



Nature Notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society February 2003 Vol. 75, No. 2

Photographer Jim Rathert at Meeting on Fri. Feb. 14

At the joint meeting of WGNSS and St. Louis Audubon this year, our speaker will be Jim Rathert, photographer with the Mo. Dept. of Conservation, who will present "A Photographer's View of Natural Missouri." Jim will share with us many of his favorite photographs over his 30-year career with MDC.

The meeting will be held at the same location as last year, the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 N. New Ballas. Take 270, exit east on Ladue, left (north) at the second light on Ballas and turn right into the center after $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. The Creve Coeur Govt. Center is in the former Weber School, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Ladue and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Olive on Ballas. We will meet in the basement community rm ☞

Nature Line

Yvonne Homeyer

Want a quick update on the latest birding highlights, including hotlines? Can't find your newsletter to check on upcoming botany and bird walks? Call the Nature Line at 314-935-8432! The Nature Line will be updated as often as possible and every time there is a birding hotline or other bird of interest in the area.

Sherry McCowan has volunteered to be the next Nature Line Coordinator, taking over from long-time coordinator

continued on page two

April 11 Heritage & Fun

Jim Adams

WGNSS is 83 years old this year but still very much alive and kicking! Mark your calendars, recruit friends to share the evening with you, and join other WGNSS members and guests for a Heritage and Fun night on Friday, April 11, at 7 PM at the Creve Coeur Government Center—see "Meeting" this page. Meet past presidents of WGNSS, hear long-time members reminisce about the WGNSS of long ago, browse through exhibits of the many contributions of WGNSS naturalists to science and the community, and watch videos of past and current activities. And there's more! Participate in a contest for attendance prizes, socialize, and enjoy refreshments. This will be an evening you can't afford to miss. Consult the March and April issues of Nature Notes for more details. Mark your calendars now—this is a new date for the April meeting ☞

in this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Clark's Nut, Year Lists..... | 2 |
| Krakow, Mo..... | 3 |
| West Nile Virus..... | 3 |
| Bird Report, Homeyer & Ziebol..... | 4 |
| Birding, 1968..... | 5 |
| Fall Botanizing, Darigo..... | 7 |
| Nature Workshops..... | 11 |
| WGNSS events..... | 15 |

Nature Line continued

Connie Alwood—thanks again, Connie! To report sightings, call Sherry at 314-664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature Line recording.

Maintained by WGNSS in cooperation with Friends of Tyson, the Nature Line can give you information as quickly as it takes to dial the phone. Program the number into your cell phone or regular phone for easy access. We welcome your comments about the new format and any suggestions you may have ☞

Dates for 2003 Meetings

all meetings begin at 7:00 PM

- ☞ Fri., Feb. 14, joint meeting with St. Louis Audubon at Creve Coeur Govt. Center, 300 N. New Ballas Rd.
- ☞ Mon., March 10, St. L. Co. L-HQ
- ☞ Fri., April 11, Creve Coeur Govt. Cntr.
- ☞ Thurs., May 1, Spring Banquet Eden Seminary, Webster
- ☞ Thurs., Sept. 18, St. L. Co. L-HQ
- ☞ Tues., Oct. 7, St. L. Co. L-HQ
- ☞ Thurs., Nov. 20, St. L. Co. L-HQ

Area-Year-List Totals for 2002

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Connie Alwood | 271 |
| George Barker | 259 |
| Terry Barker | 258 |
| Rose Ann Bodman | 258 |
| Torrey Berger | 256 |
| Paul Bauer | 235 |
| Dottie Herweg | 226 |
| Margot Holsen | 215 |
| Jim Holsen | 211 |

Birds of the Year...

☞ The Bird of the Year is the Clark's Nutcracker!

Dottie Herweg

☞ I have a tie between the Prairie Falcon with its spectacular hunting forays at Little Creve Coeur Lake and the Common Moorhen with chicks at the old Collinsville golf course (now called Indian Lake). I picked the Moorhen primarily because it's nesting at this newly "reclaimed" wetland, indicates that this site may well mature to be a great birding spot in the future.

Torrey Berger

Another Rare Visitor from the West: Clark's Nutcracker

Paul Bauer

First it was Townsend's Solitaire, then Lewis's Woodpecker—both of these birds were found near the western edge of Missouri and required long, impromptu trips to add those birds to my state list. But this Clark's "Nut" cruised into eastern Missouri, almost to our back yards! This may be only the fourth Missouri record: The most recent prior sighting was north of Kansas City in late 1972. Prior to that was one in October, 1907, in Pike Co., and on October, 1894, in Kansas City. Our bird was on rare dude, and very far from high-altitude pine forest in the Rocky Mountains. Winter drought may have caused his wandering to our area.

Clark's Nutcracker is bigger than a Blue Jay, and plump in shape, like a Starling. After listening to the tape, I decided the sound had a rhythm like a Blue jay call, but was hoarse and deep in tone similar to a Raven.

It took three visits to the sizable pine forest near Lake 8 at Busch CA to be successful, and arrival at dawn was critical. On Monday, December 23, I arrived at the forest by 7:40 AM, and everything was totally silent until 7:55. Then a Cooper's Hawk flew just over the top of the pine forest from north to south. Next was this terrible, ugly, loud sound—that was the bird! Kent Lannert and I quickly moved toward the sound, only to see our target bird aggressively chase a Barred Owl out of the forest to the south. I thought, now what—where

will he go if he leaves here? Not to worry; he came right back to this large food source.

To watch this bird's unusual feeding behavior was the best part. Clark—by now I'm on a first-name basis—would fly to the top of a tall pine tree, tear off a complete pine cone, carry the cone to a deciduous tree, lodge the cone in a forked branch, and proceed to systematically remove each seed from the pine cone. When Clark was finished, the cone was pitched to the ground, and off it flew for another. By 8:05, Kent and I had totally enjoyed our find, and watching a feeding behavior that was entirely new to my experience. Thus the Clark's Nutcracker became the 357th bird on my Missouri list.

St. Louis Areas Year List for 2002: 235 in 55 birding trips

St. Louis Area Life List: 340 in 55+ years

Missouri Life List: 357, with the addition of the Clark's Nutcracker on 12/23/02. This is the second largest for Mo., but still well behind David Easterla's with at least 377.

Kenya Bird List '02: 406 in 15 days of birding!
—best bird list in 12 safaris to Africa ♡

Notes from Krakow, December

Nels Holmberg

There was a faint tapping coming from outside of the house. Was the Pileated woodpecker back? Oh no! I thought we had cured it of banging on the wooden siding of our old house years ago. I peer out the screen door. There is a downy woodpecker hanging near the ceiling of our front porch. It gives me a glance and goes back to gently tapping on one of the many mud dauber nests decorating the upper walls and ceiling. It finds a thin spot in the mud, makes a small hole, takes out the juicy larva and has brunch. On she goes from nest to nest, clinging to either the cracks in the ceiling or to the nests themselves.

There are plenty of mud dauber nest on our porches, the barn, the garage and the woodshed. Most are made by *Sceliphron caementarium* (yellow and black) and *Chalybion californicum* (blue) wasps, with a few decorative organ pipe nests by *Trypargilum politum*. I seldom find these nests anywhere else. There must have been a population explosion 150 years ago when the German farmers came to our area ♡

Help Needed to Protect Life & Property

Mike Thelen

WGNSS members who have visited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area in St. Charles County have reported speeding traffic along Riverlands Way, the main route through REDA and the access to the Melvin Price locks and dam parking lot. Most recently, a speeding car ran over migrating Tree Swallows that had landed on the road.

While the REDA staff is aware of this specific incident, they can use our help. Visitors who witness speeding or reckless driving are encouraged to report it. The offender will be contacted by REDA authorities and warned that repeated offenses will result in a citation.

To report a speeder or reckless driver, note the license plate number, date and time of the incident, and call the REDA office toll free at 1-888-899-2602. Ask for Karen Watwood, ext. 233, or Kim Rea, ext. 241. The identity of the caller will be kept confidential.

Birders have noted feral cats in the area. These can wreak havoc with native birds, especially those species that nest on the ground. If you see a cat, please report it at the headquarters building ♡

West Nile Virus Update

Yvonne Homeyer

A Washington Post article entitled "West Nile's Widening Toll" (www.washingtonpost.com, 12/28/02) described the horrendous impacts of West Nile Virus on wildlife of all sorts, especially birds. To date, 140 species of birds have died of the disease in the United States, including hawks, owls, eagles, warblers, woodpeckers, wrens, swans, sparrows, pelicans, kingfishers, herons, gulls, grackles, doves, and chickadees. The article noted several unwelcome surprises that have been learned about how West Nile Virus is spread to bird populations. Scientists now believe that the virus can be transmitted directly from bird to bird—and not just by being bitten from an infected mosquito. Raptors can get the disease by eating infected prey, and some birds can pass the virus directly to their chicks while they're still inside the egg.

West Nile Virus is expected to reappear in the spring. The virus is likely to spread to the West Coast this year and may even spread to the subtropics. Peter Marra of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center stated, "Once it gets to the tropics, where you've got species already stressed by habitat destruction and you have the potential for year-round mosquito transmission, some of those populations are not going to make it."

Our birds are stressed by habitat destruction in the United States too, as well as collisions with lighted towers and buildings, pesticides, and outdoor cats. Although West Nile Virus's full impact is unknown, it is not an exaggeration to say that the worst may still lie ahead. Let's treasure our birding experiences this year.

For the full text of the article, go to: www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45800-2002Dec27.html or go to the home page and search West Nile Virus Update.

December 2002 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LCCL = Little Creve Coeur Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

TGP = Tower Grove Park

"Starlings, though vastly underappreciated by most Americans, were much coveted as pets in Mozart's day. The Master himself purchased one after hearing it sing a segment of a concerto he was writing (and had presumably hummed in the bird's presence)." Jane Brody, "Mimicry and Mozart," *New York Times Book of Birds*.

Sightings: A Great Egret was seen on Layton Road, HL, on 12/3 (FH, T Be). Mike Thelen found 52 Trumpeter and 2 Tundra Swans at REDA on 12/8. On 12/8, the WGNSS group found thousands of Snow Geese, 4 Ross's Geese, 15 Greater White-fronted Geese at Baldwin Lake, and 7 Mute Swans and 3 Shrikes at Peabody Coal (KL et al). About 215 Green-winged Teal were counted at Eagle Park on 12/15 (FH). Approximately 62 Hooded

Mergansers were seen on Sand Prairie Road on 12/4 (T Be) and 100 were seen at REDA on 12/24 (CA, T Bo). Paul Bauer reported 1800 Canvasback and 18 Greater Scaup at REDA on 12/8. By 12/15, 1000+ Goldeneyes replaced the Canvasbacks (JU). On 12/1, thousands of Ring-billed Gulls, along with Herring and Bonaparte's, were seen at CL (DB, MB).

Frank Holmes found 20 Turkey Vultures along the bluffs of the Great River Road on 12/30. There were 32 Bald Eagles eating the dead fish in a dried-up pool at Mitchee and Levee Roads on 12/23 (JZ). The Thursday Group found a male N. Harrier at REDA and a Cooper's Hawk in St. Charles County on 12/5 (RAB, JC). Torrey Berger saw a Krider's Hawk at Clarence Cannon on 12/6. On 12/4, a Merlin was seen at the Washington Univ. campus (RK). The Monk Parakeets are still being seen at Consolidated Grain in Carlyle, IL (MB). By the beginning of December, Dan Kassebaum had found the Saw-whet Owl in Hazlet SP/CL. On 12/28, a Barn Owl was seen in flight on the road to Lake 27, BCA (JZ, YH).

An Eastern Phoebe was reported on Palmer Road, Monroe Co., IL, on 12/16 (JZ). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found on IL Hwy. 143, across from the barge terminal, on 12/7 (MT). The St. Louis area's bird of the year, a Clark's Nutcracker*, was found at BCA near Lake 8 on 12/21 by a visiting birder, Rich Kostecke (G&TB, MG photo, YH video, m. ob.)—see the article on p. 2. Torrey Berger found 200 Horned Larks on Sand Prairie Road on 12/4. On 12/1, 2 flocks of 300-400 Lapland Longspurs were seen in fields near Carlyle, IL (MB) and on 12/17, 3,000 Lapland Longspurs were found near Hazlet SP/CL (DK). On 12/5 at REDA, the Thursday Group saw 2 Lapland Longspurs in a flock of Horned Larks, 30 - 50 Am. Tree Sparrows on Wise Road, and a small flock of Eurasian Tree Sparrows on Red School Road (RAB, JC, et al.). A few Lapland Longspurs were also seen on School House Road, HL, on 12/26 (FH). The only Snow Bunting seen in the St. Louis area was at REDA on 12/1 (JU). A Purple Finch was found in BCA with Bluebirds and Goldfinch (CM). Rusty Blackbirds were reported at HL on 12/5 (FH). Another really good winter sighting was the female Summer Tanager at St. Louis University campus on 12/5 (NB).

A typical day at HL on 12/11 included 4 Pied-billed Grebes, 12 Great Blue Herons, Mallard, Gadwall, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Mergansers, 10 Common Mergansers, Ruddy Duck, 1 Bald Eagle, 8 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Merlin, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, and 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (T Be).

Comments: Mary Anne Auer flushed a Barred Owl on 12/22 when she was looking for the Clark's Nutcracker in Busch. It flew around her in a circle and each time it stopped, it "scolded" her with a jay-like call. Margy Terpstra reported Pileated Woodpeckers and good numbers of Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwings at her Kirkwood home. A leucistic Starling was seen at BCA on 12/28 (JZ, YH). An immature White-fronted Goose was seen at the pond in Brentwood Forest on 12/13 (YH). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was found at Josh Uffman's home on 12/15. Dianne Benjamin witnessed a Red-tailed Hawk kill and eat a squirrel in University City. An E. Screech Owl was being seen at Connie Alwood's home. A Red-shouldered Hawk was a really good yard bird at the Boeser residence in Affton (video). The bird came on four consecutive days and fed on Christmas leftovers ♡.

Christmas Count Highlights:

Pere Marquette 12/15: 60,000 Mallards, good numbers of other ducks, including Pintail and Green-winged Teal, 6 Least Sandpipers, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a Cooper's Hawk. **Carlyle Lake 12/17:** Golden Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Lesser Black-backed & Glaucous Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake, Eurasian Collared Dove, and Monk Parakeet. **Collinsville Circle 12/21:** Common Loon, 22 White Pelicans, 1500 Gadwalls, 33 Turkeys, a Great-tailed Grackle, and a Hermit Thrush. **Clarence Cannon 12/28:** 27,000 Mallards, 22 Am. Black Ducks, 79 Savannah Sparrows, and 44 Lapland Longspurs.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Dianne Benjamin, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Borrmann, Mike Brady, David Becher, Jackie Chain, Mike Grant, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Randy Korotev, Jim & Charlene Malone, Bruce Schuette, Scott Schuette, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uff-

man, Jim Ziebol. An asterisk means "documented." Please submit sightings by the last day of the month to Jim Ziebol, 314-781-7372, or Yvonne Homeyer <homeyer@earthlink.net> ♡.

A Birding Perspective From 1968

Yvonne Homeyer

The 1968 edition of WGNSS's book, *A Guide to Finding Birds in the St. Louis Area*, makes for very interesting reading. Paul Bauer and the late Dick Anderson were the authors of this original version of WGNSS's current book, *Birds of the St. Louis Area*, 1995. Jim Ziebol and I were fortunate to acquire the 1968 edition at the holiday party's book sale. Dick and Paul thoroughly reviewed the best birding sites used by birders as of 1968 and created an annotated bar chart for the 334 bird species that had then been seen in the St. Louis area.

The maps provide a quick summary for much of what has changed since 1968. The west St. Louis County map shows only Babler State Park, Rockwoods Reservation, and the Arboretum. Castlewood State Park, Tyson Research Center, Lone Elk Park, West Tyson Park and other publicly-owned lands on the I-44 corridor are not shown. The book noted that much of west and north St. Louis County was agricultural land. That is certainly not the situation today. Birders regularly obtained permission to bird on land owned by duck clubs, such as Marais Temps Clair, which is now owned by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. There was extensive agricultural land in St. Charles County, much of which has since been developed. Riverlands did not exist as such and the area was referred to as Alton Lock and Dam 26. Frank Holten State Park in East St. Louis and Creve Coeur Park were visited on a regular basis. Marshes on the Hwy. 111 side of Horseshoe Lake were good birding spots, but they have largely disappeared with development. Bellefontaine and Calvary Cemeteries were popular birding spots. The Missouri River floodplain, accessed by Taussig-Missouri Bottom Roads, was also heavily birded. Much of this area has been cut off from the river by levees and has been developed or is slated for development. The Levee Road along the Mississippi River in Illinois, south of the Jefferson

Barracks Bridge, was visited frequently by birders.

Busch Wildlife was a regular stop of WGNSS birders. The authors mention that WGNSS conducted a monthly bird census of Busch Wildlife on the second Saturday of every month (except July and August). *If anyone knows where the data from these Busch surveys can be found, please let Yvonne Homeyer know.* By the way, Hampton Lake was then called Shop Lake and that was the typical meeting place at Busch in 1968.

What about the birds? Clearly, many changes have occurred. The 1968 book, surveying bird reports from as far back as the 1800's, referred to several species that were either extinct or had not been seen in the St. Louis area for many years. For example, Eskimo Curlew was seen by birders here until the late 1800's. Passenger Pigeon was once abundant, but was last seen in St. Louis in 1885. Carolina Parakeet had been abundant along the Missouri River until 1850 but within 30 years, it was almost gone. All three species were extinct long before 1968.

Trumpeter Swan was on the list of "Species Formerly Occurring in St. Louis" and by 1968, it was not seen here any longer. Trumpeter Swans are now seen regularly at Riverlands; however, these individuals are the product of a captive breeding program. Other species have not been as fortunate. St. Louis area birders once enjoyed Greater Prairie Chicken, which was "very common" until the 1880's, and Swallow-tailed Kite, noted as "formerly common." The Greater Prairie Chicken is now found in just a handful of prairie remnants in Missouri, and the Swallow-tailed Kite's range is now limited to Florida and the Gulf Coast.

Ross's Goose and Painted Bunting were, in 1968, hypothetical species. Painted Buntings have now started nesting in the St. Louis area, possibly a result of global warming, and Ross's Goose has also been found here.

In 1968, the Canada Goose and Turkey were in short supply. There was just one location where Canada Goose bred, and that was Busch Wildlife. It is hard to believe that only 35 years ago, the Canada Goose was primarily a migrant and Turkeys were uncommon. Back then, the Turkey was a rare local resident in heavily wooded areas near Ste. Genevieve.

During the winter of 1964-65, an unusually large flock of 3 million Robins roosted in various places south of the St. Louis. White Pelicans rarely stopped in St. Louis as of 1968; now their migratory route has shifted further east and they are found here on a regular basis. Wintering Short-eared Owls were found in fields in St. Charles County. Long-eared Owls nested occasionally at Rockwoods and Busch and could be seen in flocks of 10 to 12 in the winter. Common Gallinule (Moorhen) was found at Stump Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Moredock Lake in Illinois. Now it has almost disappeared from the St. Louis area, primarily due to the loss of its wetlands habitat.

Warblers occurred "literally anywhere" in migration. Today, we search diligently in migrant traps like Tower Grove Park and Kennedy Woods to find migrating warblers and other Neotropical migrant songbirds, whose populations have decreased significantly. The Prothonotary Warbler was reported as abundant along the Illinois River and a regular breeder at Creve Coeur Park, where Worm-eating Warbler was also easily found. The Cerulean Warbler was noted to share the same habitat as the Parula, but was less common. Presently, it is known to breed in just two locations in the St. Louis area. (Note: the Cerulean Warbler is being considered for addition to the Endangered Species List. Of all the warbler species, it has suffered the largest population decline.) The Blackpoll and Tennessee Warbler were described as abundant migrants; today the Blackpoll is heard and seen much less frequently than the Tennessee.

Pine Siskin was a regular winter visitor at Bellefontaine Cemetery. Common Redpoll was rare but did occur from time to time. Red and White-winged Crossbills also showed up occasionally. A few Evening Grosbeaks showed up each year but were erratic. In 1968, the best place to find a wintering Harris' Sparrow was Busch. Bachman's Sparrow used to nest in open fields southwest of St. Louis. Grasshopper Sparrow and Lark Sparrow were more easily found and Chipping Sparrow was a common nester in residential neighborhoods. Horned Larks were reported as common and always seen at the St. Charles Airport in winter; today, flocks of Horned Larks are not as easy to come by. Dickcissel was abundant in the countryside.

WGNSS has played an important role in documenting the birds of the St. Louis area. We owe a great deal to Dick Anderson, Jack Van Benthuyzen, Randy Korotev, Paul Bauer, and Connie Alwood for the countless hours they each spent updating this information for WGNSS's 1995 edition. We also owe thanks to the WGNSS members who participate in the Christmas Bird Counts and the Migratory Bird Survey in May, the members who volunteer for the Busch Bird Survey every June, and those who report their sightings for the Bird Report. The WGNSS Bird Report serves as an ongoing record of the birds being seen in the St. Louis area. These monthly compilations preserve critical data for future use. Please continue to turn your reports in to Jim Ziebol, and include numbers of each species whenever possible.

What will the birding be like 10 or 20 years from now? It's a safe bet to predict that bird populations will continue to decline, since the major factors that contribute to their decline—habitat loss, pesticides, outdoor/feral cats, and lighted buildings and towers—are not being addressed in any meaningful way. Until these problems are taken seriously by those with the power to make changes, we can expect to see our beloved birds continue to decline in numbers. In addition, the West Nile Virus wild card now has to be factored into the equation. This disease has killed birds of 140 species in the U.S. over the last 4 years. The long-term impact of West Nile Virus is uncertain and will depend in part on whether the disease continues to pose a threat year after year and whether it spreads to the Neotropical migrants' wintering grounds. Experts are predicting another outbreak in 2003 and a continued geographical expansion—see accompanying summary of *Washington Post* article, p. 3. Meanwhile, we can enjoy the birds that are still with us and speak out on their behalf whenever we have a chance ♡

Next Deadline: Feb. 7

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

Fall Botanizing

Carl Darigo

The Botany Group Thursday outings continued through the fall season (except for one week in October), with the following attending one or more weeks, Father James Sullivan, Dave Alspaugh, Marvin Boisseau, David Bruns, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Dot & Ed Emery, Pat & Jack Harris, Nels Holmberg, Lisa & John Holmberg, Gladys & Ed Kullman, Louise Langbein, Barbara Lawton, Steve Liford, Jeannie & Jim Moe, Fran & Tom O'Gorman, Marge & Jim Ruschill, Al Seppi, Bob Siemer, Nancy & John Solodar, Kathy Thiele, James Trager, Betty Walters and Chuck Yates.

September 5, Lower Meramec River Park, St. Louis County—12 people opened the fall season by walking the trail along the Meramec River, southeast of the parking lot, on a pleasant, sunny 80° day. One of the goals was to check out the extensive bearsfoot (*Smallanthus uvedalius*) patch seen on past trips. However, a one foot thick chipped wood application to the dirt road may have smothered the plants as only a few were seen. Abundant along the trail, besides the ever-present *Ambrosia trifida* (giant ragweed), were *Desmodium paniculatum* (panicked tick trefoil) and *Eupatorium coelestinum* (mist flower). Jack Harris spotted one spider flower plant (*Cleome hassleriana*) and Father Sullivan came up with catchfly grass (*Leersia lenticularis*), whose spiny leaf margins belabor the unwary walker. A spreading green haw tree (*Crataegus viridis*) was seen near the river; this species is one the largest hawthorns and likes moist habitat. Some other interesting plants observed were *Ipomoea lacunosa* (small white morning glory) with both white and purple flowers, *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop), *Mentha arvensis* (field mint) exuding a minty aroma, *Acalypha rhomboidea* (rhombic copperleaf), *Aster ericoides* (wreath aster), *Boltonia asteroides* (false aster), *Lythrum alatum* (winged loosestrife), *Hypericum mutilum* (dwarf St. John's wort) and *Scirpus georgianus* (bristleless bulrush).

September 12, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin County—a group of 13, including Shaw naturalist James Trager and volunteer Steve Liford, enjoyed a tour of the wetland area, on a pleasant 80°, sunny day. James identified many plants, adding interesting nuggets

of information on name origins, history and uses. Among plants seen were purple *Aster novae-angliae* (New England aster), brilliant red *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower), *Cirsium discolor* (field thistle), a native thistle relished by goldfinches, white *Sium suave* (water parsley), *Prenanthes aspera* (rough white lettuce), *Helinium autumnale* (autumn sneezeweed), *Liatris scariosa* (savanna blazing star), *Lespedeza virginica* (slender bush clover), *Salvia azurea* (blue sage), *Passiflora incarnata* (maypops), *Chelone obliqua* (rose turtlehead) and *Decodon verticillatus* (swamp loosestrife). Of the numerous grasses found, the most unusual was *Tridens strictus* (longspike tridens), with long fruiting spikes, completely unlike the delicate inflorescences of related and common *T. flavus* (purpletop). While describing *Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple love grass), James mentioned that Ethiopians mill the tiny seeds of an *Eragrostis* species for the base ingredient of their primary bread product. James also pointed out two ant species, *Camponotus castaneus* (chestnut carpenter) and *Formica subsericea* (black mound), feasting on plant hopper secretions.

September 19, Valley View Glades Natural Area, Jefferson County—nine people managed to check plants along the highway road shoulder, before a warm, but steady rain wiped out the abbreviated session. Pink *Allium* plants were abundant and after some discussion, conclusion was that both *A. stellatum* (pink wild onion) and *A. cernuum* (nodding wild onion) were probably present. Tall, fruiting spikes of *Manfreda virginica* (false aloe) were seen. Father Sullivan found a thorn bug (*Campylenchia latipes*) on *Solidago petiolaris* (downy goldenrod). Some other plants noted included *Aster patens* (spreading aster), *A. oblongifolius* (aromatic aster), *Amorpha canescens* (lead plant), *Brickellia eupatorioides* (false boneset), *Coreopsis palmata* (finger coreopsis), *Linum sulcatum* (grooved flax) and *Euphorbia dentata* (toothed spurge).

September 26, Valley View Glades Natural Area, Jefferson County—nine people (not all the same nine) tried the glades again, this time on a warm, dry and pleasant day. Among asters seen were *Aster anomalus* (many-rayed aster), *A. cordifolius* (blue wood aster), *A. oolentangiensis* (azure aster) and *A. turbinellus* (prairie aster). Other plants still in bloom were *Allium stellatum* (pink wild onion), *Hedyotis nigricans* (narrow leaf bluets), *Liatris cylindracea*

(cylindric blazing star), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower), *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem), *Agalinis skinneriana* (pale gerardia) and *A. tenuifolia* (slender gerardia). Last, but not least, many Great Plains ladies' tress orchids (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*) were evident throughout the glades.

October 3, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, St. Clair County, IL—seven persons checked out fields, wetlands and forest areas east of the Visitor Center, on a warm, rain-threatening, 80° day. Before starting the walk, Father Sullivan exhibited an uncommon plant, *Aster subulatus* (saltmarsh aster) which he found along a roadside in his North County parish. This species has an unusual prostrate growth habit and seems to survive mowing very well.

At the mounds, *Aster lanceolatus* (tall white aster) and *Boltonia asteroides* (false aster) with characteristic bluish leaves, were fairly abundant. Jack Harris found extensive growths of *Andropogon virginicus* (broomsedge), plus several colorful patches of *Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple love grass), while Al Seppi came up with *Lycopus americanus* (American bugleweed). Other interesting plants seen included *Panicum philadelphicum* (Philadelphia witchgrass), *Cuscuta campestris* (field dodder), *Bidens cernua* (nodding bur marigold), *Cyperus odoratus* (fragrant cyperus), *Strophostyles heloula* (trailing wild bean) and *Helianthus grosseserratus* (sawtooth sunflower).

October 10, Hunters Ford Park, St. Louis County—only five persons enjoyed a nice, 70° fall day, while canvassing the old road along the Meramec River at this potential park site. Probably because of old, abandoned cabin lots, exotic species seem to thrive here, with the *Clematis terniflora* (Japanese virgin's bower), in particular, expanding over a large area. Nevertheless, some interesting native species still were found, including *Phlox paniculata* (perennial phlox), *Lobelia siphilitica* (blue lobelia), *Heterotheca camporum* (prairie golden aster), *Iresine rhizomatosa* (bloodleaf), *Vernonia arkansana* (southern ironweed) and *Aster cordifolius* (blue wood aster). Spangle grass (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) was abundant along the road and a large patch of prairie cord grass (*Spartina pectinata*) was seen. Jack Harris pointed out the awned achenes of *Verbesina alternifolia* (yellow ironweed), in comparison to the smooth ache-

nes of a neighboring *Helianthus tuberosus* (Jerusalem artichoke). Kathy Thiele spotted a pipe vine swallowtail larva (*Battus philenor*) on an *Aristolochia tomentosa* (woolly pipe vine) leaf, and the tiny eastern-tailed blue butterfly (*Everes comyntas*).

October 24, Surdyke Glade, Jefferson County—on a pleasant 60° day, eight members made a repeat visit to this private glade, led by Jerry Price and Dave Shidler of Price Realty; also present were Ron Coleman and Bob Rubright of the Open Space Council. *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (Great Plains ladies' tresses) was in full glory, complete with its characteristic sweet aroma. Among asters seen were *Aster lanceolatus* (tall white aster), *A. oblongifolius* (aromatic aster), *A. oolentangiensis* (azure aster) and *A. patens* (spreading aster), while goldenrods weighed in with *Solidago gattingeri* (Gattinger's goldenrod), *S. nemoralis* (old field goldenrod) and *S. petiolaris* (downy goldenrod). Some other interesting plants found were *Galactia regularis* (downy milkpea), *Passiflora lutea* (yellow passion flower), *Psoralidium tenuiflorum* (scurfy pea) and *Trichostema brachiatum* (false pennyroyal). Nels Holmberg found *Placidium squamulosum* (brown glade lichen), whose round pad form resembles a liverwort, but isn't. Father Sullivan spotted the sumac flea beetle (*Blepharida rhois*) on red leaves of dwarf sumac (*Rhus copallina*); this beetle is most active in spring.

October 31, Rockwoods Reservation, St. Louis County—along with two busloads of elementary school kids, a large gathering of 14 toured the Rock Quarry Trail on a cloudy, 45° day. After pointing out Kentucky coffee tree pods (*Gymnocladus dioica*) along the road, Father Sullivan tried to confuse the troops by asking what *Smilax* sp. (bristly greenbrier) left purplish fruits on a leafless vine; Gladys Kullman came up with the correct answer, moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*). A *Celtis tenuifolia* (dwarf hackberry) tree provided tasty blue berries, but whose tiny size would hardly whet an appetite. Flowering plants still seen included *Salvia azurea* (blue sage), *Cunila origanoides* (dittany), *Hieracium gronovii* (hairy hawkweed), *Aster laevis* (smooth aster) and *A. lateriflorus* (white woodland aster). Jack Harris and Betty Walters combined to field key *Lespedeza repens* (creeping bush clover). More tests followed, with Jim Ruschill scoring on

blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*) and Jeannie Moe on black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Ed Kullman spotted several fragrant armillaria mushrooms (*Armillaria caligata*), supposedly a choice edible related to the well-known white matsutake (*A. ponderosa*), but actual taste was somewhat bitter.

November 7, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—regardless of a partially-failed e-mail message, 18 persons turned out to walk southwest from the Pitman Hill Road access, while enjoying a perfect, 65° and sunny day. Plants still flowering included *Polymnia canadensis* (pale leaf cup), *Cacalia atriplicifolia* (pale Indian plantain), *Scrophularia marilandica* (figwort) and *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), whose blue flowers were seen on a hillside by Marge Ruschill using binoculars. White mulberry (*Morus alba*), red mulberry (*M. rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*) and slippery elm (*U. rubra*), were quite abundant along the trail. Ed Kullman found a huge, one foot diameter leaf which appeared to be red mulberry. Several other interesting finds were the big leaves of *Smallanthus uvedalius* (bears-foot), the "candelabra" inflorescence of *Agastache nepetoides* (yellow giant hyssop) and extensive stands of *Equisetum hyemale* (common scouring rush). Several tests went unanswered, but the Harris did well, Pat with bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), and Jack with bur cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus*). Father Sullivan pointed out a red-lined leaf hopper (*Graphocephala coccinea*) on American elm, then spotted numerous, big shelf fungi on a dead log, which turned out to be thin-maze flat polypore (*Daedaleopsis confragosa*); the common name describes the thin, convoluted pore structure, resembling a maze, while the genus name is derived from Daedalus, an ancient Greek labyrinth designer. While threading the way through clouds of sun-warmed, non-native, "Halloween" lady beetles (*Harmonia axyridis*), Jim Ruschill pointed out a colorful red admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta rubria*).

November 14, Mastodon State Historic Site, Jefferson County—a pleasant, 55° fall day was on hand as 14 persons (including new member Chuck Yates), along with a busload of school kids, covered the lowland Rock Creek area, then a portion of the Limestone Hill Trail. A few flowering plants still remained in the lowland area, *Viola sororia* (common violet), spot-

ted by Nancy Clark, *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Rudbeckia triloba* (brown-eyed Susan) and *Aster lanceolatus* (tall blue aster). Father Sullivan found box elder bugs (*Leptocoris trivittatus*) thriving on their namesake tree. A large patch of dried beefsteak plant (*Perilla frutescens*) produced a sage-like aroma, while a nearby tree with red leaves originally thought to be a maple (*Acer sp.*), turned out to be sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), upon closer examination. Jim Ruschill confirmed identity of pink-berried autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), having much experience with the species, many formerly being in his yard. Chuck found a *Botrychium dissectum* (cut leaf grape fern) with a fruiting spike, while Ed Kullman came up with numerous *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam & Eve orchid) leaves plus several with fruit pods. Ed also found the bluish and edible blewit (*Clitocybe nuda*) mushroom. On the forest trail, *Cheilanthes feei* (slender lip fern) and a still-blooming *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane) were seen. Along a rock ledge, Ed spotted a well developed cephalopod fossil (*Goniorceros anceps*).

November 21, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—11 persons turned out on a chilly, cloudy, windy, 45° day to walk the Hawthorn Trail. A lone rose vervain (*Glandularia canadensis*) flower was peeking from the shrubbery outside the Visitor Center entrance. At the trailhead, Father Sullivan pointed out the hop-like fruits of eastern hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), also mentioning that this species is one of the most common understory trees in Missouri forests. Four asters had seen better days, but were still flowering, *Aster cordifolius* (blue wood aster), *A. anomalus* (many rayed aster), *A. turbinellus* (prairie aster) and *A. oblongifolius* (aromatic aster). Also still flowering were *Eupatorium rugosum* (white snakeroot) and *Nothoscordum bivalve* (false garlic). Some time was spent comparing the fruits and basal rosettes of *Arabis canadensis* (sicklepod) and *A. laevigata* (smooth rock cress). Nice displays of dwarf hackberry's (*Celtis tenuifolia*) bluish/black berries and common horse gentian's (*Triosteum perfoliatum*) orange fruits, were seen. Among ferns listed were *Asplenium platyneuron* (ebony spleenwort), *Cystopteris protrusa* (lowland brittle fern) and *Pellaea atropurpurea* (purple cliff brake).

November 29, Onondaga Cave State Park, Crawford County—although parts of the park were closed, a group of 11, including Nels Holmberg's son John and daughter-in-law Lisa, managed to cover the Blue Heron Trail and a park road, while enjoying a sunny, 55° day. Six species still sported blossoms, *Viola sororia* (common violet), *Aster cordifolius* (blue wood aster), *Phlox paniculata* (perennial phlox), *Samolus parviflorus* (water pimpernel), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod) and *S. drummondii* (Drummond's goldenrod). A loose walnut perched on an upper limb was confusing until bud analysis showed the tree to be bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). While examining a dried *Dasistoma macrophylla* plant (mullein foxglove), Gladys Kullman came up with a new common name, "popcorn plant", descriptive of the fuzzy flowers. Three of Father Sullivan's tests were answered correctly, Jack Harris with *Ostrya virginiana* (eastern hop hornbeam) and *Bumelia lanuginosa* (gum bumelia), and Nels with *Staphylea trifolia* (American bladdernut); all failed on chinquapin oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*). Based on the numerous downed and gnawed box elder trees (*Acer negundo*), beavers were very active around the spring pond. Nels spotted a walking stick (*Diaperomera femorata*) and Nancy Clark a sulfur butterfly which moved too fast for species identification.

Thanks to Pat Harris for providing information to this article ♡.

Past Issues of Nature Notes at MBG

Jim Adams

Recently a WGNSS member, Clarence Zacher, was seeking a March, 1972, *Nature Notes* article which he wrote and found it in the file of bound volumes of *Nature Notes* in the Botanical Garden's Library. This file was created by former Historian Betty Nellums and is complete through 1998. I plan to update the file with subsequent annual volumes. Consultation of the MoBot file can be arranged by appointment with the Librarian, Mary Stiffeler, at 314-577-5155. If you have further questions or need an issue not yet in the archive, call me at 314-961-2494 ♡.

Next Deadline: February 7

Nature Workshops Offered by SLCC Meramec

To register:

Register by phone with a credit card at 314-984-7777, or fax 984-7960, or mail to SLCC Continuing Ed., 11333 Big Bend Blvd. 63122, on on-line at <www.stlcc.edu>.

Beyond Backyard Birding Biol 722 Tues. April 8 and 15 7-9 PM. Field trip Sat. April 26, 7 AM, sponsored by WGNSS, taught by Anne McCormack. Study the birds of your backyard and plan to improve your habitat for wildlife. Bird identification, feeding, bird gardens, and strategies to increase the attractiveness to wildlife. We will visit great examples of wildlife gardens. Fee \$31, Meramec.

Exploring Spring Night Skies Biol 726 Wed. April 16 and 23, from 7-9:30 PM. Field trip Fri., April 25, sponsored by St. Louis Astronomical Society. How to use your eyes, binoculars, and a small telescope to explore the spring skies. Required text. Fee \$28, Meramec.

Identification of Spring Birds by Sight and Sound Biol 709 April 24 and May 1 from 7:00-9:00 PM, field trip Sat. 5/3, sponsored by St. Louis Audubon Society. Fee \$42, Meramec.

Local Butterflies: Habits and Habitats

Biol 715 Tues. 6:30-8:30 March 25 and April 1, field trip Sat. April 26 10 AM-1 PM, sponsored by North American Butterfly Association, St. Louis Chapter. Learn to identify the butterflies that live in the St. Louis area. Fee \$24.50, Meramec.

Missouri Glades: Ecology & Plants Biol

704 Tues., April 29 7-9:30 PM Three field trips on Sat: Kercherside Mt. CA May 10, 10 AM-2 5/17 to Victoria Glade 9 AM-noon, and Hawn SP, May 24 10-2. Taught by Nels Holmberg. Fee \$48, Meramec.

Spring Amphibians Biol 712 Wed. March 19, 26, April 2 from 6:30-10:00 PM Two field trips March 22 and April 5. Emphasis on Missouri species with respect to their natural history and field identification. Fee \$70 Meramec.

Missouri Native Plants Hort 720

Fri. April 25 from 9 AM-1 Lecture about native plants, followed by a hike in Babler SP. Includes a plant list, list of nurseries that carry MO native plants. Fee \$70 Taught by Nels Holmberg, at Babler State Pk.

Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants

Hort 720 Wed. March 19 from 7-9 PM Nectaring plants and host plants to attract butterflies, plus how to identify them. Fee \$6 Presented by NA Butterfly Assoc., Meramec.

Creating a Hummingbird Garden Hort

765 Tues. Feb. 11 from 7-9:30 PM Invite the meanest little bird in the world to your own home! Includes a list of plants attractive to hummers as well as info on feeders and improving habitat. Fee \$7.50 Taught by Anne McCormack, at Kirkwood High School ♡

Science Seminars from St. Louis Zoo & Academy of Science

All seminars will be held in the Living World (north side of Zoo, free parking in north lot) Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 PM. Free — making science accessible to all people. Co-sponsored by the Saint L. Zoo and the Academy of Science of St. Louis.

February 12 "Global Warming: the Greenhouse Effect," Carl Bender, Professor of Physics, Washington University

March 12 "Personal Identification: Privacy and Security," Ronald Indeck and Scott Kieff, Washington University.

April 9 "Mad Cow Disease: Cool Science behind a Hot Topic," Gregg Bogosian. ♡

Rainforest Ruckus

Rachel Crandell

Free winter party w/food! sponsored by the St. Louis Rainforest Advocates, at the Missouri Botanical Garden, on Saturday, Feb 1, 2003, 7 PM. Slide show: Elma Kay's research on "Mammalian Pollinators (bats) of Night Flowering Passion Flowers in the Antilles."

Tyson Nature Line

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Sherry McCowan, 314-664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature Line recording. ☞

☞ Key to WGNSS Calendar

birding field trip

each Thurs. 8:30 AM— call Jackie Chain 314-664-5998

most Sat. 8 AM (not June or July):

call David Becher 314-576-1146

most Sundays: call Kent Lannert 618-624-4464

summary of the latest bird sightings

Call Tyson Nature Line: 314-935-8432

to report a bird sighting

To include a sighting on the "Nature Line" phone message, call Connie Alwood, 314-524-8111. To submit a report to the *Nature Notes* bird column, call Jim Ziebol at 314-781-7372 or email Yvonne at homeyer@earthlink.net by the last day of the month.

board meeting

1st Wed. 7 PM Sept.–May at Powder Valley:

Yvonne Homeyer 314-963-7750

botany field trip

each Thurs: call Fr. Sullivan 314-291-7885

conservation meeting

3rd Wed: call Yvonne Homeyer 314-963-7750

entomology meeting

last Sun: call Marshall Magner 314-961-4588

general meeting

7:00 PM Mike Flieg 314-645-3356

Nature Notes Deadlines & Mailings

Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes Kirkwood

mailing party

Tues. 2/18, 12-3
Mon. 3/17 10-1
Mon. 4/21 10-1
Mon. 5/19 10-1
Mon. 8/18 ?
Mon. 9/15 10-1
Mon. 10/20 10-1
Mon. 11/17 10-1
Mon. 12/15 10-1

NN deadline

Fri. 2/7
Fri. 3/7
Fri. 4/11
Fri. 3/7
Fri. 8/8
Fri. 9/5
Fri. 10/10
Fri. 11/7
Fri. 12/5

mailing party for Nature Notes

3rd Mon. (not June/July) 10 AM:

call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974

spring banquet

Thursday May 1 at Eden Seminary in

Webster. Pat McCormick 636-225-0264

Big Day birding competition May 10

Nature Notes deadlines

10 days prior to 3rd Mon: call Anne

McCormack 314-965-8091

amccormack@stjosephacad.com

membership expires/renewal due

Aug. 31

© Copyright Statement

All articles in *Nature Notes* are printed with the author's permission. Persons or organizations wishing to reprint articles should obtain the author's permission and list credit to *Nature Notes*, Webster Groves Nature Study Society. Contact the editor ☞.

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 ☞.

2002-2003 WGNSS Board

President and Conservation Chair:

Yvonne Homeyer
1508 Oriole Ln.
St. Louis MO 63144
314-963-7750
homeyer@earthlink.net

1st Vice President & Interim Env. Ed Chair:

Mike Flieg
6803 Nashville
St. Louis MO 63139
314-645-3356
gmflieg@aol.com

2nd Vice Pres: Pat McCormick

1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin MO 63021
636-225-0264

Treasurer: Randy Korotev

800 Oakbrook Ln.
St. Louis MO 63132
314-993-0055
rlk@levee.wustl.edu

Secretary: Jim Adams

35 Tulip Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63111-4660
314-961-2494

Editor: Anne McCormack

587 Andrews
St. Louis MO 63122-5722
314-965-8091
amccormack@stjosephacad.com

Membership: Dr. Dianne Benjamin

733 LePere Ave. Apt. A
St. Louis MO 63132-4439
314-997-2419

MaryKBenjamin@webtv.net

Ornithology: David Becher

12829 Mariner's Pt Ct.
St. Louis MO 63141
314-576-1146

Co-chair Ornithology: Kent Lannert

1258 Ruppel Ln.
O'Fallon IL 62269-7167
618-624-4464

klannert@charter.net

Botany: Fr. James Sullivan

1607 Ville Maura Lane
Hazelwood MO 63042-1054
314-291-7885

Entomology: Marshall Magner

516 Bacon Ave
Webster Groves MO 63119
314-961-4588

Member at Large: Ann Earley

1425 Bobolink Place
St. Louis, MO 63144-1128
314-963-0103

ae623@prodigy.net

Member at Large: Tom Parmeter

2270 Love Ln.
Florissant MO 63031
314-921-6017

tksp@aol.com

Member at Large: Mike Thelen

943 Morehouse Ln.
St. Louis, MO 63130-2158
314-862-6642



Nature Notes is printed on recycled paper.

www.wgnss.org

Winter

When icicles hang by the wall,
 And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
 And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipped and ways be foul,
 Then nightly sings the staring owl,
 “Tu-whit, tu-who!”

A merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
 And coughing down the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
 And Marian's nose looks red and raw,
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
 Then nightly sings the staring owl,
 “Tu-whit, tu-who!”

A merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

William Shakespeare

from *Love's Labour's Lost*

“Roasted crabs” refers to baked crab apples.

To “keel the pot” is to skim off the grease.

The owl referred to is the Tawny Owl.

ebsater roues ature tudy ociety

eetings

Wednesday February 5

7 PM Board meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center. All members are welcome. In case of inclement weather, call Powder Valley at 314-501-1500.

Friday February 14

7 PM Joint meeting of WGNSS and St. L. Audubon. Jim Rathert, photographer with Mo. Dept. of Conservation, will present "Photographer's View of Natural Missouri." The meeting will be at Creve Coeur Government Cntr. at 300 N. New Ballas. From 270, go east on Ladue, left on Ballas and rt into the center after 1/4 mile.

otany

Thursday January–February

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

ntomology

Sunday January 26

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Bruce Stinchcomb will speak on "Ancient Arthropods and other Creatures."

Sunday February 23

7 PM at Magners' above. Phil Koenig will report on "The Status of Duke's Skipper in Missouri."

oin GNSS

Send \$20 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132

Nature Notes deadline Feb. 7

www.wgnss.org

irding

Thursdays January–February

8:30 AM Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Questions: call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998.

Saturdays Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 15

8 AM WGNSS Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond. David Becher 314-576-1146.

Sunday January 26

8 AM Bird walk at Riverlands. Led by Torrey Berger 1/26—meet at HQ

Sundays February 2

8 AM Bird walk at Riverlands: Mike Thelen on 2/2—meet at HQ

Saturdays February 8, March 8, 22, 29

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." Parking lot of HQ of Co. Library, Lindbergh, south of 40. Meet on N side. Bring lunch. David Becher 314-576-1146.

Sunday February 9

8 AM Bird walk at Carlyle Lake, Ill. Meet at Carlyle McDonald's. Dan Kassebaum.

Sunday February 16

9 AM with St. L. Audubon at Baldwin Lk.

Saturdays Feb. 22, March 15

8 AM WGNSS Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond. David Becher 314-576-1146.

Sundays February 23 & March 9

8 AM Bird walk at Riverlands. Joe Eades 2/23—meet at Teal Pond. Tom Parmeter 3/9—meet at Teal Pond.

Sunday March 2

8 AM at Busch HQ with Mike Thelen.

Saturday March 15

8 AM w St. L. Audubon, Busch Hampton Lk

Sunday March 16 & 23

8 AM at Horseshoe Lk, Rt. 111 side, first parking lot with Joe Eades. On 3/23 with John & Nancy Solodar, meet at first pavilion at end of causeway.

Sunday March 30

8 AM with St L Audubon, Castlewood SP

Thurs.–Sun. April 10–12

St. L. Audubon Prairie Chicken trip. Call Jim Malone 1-636-536-1119 to register.

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

Non-profit Org.

US Postage Paid
St. Louis MO
Permit #690

address service requested

exp: 31-12-2099 [0/L]

Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct
Ballwin MO 63021-7549

63021+7549 32



Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ e-mail _____ fax (____) _____

Membership categories (circle one):
Individual or Household:.....\$20
for 1st class mail.....add \$8
Student.....\$10

Please mail this form with check to:
Treasurer: Randy Korotev,
800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132
Please make check payable to: Webster
Groves Nature Study Society