), and *Viola pedata* (bird's foot violet).

This was the first time the Botany Group had visited this area and the group enjoyed the scenic views from the high bluffs along the Huzzah Creek. We expect to visit the area again during different seasons to add to the plant survey list.

May 11, 2009 – Katy Trail, Weldon Spring Lost Valley Trailhead, St. Charles Co., MO (contributed by Wayne Clark).

It was a pleasant sunny day, an ideal day for a field trip and 12 (+1) botanists, Father Sullivan, George Van Brunt, Ed and Gladys Kullman, Wayne and Nancy Clark, Jeannie Moe, Charlotte Lehman, Malinda Slagle and one year old Mae Slagle, Jeannie Clauson, John Oliver, and Bert Noll. Our starting point was from the Weldon Spring Lost Valley Trail parking lot. We crossed Highway 94 to the road on the levee to the Katy Trail. Around the parking lot we saw *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane), *Erigeron philadelphicus* (Philadelphia fleabane), *Valerianella radiata* (corn salad), *Lotus corniculatus* (bird's foot trefoil), *Rumex patientia* (patience dock), *Rubus* spp. (raspberry and blackberry), and *Quercus macrocarpa* (bur oak). Along the road on the levee there was *Plantago rugelii* (Rugel's plantain), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Verbascum thapsus* (mullein), *Medicago lupulina* (black medic), *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust), *Trifolium pratense* (red clover), *Carduus nutans* (musk thistle), *Pastinaca sativa* (parsnip), *Lactuca serriola* (prickly lettuce), *Achillea millefolium* (yarrow), *Barbarea vulgaris* (yellow rocket). The sides of the levee and adjoining fields were well populated with small *Populus deltoides* (cottonwood) trees.

From the intersection of the levee and the Katy Trail we headed west on the KT. The first plant noted was *Packera glabella* (butterweed), and then *Viola sororia* (common violet), *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist), *Geranium carolinianum* (Carolina cranes bill), *Galium aparine* (cleavers), *Arisaema dracontium* (green dragon), *Phytolacca americana* var. *americana* (pokeweed), *Menispermum canadense* (moonseed), *Lactuca floridana* (Florida lettuce), *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Sanicula odorata* (black snakeroot), *Phacelia bipinnatifida* (forest phacelia), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* (woolen breeches), *Equisetum hyemale* (common scouring rush), *Smilacina uvealensis* (bearsfoot), *Trillium viride* (green trillium). We turned around at the bridge over Femme Osage Creek. We recorded *Oxalis stricta* (yellow wood sorrel) and *Allium vineale* (field garlic) on the return trip. As we rounded the corner from the KT onto the levee road John Oliver spotted an *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* (black rat snake) with its head protruding well

above the vegetation. It didn't move, which provided this writer time to take several photos.

May 18, 2009 – Onondaga Cave State Park, Crawford Co., MO (contributed by Jack Harris).

There were six (6) WGNSS Botany Group field trippers who enjoyed the very pleasant early summer like weather: Jack Harris, Bob Coffing, Kathy Thiele, Jeanne Clausen, and Pat Harris. Accompanying us for the first half of the day's tour was a member of the Park staff: Lisa Wegescheide. Several WGNSS Botany Group regulars were away having joined the Rev. Jim Sullivan for all or part of an intensive five-day botany excursion to south central Missouri (Winona as base camp).

The Blue Heron Trail was the elected route for the day. This trail bisects the habitat transition zone between the Meramec River bottomland and the well-drained Ozark upland slopes, including a poolside path along the main Onondaga Cave spring outlet, and thus wends its way through the home of a wide variety of plant species. An eclectic sampling of species observed in one or both habitats would include the following (species with an * identified by fruit, leaves or bud, all others in flower): *Aquilegia canadensis* (columbine), *Arisaema dracontium* (green dragon)*, *Aristolochia tomentosa* (wooly pipe-vine), *Calycocarpum lyonii* (cupseed)*, *Heuchera richardsonii* (alum root), *Menispermum canadensis* (moonseed), *Ptelea trifoliata* ssp. *trifoliata* (common hop tree), *Rosa multiflora* (multiflora rose), *Staphylea trifolia* (American bladdernut), *Tradescantia ohioensis* (smooth spiderwort), *Broussonetia papyrifera* (paper mulberry)*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum* (virginia water leaf), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* (woollen breeches), *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup plant)*, *Viburnum dentatum* (southern arrowwood)*, and *Viola striata* (pale violet), among many others.

The group was treated to an unusually robust population of *Aristolochia tomentosa* (wooly pipevine). All stages of the inflorescence development, from bud to senescing, were in plentiful array, which portended good news to the season's pipevine swallowtail butterfly population!

May 25, 2009 – Babler State Park, St. Louis Co., MO (contributed by George Van Brunt).

Nine botanists (Jack and Jackie Mitchell, Jack Harris, Wayne and Nancy Clark, Burt Noll, Jeannie Moe, Father Sullivan, and George Van Brunt) met at the Babler State Park Visitor Center on a warm, rainy morning. We drove from the Visitor Center to a parking lot on Bates Road in the northern part of the park. Bates Road, a former residential street, is a place we usually explore once or twice a year. Although the morning was rainy, the precipitation stopped for the duration of our field trip. We did not find many plants in bloom, but the bloomin' mosquitoes were thick. They routinely ignored DEET and tormented us to the extent that we decided we had had enough by 10:30am and we all left.

Plants that we identified only from vegetative structures included *Celastrus scandens* (bittersweet), *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup-plant), *Rudbeckia triloba* (brown-eyed Susan), *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust), *Quercus imbricaria* (shingle oak), *Dasistoma macrophylla* (mullein foxglove), *Prunus serotina* (wild black cherry), *Cercis canadensis* (redbud), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), and *Morus rubra* (red mulberry). Species with flowers or flower buds were *Cornus drummondii* (roughleaf dogwood), *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane), *Daucus carota* (Queen Anne's lace), and *Calycanthus floridus* (Carolina allspice). Plants which were already fruiting included *Sanicula odorata* (common black snakeroot), *Dactylis glomerata* (orchard grass), *Lepidium virginicum* (common peppergrass), and *Galium aparine* (cleavers).



JUNE BOTANY REPORT

Compiled by George van Brunt

June 1, 2009 – Katy Trail, St. Charles Co., MO (contributed by George Van Brunt).

Seven dedicated botanists (Wayne and Nancy Clark, Jeannie Moe, Jean Clauson, Jim Wiant, Karen Staloch, George Van Brunt) met at the Augusta access to the Katy Trail. The morning was warm and sunny with a gentle breeze and fairly low humidity as we started our westward walk on the Trail. The vegetation had been cut at

least once this year in a 10-foot wide strip on both sides of the trail. Many plants were growing in the cut area and they tended to be smaller than usual, but at the outside edges of the cut plants were growing normally.

Poisonous plants were in full bloom; the most widespread blooming species was *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock), and *Toxicodendron radicans* (poison ivy) blooms were quite numerous as well. There were a fair number of *Tradescantia obiensis* (Ohio spiderwort) in bloom all along our walk, but we found all other blooming plants in small numbers. These included *Plantago lanceolata* (buckhorn plantain), *Boehmeria cylindrica* (false nettle), *Dactylis glomerata* (orchard grass), *Veronica polita* (speedwell), *Lepidium virginicum* (common pepper grass), *Solanum ptychanthum* (black nightshade), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle), *Securigera varia* (crown vetch), *Delphinium carolinianum* (wild blue larkspur), *Galium aparine* (cleavers), *Geranium carolinianum* (wild cranesbill), and *Ruellia strepens* (smooth ruellia).

Other non-blooming species we identified were *Phytolacca americana* (pokeweed), *Plantago rugelii* (Rugel's plantain), *Morus alba* (white mulberry) (in fruit), *Arctium minus* (common burdock), *Laportea canadensis* (wood nettle), *Campsis radicans* (trumpet creeper), *Desmanthus illinoensis* (bundle flower), *Ambrosia trifida* (giant ragweed), *Equisetum hyemale* (scouring rush), *Menispermum canadense* (moonseed), *Rumex crispus* (curly dock), and *Gymnocladus dioica* (Kentucky coffee tree).

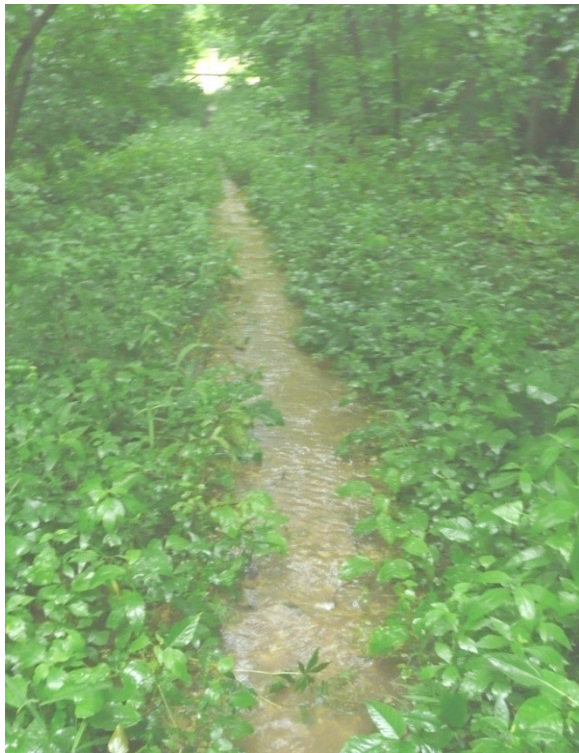
June 8, 2009 – Schulze Preserve, Ozark Regional Land Trust, Franklin County, MO (contributed by Wayne Clark).

Eleven botanists gathered at the commuter parking lot across from Shaw Nature Reserve to carpool to the Preserve. The 22 acre wooded preserve did not have any trails or roads. Our mission for the day was to make a plant inventory for the Ozark Regional Land Trust (ORLT). We had to do a little searching to find an opening into the woods. On the way in we found *Ribes missouriense* (Missouri gooseberry), *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper), *Phytolacca americana* (pokeweed), *Carya ovata* var. *ovata* (shagbark hickory), *Plox divaricata* (blue phlox), and *Polygonum virginianum* (Virginia knotweed). The biggest surprise for this writer was the large size

and number of stands of *Laportea canadensis* (wood nettle), a stinging nettle in the Urticaceae (nettle) family. The leaves and stems are covered with needles containing formic acid that cause the stinging sensation. The antidote, *Impatiens capensis* (spotted touch-me-not), which usually grows near to *L. canadensis* was conspicuous by its absence in the Preserve. In spite of its stinging properties it is an edible plant. Nettles are rich in protein, vitamins A and C, iron and contain several minerals. Several minutes in boiling water neutralizes the stinging properties. Pick the plants when they are less than 6 to 8 inches (15-20 cm) tall. Boil 5 to 15 minutes until the leaves curl up like spinach. Serve with butter. Use gloves and clippers when harvesting. Continuing with the list there was *Pilea pumila* (clearweed), *Maianthemum racemosum* (false Solomon's seal), *Gymnocladus dioica* (Kentucky coffee tree), *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleecabane), *Ambrosia trifida* (giant ragweed), *Celtis occidentalis* (northern hackberry), *Quercus muehlenbergii* (chinquapin oak), *Prunus serotina* (black cherry), *Sanicula odorata* (cluster snakeroot), *Lindera benzoin* (spice bush), *Silene stellata* (starry campion), *Campsis radicans* (trumpet creeper), *Carex radiata* (stellate sedge), and several other sedges. This is a partial list of plants we found. A complete list was compiled by Jack Harris and sent to the ORLT.

June 15, 2009 – Victoria Glade, Nature Conservancy, Jefferson County, MO (contributed by Wayne Clark).

There was a moderately heavy rain when we left home. The primary leaders were out of town on other botanical forays. This writer was the default leader for this trip and felt obligated to go, hoping for a nice sunny day at the Glade (Fig. 5). We arrived at the meeting place in the midst of a thunderstorm. We waited well past the meeting time for other adventurous botanists. Burton Noll arrived as we were leaving but he did not stay. We stopped a local establishment for tea and coffee. By the time we finished the rain had almost stopped. So, back to the Glade we went. Expecting the sun to peek through the clouds it started raining again as we arrived. Undaunted, I, with umbrella in one hand and camera in the other went out on the glade for half an hour until thunder was heard. The glade was green and covered with thick grass. Since we were short of time and experts, the plant list is short. The list

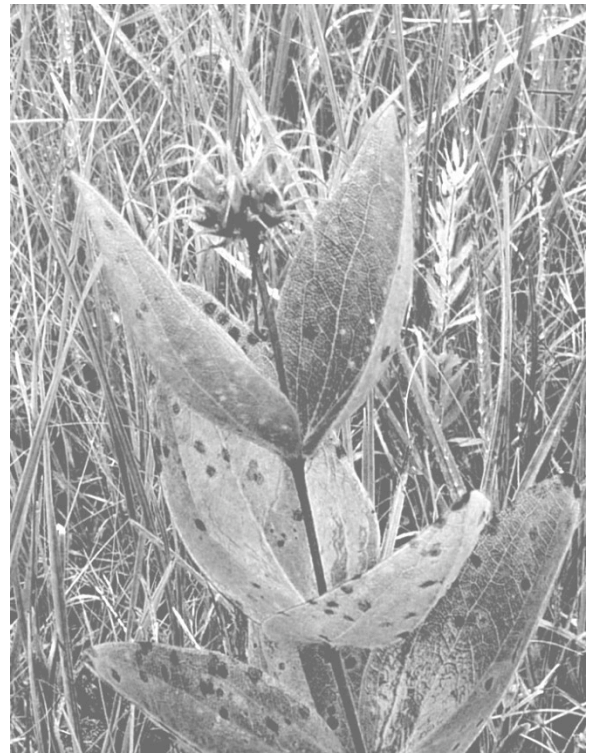


Victoria Glade – trail from parking lot.

begins with the signature plant of the glade, *Clematis fremontii* (Fremont's leather flower, Fig. 6). It has thick leathery leaves. It is found in only two counties in eastern Missouri and a small area on the Kansas-Nebraska border. The remaining plants are *Euphorbia corollata* (flowering spurge), *Echinacea pallida* (pale purple coneflower), *Echinacea simulata* (glade coneflower), *Oenothera macrocarpa* (Missouri evening primrose), *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (prairie dock), *Coreopsis lanceolata* (tickseed coreopsis), and *Castilleja coccinea* (Indian paintbrush).

June 22, 2009 – Broemmelsiek Park, St. Charles Co., MO (contributed by Jeannie A. Moe).

Seven botanists ignored the heat warnings and decided to go on a botany walk at Broemmelsiek Park to melt in the shade. Plants in bloom included black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*), woodland lettuce (*Lactuca floridana*), brown-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*), common hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*), hop clover (*Trifolium* sp.), wild carrot or Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), pokeweed (*Phytolacca Americana*), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), wild chervil (*Chaerophyllum procumbens*), pointed-leaf tick trefoil (*Desmodium glutinosum*), and daisy fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*). Unopened flower



Clematis fremontii (Fremont's leather flower) in fruit.

buds were observed on the Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*). Plants in fruit included black snakeroot (*Sanicula* sp.), large bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), and Missouri gooseberry (*Ribes missouriense*). Leaves of the common violet (*Viola sororia*), giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), moonseed vine (*Menispermum canadense*), clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), jewelweed (*Impatiens* sp.), coral berry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) and white oak (*Quercus alba*) were also observed.

A Parula Warbler was heard singing during the walk. Butterflies observed included the Great Spangled Fritillary. Ebony Jewelwing damselflies (*Calopteryx maculata*) were flying down the trail. A Hen-of-the-Woods mushroom was observed.



SPRING 2009 ENTOMOLOGY SPEAKERS

Rich Thoma

The WGNSS Entomology Group had a great series of speakers in the spring of 2009, with several talks given by active WGNSS members that are considered experts in their respective

fields. Presentations at the meetings covered a wide range of insects including butterflies, beetles and ants. Topics ranged from discussions about endangered species, taxonomy, and how to attract the next generation of entomologists. A short review of the spring 2009 presentation follows:

Phil Koenig, lifetime member of WGNSS, started the year with a talk about his 2008 butterfly collecting expedition to the bottomland forests of southeastern Missouri. Phil graciously opened his home for this entomological event. Prior to the talk, the WGNSS Entomology Group was able to spend time looking through Phil's world-class butterfly collection. This was an added treat for all. During his talk, Phil talked about his continuing effort to locate populations of butterflies that are on the Missouri Department of Conservation "Species of Concern" checklist. In 2008, Phil traveled throughout southeastern Missouri in search of rare stream edge and wetland butterflies. During the trip, Phil visited over a dozen sites including Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Big Oak Tree State Park, and multiple Missouri Department of Conservation areas. One species of particular interest was the Duke's Skipper (*Euphyes dukesi*), thought to be critically imperiled in Missouri. The caterpillars of this skipper are known to feed on sedges, a common plant in many of the places Phil visited. Phil felt fortunate to find the Duke's skipper at Big Cane Conservation Area. Phil also found a Phaon Crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*), a new state record. This butterfly was found in the bootheel region of Missouri at Ben Cash Conservation Area. One other butterfly that may soon be added to Missouri's "Species of Concern" checklist is the Swamp Metalmark (*Calephelis muticum*). Phil found a large population of these butterflies at Caney Mountain Conservation Area. In addition to finding butterflies, Phil made contacts with the rangers at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. Plans are being made to develop a species list of butterflies and other insects at Mingo. All who would like to help are welcome to join the efforts.

James Trager invited the WGNSS Entomology Group to spend the evening at the Missouri Botanical Garden's, Shaw Nature Reserve. James is a naturalist at the reserve, but his true calling is the study of ants (Formicidae). Over 25 people, a record for an entomological event attended the

evening's program. As can be guessed from James' specialty, the program for the evening was on ants. James introduced us to a new web site that he contributes to – AntWeb www.antweb.org. AntWeb provides tools for exploring the diversity and identification of ants. From a distance, say a person looking down at the ground, ants pretty much look the same. Maybe one can tell a difference in size or color, but for most of us they all look alike. James showed us how wrong we were. We saw lots of spectacular photos of ants, close-up. The WGNSS Entomology Group found out that each species of ant looks truly unique. Every ant had a story. We learned that ants are everywhere. They are found under logs, in trees, in the stomachs of frogs, and underground. They use tools, herd and milk other animals, and live in highly organized colonies which can last for hundreds of years. Ants are incredibly diverse. They can be as small as the point of a pin, or as big as a walnut. They can look as sleek as sports cars, or as bulky as tanks. AntWeb illustrates this diversity by providing information and high quality color images of many of the approximately 10,000 known species of ants. After the meeting was over, many went outdoors to look at stars in the clear winter sky.

Fr. Jim Sullivan, winner of the WGNSS Lifetime Achievement Award, was our March speaker. The crowd enjoyed an evening of story telling about the many insects Fr. Sullivan has encountered over the years. The interesting part is that he doesn't just collect an insect when one is found, like most insect collectors. Instead Fr. Sullivan observes the insect, making hand drawings of what he sees and records what the insect is doing. Fr. Sullivan is the classic natural historian. He is considered an expert in both plant identification as well as insect study. Many of his observations have been used by others in their research publications.

Ted MacRae, long time member of WGNSS, is a well-known expert on longhorned beetles (Cerambycidae) and jewel beetles (Buprestidae). In recent years he has added tiger beetles (Cicindelidae) to that list. Ted graciously opened his home for the April meeting. At the meeting he talked primarily about the tiger beetles encountered on three different types of prairie in Missouri, the Loess Hills of the northwestern corner of the state, the Osage Plains in western

Missouri, and the Sand Prairies of the Southeastern Lowlands. Each is considered a prairie, yet each has its own unique compliment of flora and fauna. The Loess Hills were formed during a recent glacial period. Light-weight soil carried eastward by the wind was deposited in Iowa and northwestern Missouri along the eastern edge of the Missouri River valley. In Missouri, approximately 50 acres is all that is left of this unique habitat. Some of the prairie endemic insects Ted has found include the snakeweed grasshopper (*Hesperotettix viridis*) and the prairie May beetle (*Phyllophaga lanceolata*). One insect Ted would like to find is the Swift Tiger Beetle (*Cylindera celeripes*). The swift tiger beetle is considered by many as a potential candidate for listing as a federally endangered species. Records show that it has been found in Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Iowa. Though it has yet to be found in Missouri, Ted believes the Loess Hills would be an ideal habitat for this species². Ted plans to return to the Loess Hills this summer to continue the search. At the opposite corner of the state are the sand prairies of southeastern Missouri. These prairies are mostly surrounded by swamp (though in today's world, they are surrounded by farmland). splitbeard bluestem (*Andropogon ternarius*) and American jointweed (*Polygonella americana*) are common plants on the sand prairie. As with the Loess Hills, there may be 50 to 100 acres at most of sand prairie remaining in the state. Six species of tiger beetle have been found on Missouri's sand prairies. The Festive Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela scutellaris*) shows a great deal of coloration variability in southeastern Missouri. After the talk, Ted gave tours of his insect collection to those that attended the meeting.

Our final talk for the spring 2009 season was a group discussion on "How to get kids excited about insects and the prospects for recruiting entomologists for the next generation". We had this meeting at the St. Louis Science Center – Taylor Community Science Resource Center. **Kerry Steverson**, Science Center Educator and our host for the evening, talked about Youth Exploring Science (YES) at the Taylor Center. YES is a structured program, which sends

² During the summer of 2009, Ted MacRae and Chris Brown succeeded in locating populations of *Cylindera celeripes* in the Loess Hills of Missouri. This is a new state record!

14-year-olds on a four-year journey of self-discovery. YES teens explore scientific concepts through inquiry-based experiences and then learn to teach others. This year, Kerry's students were learning about global warming. One of this year's activities was to perform butterfly counts at Valley View Glade. In the 1990's baseline butterfly counts were done all over the state including Valley View Glade. Kerry's students are duplicating these efforts to see if anything has changed since the first counts. Global warming is one possible explanation if the butterfly community at Valley View Glade has changed. Wayne Baldwin, Kirkwood School District middle school science teacher was also scheduled to talk this evening but had to cancel at the last minute. Instead, **Rich Thoma** interviewed Mr. Baldwin and talked about his insect course to the WGNSS Entomology Group. For this course, the middle school students must make an insect collection, properly label and taxonomically identify the insects at least to order. He has been teaching this 4 to 5 week course for over 15 years and is one of the few teachers still requiring students to learn natural history as part of the curriculum. Each year there are usually 1 to 2 students that want to learn as much as possible about insects and collect way beyond the 20 to 30 insects required for an A. It's obvious from both the Science Center and Mr. Baldwin's middle school programs that there is a lot of interest in natural history (and insect study to a lesser degree). In many cases the kids want even more. We found out WGNSS needs to do more outreach. We in WGNSS need to find ways to let teachers, schools, and other youth programs know they have a resource that is willing to help.

If you have an interest in insects, or are just looking for something out of the ordinary, think about coming to one of the WGNSS Entomology Group's monthly meeting. Meetings take place on the third or fourth Sunday of the month and take place at a wide variety of locations in the St. Louis area. Look to *Nature Notes* or online at www.WGNSS.org for exact dates and locations. If you would like to receive regular announcements about insect related activities, you can contact the WGNSS Entomology Group Chair at thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net. All are welcome.



TERRESTRIAL SNAIL SURVEY OF THE LABARQUE CREEK WATERSHED 2009-2010

Nels Holmberg

A snail survey of the LaBarque Creek Watershed is important to supplement fish, plant, and bryophyte surveys showing the watershed is a jewel of biodiversity. Missouri has 102 land snails and in this survey effort, starting in fall of 2008, 53 species have been found in the watershed.

Ron Oesch will direct a team of volunteers assembled by Bob Coffing & Nels Holmberg from the MDC Master Naturalists program, WGNSS, LaBarque Creek Stream Team, local residents, and other interested individuals.

Survey dates and localities:

Sep 16 (Wed) LaBarque Creek Conservation Area
Oct 17 (Sat) Hilda Young Conservation Area
Nov 18 (Wed) Bob Coffing home, Sand Cut Road
Dec 2 (Wed) Hilda Young Conservation Area
Dec 12 (Sat) LaBarque Creek Conservation Area
Jan 13 (Wed) Hilda Young Conservation Area
Feb 13 (Sat) LaBarque Creek Conservation Area
Mar 13 (Sat) Hilda Young Conservation Area
Apr 14 (Wed) LaBarque Creek Conservation Area

Meet at **9:00 AM**. Most sessions will last until about **12:30 PM**. Come prepared to spend quality time in the leaf litter. No equipment is required.

After each morning's survey, Ron will lead an informal workshop looking at the day's collected snails. There will be snail shells from previous collecting trips available to take home for study. Depending on the weather, we will do this in the parking lot over our sack lunches, or retreat to a local warm spot.

GO GREEN – RECEIVE NATURE NOTES BY EMAIL!

Nature Notes is now available by email. Not only does this save paper and reduce mailing costs, it

allows viewing of the newsletter and the included photos **in full color**. Embedded hyperlinks can be also be clicked on for instant navigation to email addresses and websites. Of course, you can print your electronic copy of *Nature Notes* if you wish (please be sure to use both sides of the paper ☺). The electronic newsletter is sent as a PDF, which can be opened using Adobe Reader (already installed on most computers, or download free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>). Contact the Editor at ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com if you would like to subscribe to *Nature Notes* by email.

CALL FOR ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REPORTS

We welcome all announcements of WGNSS or other nature related events in the St. Louis area, notices of published articles – especially those authored by members, and original nature oriented articles. Suggested topics include accounts of field trips you have taken, information about local natural areas, interesting nature sightings, or reviews of nature related books. Reprinting of articles from other sources requires permission from the copyright holder. Previous *Nature Notes* issues are a good source of ideas – copies of recent issues can be provided upon request.

Please direct all submissions by email to the Editor at ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com. Limit text formatting to bold for emphasis and italics for scientific names. Additional formatting (e.g., use of tabs and extra spaces) should be avoided to facilitate final formatting by the Editor. Photographs are welcome and will be published on a space-available basis. Contributions are welcome from all but especially encouraged from members – remember, this is your newsletter!

GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

– David Becher, Chair – (314) 576-1146

Saturday Bird Walks

– David Becher, Leader – (314) 576-1146

Saturday Trips meet at **8:00 AM**

Sep 19	Des Peres Park
Sep 26	Teal Pond @ Riverlands
Oct 3	Des Peres Park
Oct 10	Teal Pond @ Riverlands
Oct 17	Des Peres Park
Oct 24	Teal Pond @ Riverlands
Oct 31	Des Peres Park

Thursday Bird Walks

– Jackie Chain, Leader – (314) 644-5998

Thursday trips meet at **8:30 AM** (to avoid school and rush hour traffic). Depending on what birds are around, we may continue to other areas. Bring lunch as we usually have lunch in the field unless you plan to leave early. We will normally return by 3 or 3:30 PM. If you have questions, please contact Jackie Chain at (314) 644-5998 or

chainjac@sbcglobal.net

September through October 15:

Meet in [Tower Grove Park at the Gaddy Garden](#) for fall migration.

October 22 through early spring:

Meet at the [Des Peres Park](#) parking lot (east side of Ballas Rd. just north of Manchester Rd).

BOTANY GROUP

– George van Brunt, Chair – (314) 993-2725

Botany Walks

– Fr. James Sullivan, Leader

(starting his 43rd year in January, 2009)

Botany walks are every Monday. The WGNSS Botany Group visits many of the same locations as the Bird group: 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 WGNSS Botany Group emails from Jack Harris by contacting him at jahar@mac.com or (314) 368-0655 and receive an email no later than Sunday about the next Monday's trip.

ENTOMOLOGY GROUP

– Rich Thoma, Chair – (314) 965-6744

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, September 27 at 7:00 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 PowerPoint (XP compatible) slides of the insects you saw. Experts will be present to help you with insect identification. We will be meeting at the home of Richard Thoma, 320 Frieda Ave., Kirkwood, MO. For directions to this event, contact Rich at thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net or (314) 965-6744. This year, if the weather is warm, I promise to have the air conditioner on.

Sunday, October 18 at 7:00 PM. Bob Merz, Caretaker of Invertebrates at the St. Louis Zoo, will discuss “The American Burying Beetle”. Come and find out how the St. Louis Zoo is rearing this endangered species and future plans to reintroduce it into the wild. The meeting will take place at the Monsanto Auditorium on the lower level of the Living World at the St. Louis Zoo. For this event, park on the north side of the zoo and come in the Living World entrance. Someone from the WGNSS Entomology Group will be there to guide you to the auditorium.

For general information about WGNSS, contact Membership Chairman Paul Brockland at pbrockland@sbcglobal.net or (314) 961-4661.
