



nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Nov. 2000 Vol. 72, No. 9

November General Meeting

Doug Corbett

Nov. 10, 2000, David J. Ziolkowski Jr. will present a talk and slides on the West Indies. His topic is the natural history of a tropical paradise: birds, bugs, and other biota of the Windward Antilles. The meeting is 8:00 PM at the St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh, south of highway 40 in Frontenac. See you all there! ~

Request for the Jack Van Benthuisen Memorial

The Jack Van Benthuisen memorial pond in Tower Grove Park is nearly completed. A problem has developed however and much of the water has escaped. Can anyone help with the donation of an hour or two's use of a water tanker truck? Call Jim Ziebol, 314-781-7372. ~

Wish List

Doug Corbett

Attention WGNSS members! The WGNSS board is asking for help in procuring the following items from our wish list: a portable stand for our slide projector an extension cord an extension cord for the slide projector remote a display board (trptych) please contact me or any board member if you can assist. Thank you. ~

Bluebirds for the Next Century

Pete Winter

In the winter of 1995, Bud Taylor, who supervises our ranch properties in Franklin County, asked me after my 165 expeditions worldwide in search of birds and after the thousands of exotic birds I had seen, which bird I considered to be my favorite bird.

My reply was immediate:

"Because of their gentle nature, their beauty, and their pleasant thrush song, the Eastern Bluebird." Bud Taylor replied, "Pete, I will try to raise them for you!"

For the spring nesting season of 1995, suitable bluebird habitat was searched on our 2600 acre Roaring Spring Ranch properties in Franklin County. With several miles of frontage on the Meramec River, numerous hayfields, grasslands, ponds, and miles of trails throughout the oak-hickory woodlands, we determined that a trail of 170 bluebird boxes would be appro-

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Welcome new members

Duane Frey St. Louis
Anna Henricks Webster Groves

Thoughts about the Big Elm of Tower Grove

John Berger

Most St. Louis birders were well acquainted with the elm tree that stood just southwest of the Tower Grove Bird Garden. Its removal was commenced during the week of September 18, 2000. Following are some random thoughts while watching the chain saw crew at work:

I'm not sure of its age, whether Henry Shaw was here for its planting. I'm told it was a "Slippery" Elm. I would have called it "Spreading" or "Giant." It was such a dominant feature, everyone knew it simply as "The Elm" or the "Big Elm."

While magnificent in both shape and size, its special time was during spring migration, when it could crawl with birds. On the right day, at the right time, the warblers, orioles and tanager looked like ornaments on a Christmas tree.

How many "lifers" has it held? I recall the first time I saw and heard the Worm-eating Warbler.

It seemed to die a peaceful death in its sleep—one day in leafy green, the next as bare as winter. The starkness of its bare branches seemed to indicate it had died from a cause somewhere deep inside.

They are chopping the branches into chips, which will be used to protect and nourish new growth. I wish they would save the trunk, or commission someone to carve it into a twelve-foot owl.

If the Big Elm has a spirit, I'll bet Jack Van is under it, ticking off fall warblers. ♪

Hog Island

Susan Renick

Hog Island is only a mile and a half long, and about a half mile wide. It sits a short distance off the mainland in Bremen, about 9 miles southeast of Damariscotta. But when campers board the *Puffin IV* and head across Muscongus Bay to the 330-acre Audubon Society Todd Wildlife Sanctuary we make a journey to a place where we learn how wonderful the world is. During the week of ecology camp I spent time hiking portions of Hog Island, guided by some of the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable naturalists who freely share their love of the Maine coast. The varieties of habitats at Hog Island are ideal for nature walks and bird watching. The meadows and abundant woodland and shrub edges attract and support migrating warblers, thrushes and finches while also provide a hunting grounds for migrating birds of prey. An all day boat trip that cruised down the east shore of nearby islands offered an opportunity to observe colonies of gulls, eiders, and guillemots and other flocks of feeding shorebirds. Beautiful lighthouses and lobster boats can be found along the rocky coastline. Getting back to nature is always a popular form of recreation at the camp. Exploration sessions on marine biology, geology, forest ecology, and conservation provide hands-on opportunities to investigate the immediate surroundings of Hog Island. On the last night, when the campers discuss and write about their experiences it is hard to sum it up. Most don't discuss ornithology, spruce forests, or marine ecosystems they tell about moments. They tell about the moments they spent with the people who share a love of nature. ♪

Kennedy Woods Honeysuckle

Randy Korotev

If you plan to participate in the honeysuckle-cutting event in the Kennedy Woods on Nov. 12—Second Annual Free the Kennedy Woods, see Sept. newsletter—sign up by visiting our web site, www.wgnss.org or contact me at 993-0055 or rlk@levee.wustl.edu. We would particularly like to hear from last year's participants who could lead small groups of newcomers.

Date: Sunday, Nov. 12 (rain date: Nov. 19)
Time: Two shifts—10:00 a.m. to noon and noon to 2:00 PM.

Place: Meet at shelter near the Kennedy Forest trailhead off Wells Dr. in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO

What to bring: cutting tools (loppers, small saw, or hand pruner), gloves, water
web site:

<http://treeswallow.com/honeysuckle>

Wetlands Plant Inventory

Carl Darigo

The Green Center, a University City ecological organization, has received a \$10,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to restore a degraded wetland near the city's Ruth Park golf course. The wetland is overgrown and has been used as a dumping site for years. Plans are to dredge the wetland, restore native wetland plants, and to build a dam, shallow pond and boardwalk.

Since the grant requires an inventory of existing plants prior to dredging, The Green Center contacted the WGNSS Botany Group for assistance. On August 18, five Botany Group members, Father James Sullivan, Pat & Jack Harris, Nels Holmberg and Carl Darigo, collaborated on the plant inventory. A total of 61 species were found over the small area, with a surprisingly high number (72%) native. However, not

all native plants are desirable, as poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), raccoon grape (*Ampelopsis cordata*), giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), along with other nefarious non-natives, such as meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*), bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Japanese honeysuckle (*L. japonica*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) had infested the site.

Nels found the best plant of the day, *Aster praealtus* (willow leaved aster), which was marked for rescue. Some other interesting species seen were *Bidens frondosa* (beggar ticks), *Carex frankii* (Frank's sedge), *Eclipta prostrata* (yerba de tajo), *Eleocharis ovata* (annual spike rush) and *Scirpus georgianus* (common bulrush).

Executive Director Shelley Welsch and Board Member Kay Drey thanked WGNSS and provided a nice lunch for the hungry volunteers. ~

Bryophyte Foray

Carl Darigo

During the weekend of September 30-October 1, I was privileged to join Dr. Bruce Allen of Missouri Botanical Gardens' bryophyte section and UMSL graduate student Michelle Price, in attending the Blomquist Foray. This event, named in honor of Duke University Professor Hugo Blomquist, is organized annually by Duke Herbarium personnel for the study of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and lichens. This year's foray was held at Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County, located in far southeastern West Virginia. The park, at approximately 2,400 ft elevation, is surrounded by the Monongahela National Forest in the Allegheny Mountain foothills.

The foray was attended by 40 bryologists, lichenologists and even several mycologists (fungi people), composed of professionals, students and enthusiastic amateurs. Many non-flowering plants are difficult to identify in the field, requiring

detailed microscopic or laboratory work. Thus, the emphasis was on collecting the maximum number of species, sanctioned by the West Virginia state park system, eager to get as much information as possible on their park flora from these distinguished guests.

Two field trips took place, one on a trail along the Greenbrier River and the second in upland forest of the park's arboretum. Both gave ample opportunity to collect numerous specimens for later study. Much of the fun for me was in meeting experts in the field, previously known only by name, reputation or publications, plus the spirited evening discussions of all things bryological, before a roaring fireplace in an otherwise cold and unheated cabin. ∞

September 2000 Birding Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Abbreviations: Busch = BCA, Horseshoe Lake = HL, Riverlands = REDA, Carondelet Park = CP, Carlyle Lake = CL, Castlewood State Park = CSP, Lost Valley Trail = LVT, Tower Grove Park = TOP, Forest Park = FP, Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge = Marais Temps Clair = MTC, Rockwoods Reservation = RKWD.

The Little Gull found at REDA on 9/29 was the highlight of the month. This is the second Little Gull found by David Becher in the area.

There were no early Eared or Horned Grebes reported. On 9/23, there were 92 Great Blue Herons, 54 Great Egrets, 10 Snowy Egrets, and 2 Little Blues at Outlet Road, Monroe Co., Ill. John Loomis and the Thursday Group found a Little Blue Heron at BCA on 9/21. There were 40 Cattle Egrets seen at HL on 9/10 (FH). By 9/8, over 1,000 White Pelicans were counted at MTNWR (HW). Joe Smentowski found 200-300 White Pelicans and 2 Ospreys near Pere Marquette on 9/16 and by 9/23, Helen Wuestenfeld estimated 5,000 White Pelicans

at MTNWR. A Black Duck was seen near HL on 9/22 (T Be). One hundred-sixty Coots were at HL by 9/21 (FH). Two Osprey were seen at BCA on 9/21 (John Loomis & Thursday Group). The only large number of Broad-wingeds reported were 463 at the Arboretum on 9/24 (BR, MT, et al.). There was a brisk movement of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks area-wide in September. A Merlin was seen at CL on 9/23 (T Be). On 9/17, at BCA, 6 species of raptors were observed, including 3 Osprey (Mark Peters, JZ). A Sora was observed at REDA on 9/9 (DB) and another at MTNWR on 9/23 (HW). Torrey Berger located 2 Black-bellied Plovers on the South Levee Road on 9/3. Another Black-bellied Plover was found at CL on 9/8, along with hundreds of peeps (m. ob.). Dennis and Mary Regen found 20 Avocets, along with Forster's and Black Terns, at Moredock Lake on 9/9. A somewhat late Spotted Sandpiper was seen at BCA on 9/21 (JL). Tom Borman had 3 Sanderlings at CL, Parking Lot 3, on 9/16. A Red-necked Phalarope was a good find at CL on 9/30 (JM, T Be, m. ob.). On 9/6, 75 Pecs, along with one Sanderling, a Dowitcher and some peeps, were seen at HL (T Be). A good place to find Buff-breasted Sandpiper was the Emerald Turf Farm on Steppig Road, Monroe Co., Ill., with 10 found there on 9/3 (T Be) and 6 found there on 9/9 (D&MR) and Buff-breasted was also seen on 9/8 at MTNWR (HW). Long-billed Dowitcher was under-reported this fall, but some were found at CL on 9/10 (DK). On 9/23, David Becher found Dunlin, Pectoral, Lesser Yellowlegs and peeps at Eagle Park. This remains some of the best shorebird habitat at this time.

The first Herring Gull of September was observed on 9/26 near Alton (FH). A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at CL on 9/16 (J&CM) but was not refound. A first-year Laughing Gull was at CL on 9/16 (DK) and

one was seen there on 9/30 (G&TB). Kent Lannert found the first Sabine's Gull at CL on 9/16; this bird was unusual because it was an adult. Other Sabine's sightings included 5 at CL on 9/24 (JM), 2 at REDA on 9/24 (Jeff Lundt), 3 at CL on 9/30 (T Be), and 2 at REDA on 9/30 (DB). An immaculate juvenal-plumaged Little Gull was seen by many observers at REDA from 9/29-10/1 (DB*, video JZ). Four Caspian Terns were seen at REDA on 9/20 (FH). Tern sightings at CL included 13 Caspian, 3 Forster's, a Common, and 40 Black Terns on 9/16 (DK). Black Terns were seen in good numbers until the end of the month.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were down somewhat in number; one was seen at the Arboretum on 9/24 (MT). A Western Kingbird was observed on 9/3 at HL (FH). Marsh Wrens were found in very good numbers area-wide. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed at the bubbler in TOP on 9/5 (T Be) and the first Golden-crowneds were found at Eagle Park on 9/30 (FH). Five Water Pipits were located at CL on 9/29 (T Bo). Philadelphia Vireo was found in TOP on 9/21 (JZ) and 9/22 (T Be). Two Red-eyed Vireos, 2 Philadelphia Vireos, one Yellow-throated Vireo, 5 White-eyed Vireos, and one Blue-headed Vireo were found at CL on 9/23 (T Be). On 9/23, a Cape May Warbler was seen in TOP (Mary Ann Auer, Jim Jackson). Mourning and Golden-winged Warblers were good finds at TOP on 9/2 (DC, O&TB). An unusual fall Connecticut Warbler was seen near HL on 9/29 (T Be). On 9/14, Jeannie Moe found Scarlet Tanager and Blue Grosbeak at Weldon Spring Trail. On 9/23, one of the first Lincoln's Sparrows was also found at Weldon Spring (T Bo). Frank Holmes found a male and female Blue Grosbeak with a fledgling near HL on 9/3. Three Bobolinks, unusual sightings for fall, were found at REDA on 9/30 (P&BJ). A flock of about 500 Cowbirds was seen in St. Charles

County on 9/3 (J Mo). Good migration days in TOP included 9/16 when Torrey Berger saw 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 3 N. Flickers, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 5 Swainson's Thrush, 2 Blue-headed Vireos, 6 Red-eyed Vireos, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, 2 Magnolia, Black-throated Green, 2 Chestnut-sided, 3 Black-and-white, and 3 Ovenbirds; and on 9/21, Doug Willis of Farmington, Mo. found Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, several House Wrens, Winter Wren, 5 Swainson's' 5 Thrush, 10 Catbirds, 10 Brown Thrashers, 10 Red-eyed Vireos, Philadelphia Vireo, 10 Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, Redstart, Nashville, Ovenbird, and 5 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Comments: An apparent Northern Saw-whet Owl was seen the evening of 9/27 by Bob Lamberton near Washington University. This would be an early record sighting. Nighthawks had a very good migration this year, from the third week of August through the end of September (D Bz). The warbler migration toward the end of the month was also very good, with a Black-throated Blue seen at CL on 9/30 (Ill. Ornithol. Society).

Contributors: George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Borman, Doug Corbett, Dennis Bozzay, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Kent Lannert, John Loomis, Jim & Charlene Malone, Jeannie Moe, Dennis & Mary Regen, Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen, Helen Wuestenfeld, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented." To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol at (314)781-7372 or email Yvonne Homeyer at homeyer@postnet.com by the last day of the month. ☺

Conservation Committee Report

Yvonne Homeyer

Thanks to all your efforts, we have collected over 120 signatures on the Audubon petition to stop the poisoning of blackbirds. We are continuing to collect signatures, so you can still sign the letter that was attached to last month's newsletter and mail it to me.

At our meeting with Department of Conservation officials at Busch on September 26, we learned that the prairie project in Busch will cost approximately 1.4 million dollars and will take out 300 to 500 acres of mixed habitat (trees, shrubs, fields). Forbs will not be planted with the grasses but will be planted later. Prairie species no longer exist in Eastern Missouri Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow, Regal Fritillary, Aragos Skipper) so the ultimate benefit of this project is not clear. The prairie in Busch is in addition to the prairie that the Department of Conservation will put in at Weldon Spring near Blue Grosbeak Trail once it takes back the land that is being used by the federal government for the hazardous waste removal project.

Another action item is to write a letter to President Clinton asking him to designate the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge as a National Monument to keep the area safe from oil drilling. The area is completely undeveloped so far and it is the home of polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, grizzly bears, wolves, foxes, Golden Eagles, Snowy Owls and many other species of birds and animals. This is a campaign of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Just send your letter to the White House, Washington, DC If you want to copy the NRDC, their address is 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011. For more information, check out their web site at www.nrdc.org

At the time of writing this report in early October, the Corps of Engineers has

still not issued a permit to Gateway International Raceway on their scaled-down application that will now impact just 1/2 acre of wetlands instead of their previous plan that would have taken or impacted over 30 acres of wetlands. Stay tuned for the final chapter.

The next meeting of the Conservation Committee will be Wed., Nov. 15, at 7 PM at Yvonne Homeyer's, 1508 Oriole, 314-963-7750. All members are welcome. ∞

Bluebirds for the Next Century

continued from page one

Bluebirds avoid the vast oak-hickory woodlands and mature pine forest. They avoid a large area once open grasslands that has for decades been kept free of cattle grazing and the mowers. This allows for evolution into mature second growth forest, scrub, and thickets. Bluebirds prefer for their territories, the open meadows, grasslands, trails, and edges.

The 1995 nesting season produced only 125 fledglings. We considered the result disastrous because over 75% of all eggs and nestlings were lost to the two major predators—the black snake and the raccoon. Unsuccessful attempts were made to reconstruct the poles to curtail the predation.

The 1996 nesting season did a little better. A total of 355 bluebirds were fledged into the wild. The black snakes and raccoons continued their predation at an alarming rate.

Bud made additional experiments to deter the predators for the 1997 season and were able to fledge 725 bluebirds into the wild. We were still unsatisfied with the results and continued to pursue other solutions.

Bud Taylor learned from a friend that a local printing company had a huge inventory of used polished aluminum sheeting that had been discarded from the printing processes. Executives of the printing com-

pany agreed to donate sufficient supply of the aluminum sheets to clad the 170 poles on which the houses were positioned. The aluminum sheeting on the poles denied the predators the traction that was necessary to gain access to the nests. The results for the 1998 nesting season were immediate and remarkable—1233 bluebirds were fledged that nesting season, together with 187 chickadees—without the loss of a single egg or fledgling to the customary predators!

The 1999 nesting season was a disappointment. Only 877 bluebirds were fledged; however, no eggs or nestlings were lost to the predators. The poor results for 1999 were due to weather-related reasons. A very hot-dry July and August left numerous eggs unincubated. Perhaps a more significant reason for the decline was a severe ice storm that occurred at Roaring Spring Ranch in early January 1999. The area was covered with heavy ice for nearly a week, threatening the survival of the adult bluebirds that did not migrate and remained on the ranch. When the boxes were serviced in February 1999 for the approaching nesting season, over 100 mummified adult bluebirds were discovered in the boxes where they had sought safety from the ice and had perished. We were unable to determine the number of adults that had perished from starvation and exposure in the woodlands outside the boxes.

The 2000 nesting season renewed our previous expectations—1220 bluebirds were fledged, in addition to 128 chickadees, 45 tree swallows, and 12 broods of flying squirrels. No losses to predators were reported.

Bud Taylor, on his Honda 4-wheel ATV, inspects each of the 170 bluebird boxes twice weekly throughout the nesting season. He insists that the restoration of bluebirds in the wild is a crop that demands attention. Taylor keeps precise records of the nesting cycle. Each house is numbered and a pre-

cise record is kept of its location and type of habitat present. If a house is unoccupied, he re-locates the box to a different habitat and territory. Taylor records the date of arrival on the nesting grounds; the date of nest building; the date of egg laying; the number of eggs laid; the period of incubation; the date and success of fledging. Taylor has noted that less than 1% of the eggs are white instead of the customary blue.

It is interesting to mention that Roaring Spring Ranch bluebird restoration project has had no competition from the nuisance of House Sparrows.

Additionally, following each successful nesting cycle, Taylor services the bluebirds boxes. He removes the old nest and fumigating the boxes to destroy the parasites that have invaded them during the nesting period. He rubs a bar of Ivory Soap on the inside surface of the box lid to protect the box from invasion of wasps. Bluebirds will avoid boxes occupied by wasps.

Bud Taylor is certain that the 2600 acres of Roaring Spring Ranch has a maximum territory capacity to produce 1200 to 1250 bluebird fledglings per season. All suitable bluebird habitat has been covered and all territories are saturated with nesting boxes.

Bud Taylor's cottage on the ranch nearby the Meramec River, is surrounded with Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeders. The number of hummingbirds he attracts is incredible. He tells me they consume 1/2 gallon of sugar-nectar per day.

Two Purple Martin houses have for years been located on the ranch. They attract about 10 pairs of Purple Martins each nesting season. Taylor is unsatisfied with that number. He insists that for the year 2001 nesting season, he intends to substantially increase the number of houses and gourds, and give the martins daily attention which Purple Martins demand! Taylor says, "I am going to go after Purple Martins big time!"

Roaring Spring Ranch has one of the largest springs in Missouri. Roaring Spring Cave is located nearby the mouth of the spring. The cave contains one of the few known breeding sites of the Gray Bat, (*Myotis grisescens*), a Federal Endangered species. Winter Brothers Material Co. has extended a Conservation Easement surrounding the cave entrance to the Missouri Conservation Commission to monitor access to the cave. Signs are posted announcing a penalty of \$50,000.00 fine for molesting or entering the cave without written permission from the Missouri Department Conservation during the breeding season of the Gray Bats. Each season, after the bats have gone into hibernation, agents of the Missouri Conservation Commission enter the cave and gauge the guano deposited to determine the number of Gray Bats present in the colony. Over the past several decades the Missouri population of the Gray Bat has decreased, 72 to 81 percent. The 1999 survey did, however, find a slight increase. Perhaps this is a favorable trend for the future of this endangered species.

The Winter Family extends an invitation to all nature enthusiasts of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society who would find it interesting to visit our Ranch and see first hand how we conduct our bluebird trails and to talk with Bud Taylor about his enthusiasm for bluebirds. Arrangements to visit during the nesting season can be made by calling "Sally" at the Winter Brothers Material Co. office, 314-843-1400 or by calling Bud Taylor at the Ranch, 636-629-4119. It seems appropriate that our grandchildren have named Taylor "Buddy Bluebird." ~

Next Deadline: Nov. 10

Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722, 965-8091 or amccormack@stjosephacad.com

Science Seminar Series at Zoo

All Seminars are free and will be held in Saint Louis Zoo's The Living World on Wednesday Evenings, 7:30 - 9:00 PM. Adults, teachers, secondary students and the public invited. For further information, call 314-768-5466 or 314-533-8083. November 15 Conservation issues in the Galapagos Islands by Dr. Patricia Parker, Biology Dept, UM-St. Louis. ~

Cuba Anyone?

Mike Flieg

How about a nice winter birding getaway, January 13-22, to the great island of Cuba. Price of \$1500 is all inclusive from Havana. For information including local references, detailed itinerary and bird list call Mike Flieg at 314-645-3356. ~

St. L Audubon Tours to Africa

Safari in Tanzania during the annual calving of wildebeest herds on the Serengeti plains; Feb. 9-21, 2001. Optional 5-day extension to Zanzibar and the huge Selous Game Reserve in southern Tanzania.

Enjoy Africa during lush breeding season on a budget safari; June 8-18, 2001. This trip is priced under \$3000. Optional extensions to Tanzania and Kenya.

Contact Paul Bauer, St. Louis Audubon Society, PO Box 2085; Florissant, MO 63032. Phone: 3141921 3972. ~

tyson nature line

Call 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Connie Alwood, 524-8111. ~

Have you visited?

www.wgnss.org

need directions?

Horseshoe Lk State Park

- Take I-55/70 east to Hwy 111 exit.
- Turn left onto Hwy 111 and follow road to the entrance of the park on the left.
- Meet at the first parking lot to the right, just past the entrance.

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

- From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Hwy. 367 north to Alton.
- Turn right into Riverlands at the Fisca service station, just before bridge over the Mississippi.
- Usual meeting place is Teal Pond parking lot.

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Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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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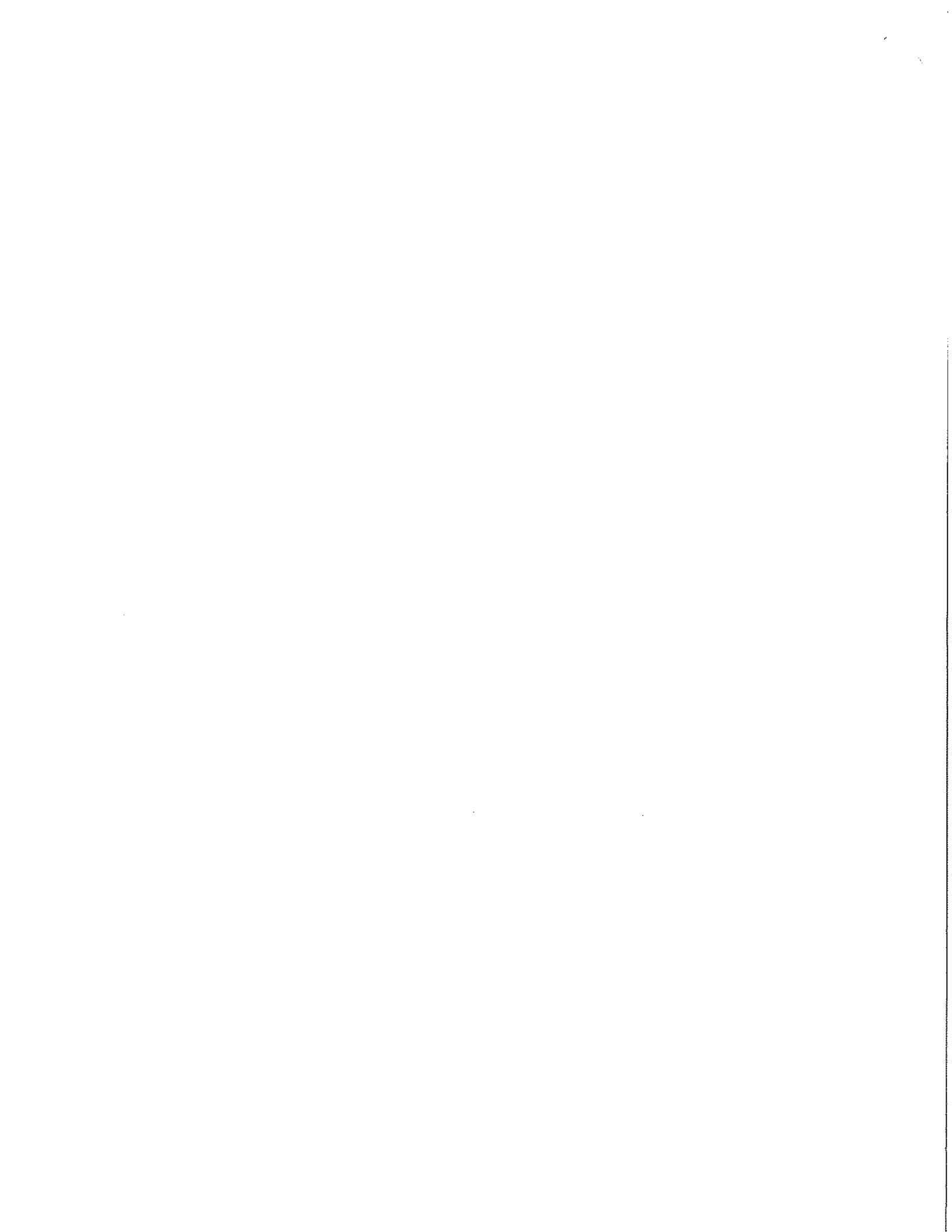
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ociety

Meetings

Wednesday Nov. 1

7:00 PM Board meeting at Marshal Magner's, 516 Bacon Ave., 314-961-4588. Note change of location. All members welcome.

Friday Nov. 10

WGNSS general membership meeting, 8 PM at the St. Louis Co. Library HQ on Lindbergh. David J. Ziolkowski Jr. will present a talk and slides: Birds, Bugs, and other Biota of the Windward Antilles. See you all there!

Conservation

Sunday Nov. 12

Save Forest Park's Kennedy Forest from invasive non-native plants. Two shifts—10:00 to noon; noon to 2:00. Meet near the Kennedy Forest trail off Wells. Bring cutting tools, gloves, water. <http://treeswallow.com/honeysuckle>

Wednesday Nov. 15

7:00 PM at Yvonne Homeyer's, 1508 Oriole Ln., Brentwood 963-7750. All welcome.

Botany

Thursdays Oct.—Dec.

Beginners welcome. Bring lunch, weather gear. Field trips usually meet 9:30 AM. Trip is usually 3–5 hr. plus travel time. Call Fr. Sullivan: 291-7885 after 1 PM Wed for location. An e-mail message is sent every Wed. advising when and where the field trip is scheduled. If you would like to receive it, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris at jahar@stlnet.com

Nature Notes deadline Nov. 10

join wgnss

Send \$15 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132

visit:

www.wgnss.org

Birding

Thursdays Oct.—Dec.

8:30 AM West County shopping center, south lower lot behind Penney's, lamp post #1. No trip on Thanksgiving.

Saturday Oct. 21

7:30 AM Tower Grove. Meet west of tennis court and stable, first picnic area on right. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Saturdays Oct. 28, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

7:30 AM Meet in SE corner of lot of Kohl's.

Saturdays Nov. 4 & 18, Dec. 2 & 16

7:30 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Thursday-Sunday October 26-29

St. L. Audubon/WGNSS Lake Michigan birding trip. Call Jim Malone, 636-536-1119, by 10/13 to reserve.

Saturday Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13

8:00 AM St. L. Audubon/WGNSS at Riverlands EDA. Meet at Teal Pond.

Sunday Nov. 26, Jan. 28

8:00 AM St. L. Audubon/WGNSS at Horseshoe Lk., Hwy. 111. Meet at shelter parking lot. Call J Malone, above, for more information.

Entomology

Sunday Oct. 22


7:00 PM at Magner's, 516 Bacon Ave., 314-961-4588. Rich Thoma will review the book *Amber Forest; Reconstruction of a Vanished World*, by Poinar.

Sunday, November 19

7:00 PM, at Magner's, above. Susanne Greenlee will discuss "The Fire Season's Effects on Orthopterans."

Sunday, Dec. 17

7:00 PM, at Magner's, above. Jane Walker will present the program discussing "Endangered Dragon Flies."

 Webster Groves
Nature Study Society
PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

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Please mail this form with check to: Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132