



Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line (314) 935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings
Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, November 2005, Vol. 77, No. 9

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Yvonne Homeyer

The "Endangered Species Act"

The U. S. House of Representatives has passed a bill (HR1824; Richard Plombo, R-Calif.) that would significantly weaken protections for endangered species and the places they call home. The bill is now headed for the Senate. It is fundamentally flawed and changes the very nature of the Endangered Species act as that law has existed since its passage in 1973. One of its flaws is that the bill eliminates critical habitat. Critical habitat is designated land that must be conserved in order to ensure that a species does not become extinct. It is a follow up step to listing a species as threatened or endangered. But merely labeling a species as threatened or endangered does not keep it from becoming extinct because without habitat, no species can exist. Another provision would reverse (Cont'd, p. 2)

!!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!!

Holiday Open House at the Green Center, Sunday, December 4, 2005 from 1-4 PM

Members of the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society are invited to gather again at the Green Center in University City to celebrate the holidays. The Center offers a congenial atmosphere of meeting rooms surrounded by a beautiful outdoor space. If weather permits, tours of the grounds will be offered by the Green Center Staff. This year the Center has agreed to allow limited parking in the driveway for senior members. Mark your calendars now for this special event. ---Margy Terpstra

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE RESTORATION November General Meeting at County Library

At one time large areas of tall grass prairie covered Missouri, especially north of the Missouri River. Early observers reported that these magnificent prairies had grass half as high as a horse. These prairies provided magnificent scenic vistas and were visited by buffalo and provided shelter for a wide variety of mammals and birds. The growth of invasive shrubs and trees was largely prevented, except along streams, by wildfires set by lightning or by the indigenous native American residents.

Today only small remnants of these magnificent prairies remain in Missouri. Most of the original prairies have been eliminated by conversion to farmland and the building of roads and by commercial and residential development. Efforts are underway by Missouri organizations such as the Missouri Prairie Foundation and nationally by The Nature Conservancy to restore and maintain some of these prairies, home to endangered bird species such as the prairie chicken and many endangered plants. Pilot demonstration projects for restoration of tall grass prairie are providing the know how for prairie restoration. The Missouri Botanical Garden (MoBot) has piloted some of these projects.

Restoration pilot projects by MoBot will be described at the WGNSS General Meeting, 7 PM, Thursday November 3, at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters in Frontenac, 1640 S. Lindbergh (just south of the Lindbergh/Clayton intersection, on the south side of Lindbergh). The speaker will be Mr. William Davit, a retired Missouri Botanical Garden employee. Mr. Davit assisted in (Cont'd next page, Col. 2)

Congratulations Cardinals!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont'd)

how harmful projects are reviewed. Under present law, the Fish & Wildlife Service is required to look over any proposed project which may negatively impact an endangered or threatened species. Under Congressman Plombo's bill, destructive projects are given the go-ahead with no review unless federal agencies object within 90 days. A new concept is paying landowners not to violate the law, the cost of which would make the Endangered Species Act unfeasible. This could encourage developers to think up projects that are harmful to the environment, then agree to back off in order to get paid by the federal government for dropping the project. Contact your U. S. Senators quickly to let them know how you feel about this new version of the ESA.

Holcim Settlement Update

As part of our \$3 million dollar settlement with Holcim, almost \$1 million was set aside for land acquisition in Missouri and the same amount was set aside for land acquisition in Illinois. We are close to announcing the sites chosen in Missouri and we are continuing to work on selecting a site or sites in Illinois. Jack Harris and Jim Ziebol have also been involved on behalf of WGNSS in the site selection process.

BOARD NEWS

At its meeting on Oct. 5, several items of general interest were discussed. The Board concurred in the decision to schedule our joint Holiday party with St. Louis Audubon at the Green Center in University City. (See Margy Terpstra's article on P. 1). Board members expressed great satisfaction with the "old mansion party atmosphere" that prevailed last year and the good cooperation of the Green Center Staff.

There was considerable discussion about the 2006 annual banquet, and it was the consensus that the Eden Commons should be the 2006 venue again if arrangements can be completed. All agreed that the 2005 banquet was a winner in terms of attendance (a record) and general atmosphere. (Cont'd on p. 3)

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE RESTORATION (Cont'd)

tall grass prairie restoration projects at the Botanical Garden's Litzsinger Road Ecology Center and at Shaw Nature Reserve. He is well qualified to discuss this general subject because of hands on experience over the past twenty or so years. Prairie restoration is a subject of great interest to all outdoor enthusiasts, botanists, birders, entomologists, and conservationists. Some of the general considerations of prairie restoration also apply to areas such as Ozark glades, in which WGNSS has had a long history of involvement and interest. Come and join your fellow members for an evening of education, fellowship, and getting your outdoor batteries recharged. If you have questions, call David Mendelson; (314-721-7116) or the Editor (314-961-2494). See you there!

EDITORIAL - General Meetings

On Oct. 6 I attended the October General Meeting at the County Library Headquarters to hear Dr. Kimberlie McCue of the Missouri Botanical Garden staff (and a member of the WGNSS Board) talk on "The Vines that Bind". I learned that I have several nasty invasive plants in my yard. I've always regarded vinca as a pest because it won't stay in flower beds and collects wind blown trash. I learned that the Botanical Garden, the Nature Conservancy and the Mo. Dept. of Conservation have a joint cooperative program to educate people about invasive plants that has the catchy name "NIMBY" (Not In My Back Yard). NIMBY urges us to attack and destroy these "invaders" before it's too late. Kim's talk was interesting. She made a "silk purse" out of what I feared might be a "sow's ear". She had an excellent command of her subject, and her graphics were outstanding--clear, simple, and often amusing. I enjoyed the picture of a house shrouded with kudzu. There was a lengthy Q&A session when she finished, a good indicator of audience interest.

This enjoyable meeting caused me to stop and reflect. Last month Betty and I attended an equally enjoyable meeting on butterflies presented by Yvonne Homeyer and Jim Ziebol. I've concluded that one always learns something new at a (Cont'd, p. 3)

EDITORIAL - General Meetings (Cont'd)

WGNSS general meeting. These meetings deal with some aspect of natural history presented by experts with outstanding knowledge of his or her subject. This makes me wonder why only a relatively small percentage of a membership of 400+ as measured by the monthly mailings of Nature Notes, and likely considerably higher than this in terms of people because many of the issues go to husband and wife teams, attends these meetings. The meetings are free, held at a centrally located easy to find building that has a level, well lighted parking lot. Access is easy because of a traffic light at the entrance. If one parks in the Library's NORTH lot, the meeting room is only a short walk from your car, on the same level.

In your Editor's opinion these meetings offer a splendid opportunity for senior members (like myself) who longer want to ramble in the woods but want a respite from numbing TV commercials and want to keep the gray matter alive by mingling with people of similar interests. The monthly meetings are one of the best things WGNSS has to offer its members. Come to the Nov. 3 meeting, tell me you responded to this commercial, and I'll give you a friendly pat on the back.

BOARD NEWS (Cont'd from p. 2)

Another advantage of Eden is its collegiate setting, appropriate for a "Study" society. And at Eden we can use a caterer of our selection, one that has us so well for the past several years--remember last year's scrumptious repast!

Treasurer Korotev reported that we are still nicely solvent. The proposed 2006 WGNSS budget was approved, essentially the same as last year's budget except for a modest increase in the Nature Notes budget (our largest single expense item) and in maintenance support for the Ziebol Butterfly Garden at Busch Wildlife, a joint project of WGNSS and the North American Butterfly Assn.

And last but not least, the Board reviewed a draft of a proposed new brochure for WGNSS. The Membership Committee of Don Judd and Ann (Cont'd, Col. 2)

(Cont'd from Col. 1)

has gotten this moribund project off the ground in short order. Barbara Perry Lawton is assisting by taking their concepts/preliminary design and giving it a "professional" look. We should have a new brochure fairly soon.

Another agenda item was the need for someone to serve as Co-Chair of the Ornithology Group, a position that has been vacant for much of the summer. I'm happy to report that Jim Ziebol has volunteered to fill this position. Jim, as you know, has compiled the monthly ornithology field report since Sept. 1998. If I were a betting man, I would bet that he knows something about birds. My projection is that he will be approved by the Board by a 99.999% margin. And from what I observed at the September General Meeting, he appears to know at least a little about butterflies. So he's a real double-threat man. (And, remember the Ziebol Butterfly Garden--there must be a reason that it bears his name.) And when one considers his skill as an artist of nature, one has to realize that he has several notches in his gun stock. But, knowing that he's a modest fellow, I don't want to embarrass him and will stop and say that we (meaning WGNSS) are lucky indeed.

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HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Indexing Status

Five more volumes of Nature Notes have been indexed. This leaves annual volumes 1951-64 yet to go.

75th Anniversary Booklet

Last month I mentioned that this had been added to the WGNSS website. Here's the address: <http://levee.wustl.edu/%7Erk/wgnss/whoarewe.html> It can't be accessed via a search engine.

My Nemesis - Espy Jay

In indexing early volumes of Nature Notes I found numerous well-written articles written by "Espy Jay". I didn't find out who the writer was for several years when I learned that Espy Jay was a pseudonym used by a prominent member, Sterling P. Jones. Then I kicked myself; Espy Jay is a phonetic rendition of "SPJ".

Later I found a biography of Mr. Jones, written following his death. The biography reflects the enormous dedication of this man, one of the numerous early members who built so well that WGNSS is alive and well some 85 years after its founding. I will bring you several other biographies of noted early WGNSSers in future months.

Sterling P. Jones - In Memoriam, by Harry Bradley
Reprinted from the May 1950 issue of Nature Notes.

The death of Sterling P. Jones on the third of April in his 85th year, while not a surprise to his more intimate friends, was nevertheless a great shock to most of us. In reviewing the life of such a person, one is inclined to resort to superlatives in an attempt to fully describe the wonderful character that was Espy Jay's, as he was fondly called--a pen name he chose from his initials, S.P.J.

He was a lifelong resident of St. Louis and County. From the site of his early boyhold home in the 500 block of Elm Avenue, St. Louis (really Webster Groves - Ed.), one could see on a building across the street a historical marker noting that it had

been used as the home and office of Dr. George Engelmann, famous physician and scientist. Per- young Jones was inspired by his renowned neighbor to study nature in all its branches, finally concentrating all of his attention on the field of ornithology. Whether or not that accounted for this interest, no one can deny that it became the dominating influence of his long and useful life.

Until his retirement from business, he was in charge of the printing and advertising department of the Harris-Langenbert Hat Company. An early member of the Advertising Club of St. Louis, he was later made a life member of the club. He was also a member of the Apollo Club, and sang tenor in the men's choral organization. His long experience in the printing trade made him well qualified to handle the compiling, editing, and publishing of Nature Notes and other works dealing with nature.

Soon after the W.G.N.S.S. was organized in 1920 by Mr. & Mrs. Satterthwait, Mrs. Stones and others, Sterling and his sister, Miss Anna became members, and enthusiastic members they were. Their home at 690 Bonita soon became the mecca for the Ornithology Group. Practically all its meetings were held there, and many a scheduled bird hike began from there to scour nearby birding territories. This happy status continued until Miss Anna's death about seven years ago, and Sterling found it more convenient to give up his home. When he joined the St. Louis Bird Club he broadened his activities and interests in his chosen avocation. Feeling the need for an up-to-date list of local birds, he compiled and published, after extensive work and research, the first check list of Permanent Resident Birds and Migratory Bird Area. In 1942, in cooperation with the St. Louis Bird Club, he revised the list now commonly referred to as the Jones' Check List, and added a monograph on the European Tree Sparrow. He had devoted a great deal of time and research to this unusual immigrant. The bluebird, featured in the second revision of the check list, was another of his favorites.

Perhaps the most impressive happening in his life occurred on Oct. 29, 1945 when the St. Louis Bird Club honored him publicly at its meeting by (Cont'd, next page)

Espy Jay (Cont'd from p. 6)

presenting him with its first Award of Recognition as "Outstanding Conservationist" for his long and faithful service in promoting protection of our natural resources and bird-life in particular. The award was supplemented by the gift of a picture of the Bluebird, painted by the noted bird artist, Mr. A. Menaboni. He later gave the picture to the St. Louis Board of Education.

Probably his happiest hours were those he so unselfishly devoted to helping and encouraging the younger generation in their quest for knowledge of nature. To many a budding young Boy Scout he offered guidance and inspiration, particularly in his chosen field, ornithology, and many a youth working for his merit badge in bird study came to him for his test. Even after he had become a resident of the St. Louis Altenheim, home for the aged, he continued with this work among the young folk.

Soon after the Audubon Society of Missouri was revived, after a long quiescent period, Mr. Jones became actively associated with it, and in recognition of his tireless efforts in its behalf, the membership elected him to the presidency, a position he was well qualified to fill. He had undertaken another revision of his now well known Check List of Birds, but due to his failing health he was not able to finish it, although it was almost ready for the printer.

About one year ago his health began to fail, and he had to give up his room and reside in the hospital at the home. Actually he was confined to his bed for about one week only. Right up to the end he retained his enthusiasm, keen wit, and ready smile, and was counting off the days to the coming warm weather when he expected to take to the field again, but on the morning of April 3rd the Grim Reaper came and took him away, and a long, honorable, and useful life was brought to an end. Surely his parents could not have selected a more fitting home for our departed friend--Sterling.

Editor's Note - Espy Jay also held many offices in WGNSS, not mentioned above. He was the sixth president (1927-29). He also served

WGNSS as a Group Chairman, on the Museum Staff and served as Editor of Nature Notes for four years, one of the longer tenures for a Nature Notes Editor. He wrote extensively when Nature Notes Editor and also made innumerable contributions at other times.

In case you're wondering about George Engelmann, the following mini-biography is from a biography of naturalist Elliott Coues on my bookshelf.

"George Engelmann (1809-84), botanist, meteorologist and physician, was born in Frankfurt-on-the-Main. A year after receiving his medical degree in 1831, he immigrated to the United States, settling in St. Louis. He was instrumental in founding the Academy of Science of St. Louis." In 1996, while attending an Elderhostel in New Braunfels, an ethnic German community in central Texas (founded ca. 1840), we visited a pioneer home operated as a museum by the New Braunfels Museums Association. It was said that George Engelmann lived in this home while botanizing in Texas. Specimens of Texas plants he collected were on display (on loan from the Missouri Botanical Garden). The name was familiar, but I knew very little about him at the time, not realizing that he had lived in a home on Elm Avenue, quite close to my home in Webster Groves.

CORRECTION - Ye Editor

In last month's issue I reported that Bill Brandhorst had been honored with a sign on an arbor in the Ziebol Butterfly Garden at Busch. I'm informed that the arbor was built by NABA (the North American Butterfly Association). Jim Ziebol, a director of NABA-St. Louis, suggested that the arbor be named after Bill Brandhorst because Bill started the MDC butterfly counts at Busch and Jim took them over after Bill died. MDC then made the sign. I got the forest right, but missed out somewhat on the trees.

.....If news is treated like any other product being sold for money, then it will be made the way people like it. Newspapers will print what people want to read, not what they ought to know.

Andrew (Andy) J. Rooney

THE GOLDEN AGE OF BIRDING--

The Best of Times and the Worst of Times
- A Feature Article by G. Michael Flieg

My first international trip occurred in 1962, and it was only to Mexico. Mexico, to the birder, was an exotic destination at this time. Bird tour companies were non-existent, site guides had not been written, roads were adequate at best. Peterson didn't publish his Field Guide to Mexican Birds until 1971. The only bird in existence was Blake's Birds of Mexico which had been published in 1953. It had few pictures and was a dichotomous key. My companions and I had vague directions from Jerry and Nancy Strickling, who were some of the Mexican pioneer birders. They later lived in St. Louis. I'll never forget my first views of flocks of parrots and other exotic Neotropical species. Irby Davis did a Mexican book in 1972, which was followed by Earnest Edwards in 1989. These were all later eclipsed by Howell's Birds of Mexico in 1995 and followed by his excellent site guide in 1999.

I went to Columbia in 1970 and the only existent guide was De Shaunensee, which contained a few color plates but mainly descriptions. Hilty's guide didn't appear until 1986. There were few international field guides produced until the late 80's, so this made it extremely difficult for birders to identify species in the field without taking copious notes.

In the past fifteen years field guides and site guides for almost everywhere on the planet, as well as monographs for nearly all described species have been published at an astonishing rate. Travel guides like the Lonely Planet enable one to travel and secure economical accommodations anywhere in the world. E-mail is efficient and instant. Reservations can be anywhere in the world and paid instantly by credit card on a secure site.

When I went to Antarctica for the first time in 1965, tourism was nil. Now tourism is common to the point of restricting some areas. In 1970 when I was in Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, there were no people except Eskimos. A visit by an outsider was rare. Now birding tourism is a way of life for the villagers.

With the advent of excellent field guides, cheap travel, and roads encroaching into heretofore primal areas, birding has become the second most popular hobby in the world. (Golf is first). Birders spend millions on equipment, optics, travel and clothing. Birding Tour companies are numbered at over 100. The first Natural History Tours were those established by Orville Crowder in the 50's. The first bird tour company was Joel Abramson's Bird Bonanzas, which he established in the 70's.

Birding is in its Golden Age. We are afforded access to anywhere on our planet. We can usually find a place to stay, food, a means of transport, and access to areas that were formerly impossible to navigate. Our equipment is state of the art. Binoculars, telescopes, cameras, GPS, laser pointers, etc., are the best money can buy. Flights are reasonable to any destination on earth. Rental cars are cheap and plentiful. Lodging is adequate.

But there is the down side which must be discussed. Primeval areas are being destroyed by "progress". Logging roads are constructed into areas, while the population expands along the roads. The inhabitants destroy the forest for cropland, which is soon abandoned as worthless. They move on and do the same to new lands which were formerly undisturbed. Newfound prosperity brings civilization. People need cars and TVs. Fuel is needed for their vehicles, more fossil fuels are burned. Countries like India, China, and Brazil become industrialized. Their vehicles and factories add more greenhouse gases to our atmosphere. The warming trend we are now witnessing is causing the polar ice caps to melt, hundreds of square miles of peatlands in Siberia are warming; they will soon be adding tons of methane to our atmosphere.

So now that we have the means and all the tools to enable us to observe all of the bird species of the world, one fifth are threatened. Our Golden Age is on the serious decline. Since our politicians can only see four years into the future, we better enjoy it while we can.

Ed. Note - Mike is a former Curator of Birds at the St. Louis Zoo and the author of several bird guides. He's also on the Board of WGNSS.

INSECTS OF THE NIGHT

- A Feature Article by Richard S. Thoma

Light! Entomologists use light to attract and study night active insects. All sorts of insects can be found coming to lights at night. Moths and beetles are probably the most well known, but there are representatives from almost every insect order that are attracted to lights. Without light, it would be much more difficult to study insects that are active in the dark and we would know less about them. For those who collect insects, collecting at a light is easy. If I'm at home I turn on the porch light and wait for the insects to come. My favorite thing is to watch a ball game on television and check the porch lights for insects between innings. Some of the most interesting insects in my collection have come to my porch light in Kirkwood. If I'm out camping, a fluorescent light hung in front of a white sheet can attract hundreds of insects. There have been times when there were so many insects on a sheet that I would hold my breath when getting close, or risk having an insect fly into my mouth. It is amazing the variety and number of insects that are attracted to these lit up sheets in the forest.

The big question is why are these insects attracted to lights? Unlike people, insects that are active at night do not need bright, shiny lights to see where they are going. Starlight or diffuse moonlight is probably enough for an insect to orient itself and fly at night. Many insects are skilled night-time fliers and can easily negotiate through the many branches and leaves in a forest in almost total darkness. However, when there is an artificial light nearby, insects seem to become disoriented. It has been speculated that the insects confuse the artificial light with the more familiar moon light. An insect flying at night can go in one direction by keeping the moon on one side of its body. Because an artificial light is so much closer, an insect that orients by this source will find that it is not flying straight. Instead being able to travel in one direction, the insect finds itself spiraling in toward artificial light. Eventually the insect finds itself very close to the light.

Insects that land near a light are easy to catch and study. That makes this collecting technique one of the more popular by many entomologists. For

the insect, however, being attracted to a light may not be so good. Many insects will land nearby and stay near the light all night. Instead of being involved in normal insect activities such as searching for mates or laying eggs, the insect finds itself mesmerized by a light. This was best illustrated on a trip I made to the Equatorial Amazon about eight years ago. In the jungle, one of the best places to collect night flying insects is to get permission to collect at oil pumping stations. These stations are one of the only sources of light in the Amazon jungle and they generate lots and lots of light. After a day of collecting, our group would visit one of these oil stations and continue collecting for many hours into the night. On one occasion, the morning was overcast and threatened to rain. Instead of collecting day flying insects, we were given permission to collect around one of these oil pumping stations. We found thousands of moths, beetles and other insects that had flown to the lights the previous evening and had remained. In this instance, the lights were a trap. Insects flew in and never left. Might they be doing the same on your porch or street lamp?

A recent NASA picture of the earth shows many places that literally glow at night. Even though the earth is dark, it is easy to see the outline of North America and Europe by the light from our coastal cities. Based on the glow it looks like Boston, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. are all one big city. Chicago and its suburbs outline the southern coast of Lake Michigan. If you look closely, you can even see light connecting St. Louis to Kansas City. In the past one hundred years the earth has gone from a night where stars ruled the sky to one where the glow of city lights wipe out any hint of the stars beyond. The question is, what effect does all this light have on night active insects?

Very little is known about night active insect population sizes. I know of no studies that monitor any night active insect species populations. So far there are no equivalent studies like those that are ongoing for the Monarch. We do have some possible evidence that night active insect populations may be dwindling. We have all heard stories from some of the early insect collectors (Cont'd, p. 8)

INSECTS OF THE NIGHT (Cont'd from p. 7A)

from the St. Louis area finding hundreds of Catacala moths in one night. By the time I started collecting in the 1980's, I was lucky to see ten to twenty Catacala moths (That night of collecting described at the beginning of this article was done in the 1980's). In the past five years, I have noticed that insects seem to be coming to the lights in even fewer numbers. Over the past five summers, there have been no more than five to ten Catacala few summers, my porch seems to be attracting fewer insects than I remember from the past.

It's true these observations may be circumstantial. The fact remains, the world has changed over the past one hundred years and we know very little about the effect these changes are having on our insect populations. It is possible that the reproductive abilities of most insect species can compensate for any losses that may be occurring because of all the lights. It is just as possible that the overabundance of light is having a direct impact on night active insects. How will we know? Further studies are clearly needed. Think about this the next time a June Beetle is attracted to the lights coming from your home and you hear it buzz outside your window.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. St. Louis Zoo/Academy of Science of St. L.

1. Schedule for the 2005-06 Free Seminar Series Sponsored by the St. Louis Zoo and the Academy of Science of St. Louis. Held in the Living World, North side of the Zoo, free parking in the North Lots.

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7:30-9 PM

People and Forest Biodiversity in Times of Armed Conflict: The Ituri Forest, Democratic Republic of Congo. The speaker will be Corneille Ewango, 2005 Goldman Prize recipient, UM-St. Louis

Wednesday, November 16, 7:30-9 PM

From Bacteria to Batteries: Mimicking Cellular Processes to Develop Alternative Energy Sources. The speaker will be Dr. Shelley Minter, Chemistry Dept., St. Louis University.

(Cont'd, next Column)

2. The Nature Conservancy of Missouri

Annual Meeting, Oct. 29, 2005, Kansas City, Mo.

3. Kennedy Woods Advisory Group

Seventh Annual Bush Honeysuckle Removal, Forest Park, Sunday Nov. 13 (Rain date, Nov. 20)

This year we plan to work in the area south of Kennedy Woods. Clearing this area will help Kennedy Woods.

Time: Two shifts, 10AM-Noon and Noon-2 PM.----

Place: Meet at shelter by the circle drive at the Kennedy Forest trailhead off of Wells Drive in Forest Park. See website for map.

Bring: Cutting tools (loppers, small saw), gloves. We will provide snacks and water.

If you wish to volunteer: Send an e-mail to honeysuckle_signup@treeswallow.com, giving name, shift you prefer, how many people you'll be bringing. You can get additional information from our website.

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Ecosystem of a Precolumbian-Era Giant Eagle, by Clarence Zacher and Chris G. Zacher, The Paleo Times, Vol. 4, No. 7, Sept. 2005, p. 4-5

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. ANWR - The Great Divide, by Scott Wallace, Smithsonian, Oct. 2005, vol. 36, No. 7, p. 48-56

***The renewed debate over drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge hits home for the two Native groups nearest the nature preserve (with opposing points of view).

1. The Dying of the Dead Sea, by Joshua Hammer, Smithsonian, Oct. 2005, vol. 36, No. 7, p. 58-60

***the ancient salt sea is the site of a looming environmental catastrophe.

3. Building a Better Banana, by Craig Canine, Smithsonian, Oct. 2005, vol. 7, p. 96-104

***It is the World's No. 1 fruit. Now diseases threaten many varieties, prompting a search for new hybrids

(Cont'd, next page)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST (Cont'd)

4. No Small Find at the Big Eddy, by Neal Lopinot, Archaeologist, Missouri State University, the National Geographic, Oct. 2005, vol. 208, No. 4, p.92-97

***Missouri's Sac River flows over the broken halves of an unfinished spearpoint crafted some 13,000 years ago...."We have practically the entire pre-historic record of North America in this one site".

5. Part-time Student at UMSL Researches Dominican Mountain Chicken Frogs, by Jay King, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sept. 19, 2005, p. 1 of St. Louis Today section

***Research financed by the Dominican government to find out why so many frogs were dieing. (Shigella bacteria and chyrid fungus were found to be the cause.)

6. Tracking the Next Killer Flu, by Tim Appenzeller, the National Geographic, Oct. 2005, p. 5-31.

***Comprehensive review of Bird Flu Problem in Asia, review of the evolution of the H5N1 virus, review of past flu pandemics, and a discussion of a possible new pandemic caused by migratory waterfowl.

7. Steps Back in Time, Stephen Reebbs, Natural History, October, 2005, p. 17

***The discovery of 160 human footsteps embedded in a 40,000 year old layer of volcanic ash in Mexico has stirred the continuing debate about when people first arrived in America.

8. Where Glaciers Did Not Tread, Robert Mohlenbrock, Natural History, October, 2005, p. 58-59.

***A 15,000 square mile area of Wisconsin was not covered by glaciers in either the Illinoian (170,000-120,000 years ago) or the Wisconsin (70,000-10,000 years ago). This region is now known as the Driftless Area. The area provides a refuge for plants usually found much farther north.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

1. Water for Gotham - Gerald T. Koepfel, Princeton University Press, 2001.

***History of the development of New York City's water systems, from the earliest day to the present. Contains a good description of the construction of the Croton Aqueduct and Reservoir, a major engineering feat for its time.

2. The Island at the Center of the World - Russell Shorto, Doubleday, New York, 2004

***The epic story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America. Draws on a 1960's discovery of 12,000 pages of ancient records of the Dutch colony on Manhattan Island that predated the "original" thirteen American colonies. Until recently the known history of the island began in 1664 when the British came ashore and took over the island from the Dutch, who did not resist. They renamed the city New York in honor of the brother of Charles II of England, the Duke of York.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have been received since the list published in the Oct. 2005 issue:

Diane Adams
Gary and Debra Struckhoff
Larry Watrous

We extend a hearty welcome. We hope that you will quickly find a home in one of our interest groups and will enjoy learning more about our natural world. Contact one (or more) of the interest group leaders in this issue. If you really want to find out what's going on, remember that members are always welcome at Board meetings. You will also find that our monthly program meetings, presented by authorities in the various fields of nature, are very educational. For schedules for Board meetings, Program meetings, and Nature Walks, see "In This Issue", p. 3. If you have other questions, call me, the Editor, at (314) 961-2494.

PERSONALS

Little did I realize when writing last month's article about my hurricane experiences while growing up on the Texas coast that a new hurricane named Rita would soon result in the issuance of a mandatory evacuation order for Port Lavaca, the county seat of my home county. Fortunately Rita made a last minute swerve to the east and made landfall near the Texas-Louisiana border rather the Houston-Galveston area, as had been expected. The storm was not felt in Port Lavaca.

Webster Groves Nature Study Society
GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES
November 2005 Update

**Ornithology – Saturday Bird Walks – David Becher (314-576-1146)
Jim Ziebol, Ornith.- Co-Chair (314-781-7372)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Oct. 29, 2005 Saturday	Tower Grove Park Gaddy Garden Entrance	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 5, 2005 Saturday	North Parking Lot, County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 12, 2005 Saturday	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 19, 2005 Saturday	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 26, 2005 Saturday	North Parking Lot, County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 3, 2005 Saturday	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 10, 2005 Saturday	North Parking Lot, County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh	8 AM	Becher

For Directions, consult current issue of *Nature Notes* or call the Walk Leader

Ornithology – Thursday Walks – Jackie Chain – Leader (314-644-5998)

Meeting time is 8:30 AM on Thursdays. Call Jackie for more information

Ornithology – Sunday Walks

Nov. 13, 2005 (Sunday) - Meet at 8 AM at the Visitors' Center, Riverlands. Leaders:
Connie Alwood (313-524-8111)

Nov. 27, 2005 (Sunday) – Meet at 8:30 AM at the entrance to Fallen Oak Nature Trail,
Busch Wildlife. Leader: Jackie Chain (314-644-5998)

(More Sunday walks are in the planning stage. Check the December issue of *Nature
Notes* or call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372)



Botany Walks – Jeannie Moe – Co-Chair , Leader (636-946-9802)
George Yatskievych – Co-Chair (314-909-9540 – Work Phone)

Botany walks are now on Monday. The Botany group visits many of the same locations as the Bird and Butterfly Groups: Busch Conservation Area, Shaw Nature Preserve, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Babler State Park and Cuivre River State Park. Learning plants will help you learn butterfly host plants. Sign up for Botany Group E-mails from Jack Harris (jahar@mac.com) or 314-368-0655 and receive an E-mail every Sunday, sometimes earlier, about the next Monday's trip.

Entomology Group Activities – Rich Thoma, Chair (314-965-6744)

Sunday, Nov. 20, 7 PM – “The American Burying Beetle – An Update of the Research being Done to Preserve This Endangered Species” will be presented by St. Louis Zoo Senior Entomologist, Jane Stevens. The meeting will be held at the home of George Winkler, 10 Covington Lane., Olivette, Mo. (314-993-1652)

Sunday, Dec. 18, 7 PM – “The Membracids of Missouri and Beyond” will be presented By Monsanto Entomologist and active WGNSS member, Ted MacRae. The meeting will be at MacRae's home. Directions to his house will be given in the December issue of *Nature Notes*.

SEPTEMBER BIRD REPORT

By Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: Despite the pros and cons involving banding birds, occasionally regrettable deaths and injuries occur. This reporter was told of an incident that occurred in Canada in the early 1990s. Two experienced banders had 2 mist nets up in October. Simultaneously, 350 Black-capped Chickadees hit the nets. Because of the large number of birds in the nets, the banders were only able to free half of the birds in the net, and the other half died.

Sightings: About 350 White Pelicans were seen over I-44 on 9/17 (YH, JZ). On 9/20, Jackie Chain observed 50 Pelicans over the Mississippi River at Olin Nature Reserve. Green Herons were still being seen in FP (CZ) and 1 was still present there on 9/29 (SM). On 9/11, Frank Holmes estimated 800 Great Egrets at Chouteau Island and several Soras were seen at HL. Frank also saw a Mute Swan at HL on 9/15. A Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis* species) was observed by the staff at BK Leach on 9/5 (JS). On 9/1, a Blue-winged Teal joined the Mallards and Wood Ducks in FP (SM). Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers and 2 Am. Golden Plovers were found at the Emerald View Turf Farm on Steppig Rd. on 9/11 (SM, JZ). At HL on 9/15, Charlene Malone reported a first year Sabine's Gull and Joe Eades found 2 Laughing Gulls, an adult and a first year bird. On Sunday, 9/4, Jackie Chain and Jean Cook reported Common, Caspian, and 2 Forster's Terns at REDA. Late Mississippi Kites were reported on 9/2 (D Bz), 9/6 (Margie R), and at the beginning of the month (PL). Ospreys were observed at REDA on 9/4 (J Ch, J Cook) and on 9/17 (G&TB). A N. Harrier was seen at REDA on 9/22 (J Ch, Thursday Group). Cooper's Hawks were reported from Brentwood Forest on 9/12 (YH), in south City on 9/26 (D Bz), and 2 adults in FP on 9/28 (SM). Clarence Zacher found a Sharp-shinned Hawk in St. Louis County on 9/15. On 9/17 in FP, a single Broad-winged Hawk was spotted by Jean Cook. The only large number of migrating Broad-wings reported were those seen over Tyson on 9/26, in a flock of 300-400 (DL). The following were reported from Mark Peters' home in Jefferson County on 9/26: immature Bald Eagle, 5 Osprey, 20 Broad-wings, 1 Red-shouldered, several Cooper's Hawks, and a Kestrel. On 9/24 at Indian Lake, David Becher and the Saturday Group found Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, and Red-tailed Hawks, plus a small unidentified falcon. Two Barred Owls were conversing at Covered Bridge Historic Site in Jefferson County on 9/24 (SM, JZ). Fairly strong numbers of Nighthawks were observed in September, with 166 seen at Mark Peters' property on 9/14 (JZ), about 40 over I-44 on 9/16 (SM), and about 150 flying very low on 9/20 (MB).

On 9/15, a rainy Thursday, Jackie Chain and Rose Ann Bodman found 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos in TGP. Black-billed Cuckoos are becoming harder and harder to find in the St. Louis area, but Mark Peters saw one near his Jefferson County home on 9/28.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in TGP on 9/16 (DD) and on 9/17 (T Bo). Michael Botz reported about 100 Chimney Swifts entering a chimney at his CWE home on 9/25. Another large flock of Chimney Swifts was seen at Kingshighway and Vandeventer on 9/27 (G&TB). Several Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported during September, including 1 in TGP on 9/3 (SM), 1 in FP on 9/14 (SM), 1 in TGP on 9/18 (SE), and one at HL on 8/18 (FH). The following flycatchers were seen at Katy Trail Access on 9/16 by David Rogles: Alder, Acadian, Great-crested and several Pewees. On 9/4, Sherry McCowan reported an immature Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 2 Black-and-whites, Redstart and Magnolia at Lafayette Park. About a dozen Fish Crows were seen along Layton Road, HL, on 9/17 (JZ, YH). Six Winter Wrens, 6 House Wrens, 2 Marsh Wrens, and a Sedge Wren were seen in FP on 9/29 (SM). That same day, she also reported Ruby-crowned Kinglet in FP. On 9/29, the Thursday Group found both kinglets, a Fox Sparrow, and 10 species of warblers in TGP (J Ch). David Rogles discovered 2 Black-throated Blue warblers in the willows at REDA on 9/25. The first Hermit Thrush was found on 9/23 at HL (FH).

Following the passage of a cold front on 9/14, a Blackburnian Warbler (RAB) and a male Golden-winged Warbler (SE, SM) were observed at TGP on 9/15, along with good numbers of Redstarts, Chestnut-sided, Wilson's and Black-and-white. After another cold front on 9/28, Margy Terpstra and Tina Weyman found Blackburnian, N. Parula, and an extremely late Yellow Warbler at REDA on 9/25. The only Blackpoll reported in September was one seen at CSP on 9/11 (MB). On 9/30, Jim Hickner found Pine Warbler and Brown Creeper at the Jack van Benthuisen Pond in TGP. Four Palm Warblers were seen in FP on 9/29 (SM). Mourning Warbler and N. Parula were the best birds seen at CSP on 9/9 (J Ch, Th. Group). The only Clay-colored Sparrow was reported on 9/27 in TGP (G&TB). On 9/29, Sherry McCowan found a Junco in Lafayette Park and White-throated Sparrows in FP, TGP and Lafayette Park. On 9/29, Lincoln's Sparrow was seen in Lafayette Park (SM) and at Mark Peter's Prairie (MP). On 9/2, Jim Hickner found the following birds in TGP: 2 Golden-wings, 2 Magnolias, 3 Chestnut-sided, Wilson's, Canada, Ovenbird, Baltimore Oriole and Red-eyed Vireo. Josh Uffman reported 15 Bobolinks at CC NWR on 9/4. In TGP, Steve Ewer observed 3 Scarlet Tanagers on 9/15 and a Summer Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 9/27. A Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager were seen in TGP on 9/23 (JH). All of the migrating thrushes were seen in very low numbers this fall. On 9/9, a SLAS group, led by Nick Barber in TGP, found a juvenile Olive-sided Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos (PL).

A typical day at Busch Wildlife on 9/3 included White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Pewee, Phoebe, Cedar Waxwings, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, N. Parula, Goldfinch, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, several Green Herons, Red-tailed Hawks, Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Yellowleg species (J Ch, Saturday Group).

A typical day in TGP on 9/16 included 4 Brown Thrashers, 2 Gray Catbirds, 2 Ovenbirds, 3 Black-and-whites, 6 Chestnut-sided, 3 Magnolia, 1 empid sp., 2 Golden-winged Warblers, 6 Redstarts, 2 Pewees, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 2 Nashvilles, Great-crested Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Orange-crowned, Least Flycatcher, and 2 Yellowthroats (JH).

Backyard Birds: Pat Lueders reported that her nesting Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fledged 1 young, and she observed a Nighthawk in her yard on 9/8. A Pine Siskin (summering?) was found near Wally George's Cedar Hill home in late September. A House Wren was seen in Clarence Zacher's yard on 9/20. Connie Alwood observed an Orange-crowned Warbler at his Ferguson home in late September. On 9/6, Sherry McCowan found an immature Mourning Warbler at her Soulard home. Dennis Bozzay reported Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Red-eyed Vireo at his Crestwood garden on 9/26. Sept. 27 was the last date Dennis observed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in his yard. A *elasphorus* hummingbird paid a visit on 9/27 to the Solodars' University City home.

Contributors: Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Jean Cook, Derek Driemeyer, Joe Eades, Steve Ewer, Wally George, Jim Hickner, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dave Larson, Pat Lueders, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Mark Peters, Margie Richardson, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, Scott Schuette, John Solodar, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Tina Weyman, Clarence Zacher, and 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).

Abbreviations: Busch Conservation/Wildlife Area, BCA; Carlyle Lake, CL; Clarence Cannon, CC; Forest Park, FP; Horseshoe Lake, HL; Little Creve Coeur Lake, LCCL, Lost Valley Trail, LVT; Marais Temps Clair, MTC; Riverlands, REDA; Shaw Nature Reserve, SNR; Tower Grove Park, TGP.

SUMMER BOTANIZING Carl Darigo

The Botany Group's regular Thursday outings continued during the summer, but later were changed to Monday due to Father Sullivan's transfer to a different parish; the following attended one or more weeks, Father James Sullivan, Dave Alspaugh, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Pat & Jack Harris, Tom Hardy, Ed Hilke, Martha & Rex Hill, Sandra & Nels Holmberg, Del Johnson, Liz Jones, Ann Kettler, Gladys & Ed Kullman, Jeannie Moe, Khamali Moore, Newell Moore, Tom O'Gorman, Susan Orr, Nathan Pate, Greg, Adam & Joe Rhode, Reuben Rigel, Pete Seale, Al Seppi, Kathy Thiele, George Van Brunt and Dave Weber.

June 2, Victoria Glade Natural Area, Jefferson County--eight persons saw this hilly glade on a cloudy, 75° day.

SUMMER BOTANIZING (Cont'd)

Evidence of recent vandalism was apparent, as many rocks had been left overturned; exactly what the perpetrators were seeking is unknown. Best plants of the day were *Clematis fremontii* (Fremont's leather flower), *Oenothera macrocarpa* (Missouri primrose) and *Pedimelum esculentum* (prairie turnip). However, many others were in close competition, including *Asclepias viridis* (green flower milkweed), *Baptisia australis* (blue false indigo), *Castilleja coccinea* (red Indian paintbrush), *Coreopsis lanceolata* (tickseed coreopsis), *Echinacea simulata* (pale purple coneflower), *Matelea decipiens* (climbing milkweed), *Onosmodium molle* (marbleseed), *Melica nitens* (three flower melic grass), *Physalis heterophylla* (clammy ground cherry), *Rosa carolina* (pasture rose), *Scutellaria parvula* (small skullcap), *Thalictrum revolutum* (wax leaf meadow rue) and *Zizia aurea* (golden alexanders). Butterflies and moths were abundant, some seen were giant swallowtail (*Heracleides cresphontes*), gray comma (*Polygonia progne*), little wood satyr (*Megisto cymela*) and reversed haploa moth (*Haploa reversa*).

June 9, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—nine people walked west from the Weldon Spring trailhead under sunny, 85° skies. A total of 17 trees were identified, with pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) and Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) leading the pack. Flowering plants seen included the hybrid dogbane *Apocynum x floribundum*, *Blephilia ciliata* (Ohio horse mint), *Dianthus armeria* (Deptford pink), *Hydrangea arborescens* (wild hydrangea), *Lactuca serriola* (prickly lettuce), *Matricaria discoidea* (pineapple weed), *Mirabilis nyctaginea* (wild four o'clock), *Packera glabella* (butterweed), *Pastinaca sativa* (wild parsnip), *Rosa setigera* (prairie rose) and *Ruellia strepens* (smooth ruellia). *Vitis vulpina* (winter grape) and *V. aestivalis* (summer grape) were both identified; the former has hairs only on lower leaf surface veins, while the latter's entire lower leaf surface is hairy. Butterflies were once again in abundance, snout (*Libytheana bachmanii*), great spangled fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*), zebra swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*), pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*), and clouded sulfur (*Colias philodice*).

June 16, Dresser Island, St. Charles County--on a pleasant, 85° day, 10 persons crossed the slough and traversed old roads on the island. Prior to departing, Father Sullivan and Nathan Pate canvassed the parking lot edges, coming up with *Lysimachia ciliata* (fringed loosestrife), *Eleocharis palustris* (long head spike rush) and *Carex crus-corvi* (raven's foot sedge). This *Lysimachia* species is noted for its downward-facing flowers, the *Eleocharis* for its long, slender spikelet and each perigynium of the *Carex* resembling the spur on a crow's foot. Notable plants seen on the island were *Bidens cernua* (sticktight), *Forestiera acuminata* (swamp privet), *Nelumbo lutea* (American lotus), *Packera glabella* (butterweed), *Phyla lanceolata* (northern fog fruit), *Potentilla norvegica* (rough cinquefoil), *Silene antirrhina* (sleepy catchfly), *Spermacoce glabra* (smooth buttonweed), *Vicia villosa* (hairy vetch), *Carex grayii* (spaceship sedge) and *C. muskingumensis* (palm sedge). Among butterflies seen were hackberry (*Asterocampa celtis*) and eastern-tailed blue (*Everes comyntas*).

June 23, Missouri Botanical Garden-- seven people didn't linger outdoors too long in the 95° heat, before attending a presentation in Ridgway's cool auditorium, on the "Temperate Fern Garden", by Martin Rickard, a leading British fern expert. The most outstanding flower exhibited on the 2nd floor "flowers of the day" cart, was a white, eight inch long blossom of bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*). Later, a grove of these trees with abundant flowers was seen just east of the Climatron. Several other interesting plants observed were witch alder (*Fothergilla gardenii*) with small, yellowish flowering spikes, fan flower (*Scaevola aemula*) with blue, fan-shaped flowers, Arabian jasmine (*Jasminium sambac*) exuding a fragrant aroma, and yellow, dandelion-like blossoms of Dahlberg daisy (*Thymophylla tenuiloba*). Dave Weber answered a test on *Aralia spinosa*

SUMMER BOTANIZING (Cont'd)

(devil's walking stick); this plant is abundant in Forest Park. Father Sullivan pointed out bear's breech (*Acanthus mollis*) sporting long purple-white spikes, informing the group that this plant's leaves were used by ancient Greeks as designs on the tops of Corinthian columns. Father Sullivan also demonstrated how the leaves of sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*) collapse when touched.

June 30, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin County--a group of 12, including three newcomers, Tom Hardy, Khamali Moore and Newell Moore, turned out on a sunny, 85° day, to tour prairie areas at the Reserve. Many prairie plants were seen, among the more unusual were *Calamintha arkansana* (calamint), *Dalea purpurea* (purple prairie clover), *Manfreda virginica* (false aloe), *Melanthium virginicum* (bunchflower), *Orbexilum pedunculatum* (Sampson's snakeroot), *Polytaenia nuttallii* (prairie parsley), *Silene regia* (royal catchfly) and *Solidago gatteringeri* (Gattinger's goldenrod). Other interesting plants found included *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *Baptisia alba* (white wild indigo), *Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (pale Indian plantain), *Echinacea pallida* (pale purple coneflower), *E. purpurea* (purple coneflower), *Eryngium yuccifolium* (rattlesnake master), *Eupatorium purpureum* (green stem Joe Pye weed), *Lythrum alatum* (winged loosestrife), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower), *Silene stellata* (starry campion), *Silphium laciniatum* (compass plant), *Veronicastrum virginicum* (culver's root) and *Heliopsis helianthoides* (ox-eye).

July 7, Nathan Pate Property, St. Louis County--nine members took advantage of Nathan's invitation to visit his "jungle garden", on a sunny, 85° day. A great variety of plants were seen, with the following some of the more unusual Missouri species not usually found on regular botany trips: *Allium tricoccum* (wild leek), *A. burdickii* (wild leek), *Chelidonium majus* (celandine), *Perideridia americana* (thicket parsley), *Spigelia marilandica* (pinkroot), *Passiflora lutea* (yellow passion flower), *P. incarnata* (maypops), *Cucurbita pepo* (yellow flower gourd), *Menyanthes trifoliata* (buckbean), *Echinacea paradoxa* (yellow coneflower), *Trichostema dichotomum* (blue curls), *Camassia angusta* (wild hyacinth), *Asclepias sullivantii* (slender milkweed), *Gentiana andrewsii* (closed gentian) and *Hypericum pyramidatum* (great St. John's wort). Several other interesting, non-Missouri plants seen were *Asclepias exaltata* (poke milkweed), *A. speciosa* (showy milkweed), *Chrysozonum virginianum* (gold star), *Penstemon canescens* (hoary beard tongue), *Baptisia tinctoria* (yellow wild indigo) and *Astragalus tennesseensis* (Tennessee milk vetch). Nels Holmberg harvested some Japanese beetles as snacks for his Whiskey Sheep Farm ducks.

July 11, Whiskey Creek Sheep Farm, Franklin County--on a cloudy, 80° day, a group of 12, including Jeanne Clauson's son Greg Rohde and his sons Adam & Joe, descended on Sandra & Nels Holmberg and neighbor Ed Hilke, to visit the Holmberg's "Whiskey Creek Sheep Farm". On this historic, first-ever, WGNSS Monday Botany Trip, Nels & Ed led the assemblage into the rugged valley of St. John's Creek, overcoming such obstacles as a car hung up on a rocky, dirt track and a non-starting pickup truck. Some of the interesting plants seen along the creek banks were *Echinochloa muricata* (cockspur grass), *Ammannia coccinea* (long leaf tooth cup), *Rotala ramosior* (wheelwort), *Leucospora multifida* (conobea), *Ludwigia peploides* (floating primrose willow), *L. palustris* (water purslane), *L. alternifolia* (seedbox), *Polanisia dodecandra* (clammy weed), *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop), *Alisma subcordatum* (small flower water plantain), *Potamogeton foliosus* (leafy pondweed), *Justicia americana* (water willow), *Carex frankii* (bristly sedge), *C. vulpinoidea* (fox sedge) and leaves of woolly pipevine (*Aristolochia tomentosa*). Near the creek were seen a female pond hawk dragonfly (*Libellula sp.*) and six male ebony jewelwing damselflies (*Calopteryx sp.*). Nels pointed out a patch of woods which had been cleared of poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) by sheep who love to dine on

SUMMER BOTANIZING (Cont'd)

the plants, but unfortunately do not relish the two notorious honeysuckle invaders, *Lonicera maackii* (bush) and *L. japonica* (Japanese).

July 18, Weldon Spring Conservation Area, St. Charles County--sunny, hot, 90° weather was on tap, as a group of 12 tested a new location, Hamburg Trail, across Hwy 94 from the Lost Valley Trail parking lot. Sections of the gravel road which formerly connected the Weldon Spring nuclear remedial sites is now being used as a cycling trail. Right at the start, Nancy Clark made the best find of the day, a gigantic beetle, which Father Sullivan identified as the eyed elater (*Alaus oculatus*); the beetle was very cooperative, staying around long enough for several photographers to get good shots. The ever-present, bright yellow, bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) covered the highway and parking area fringes, with path rush (*Juncus tenuis*) growing in cracks of the old asphalt road. Along the trail, bright blue *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower) was abundant in places. Some other interesting plants seen were *Spermacoce glabra* (smooth buttonweed), *Amphicarpaea bracteata* (hog peanut), *Sanicula odorata* (clustered snakeroot), *Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (pale Indian plantain), *Stachys tenuifolia* (thinleaf betony), *Dasistoma macrophylla* (mullein foxglove), *Phyrma leptostachya* (lopseed), *Physalis heterophylla* (clammy ground cherry) and *Heliopsis helianthoides* (ox-eye). Nels Holmberg identified four sedges, *Carex frankii* (bristly cattail), *C. molesta* (field oval), *C. grvida* (long awn bracted) and *C. vulpinoidea* (fox). Butterflies seen included eastern-tailed blue (*Everes comyntas*), snout (*Libytheana bachmanii*) and red spotted purple (*Basilarchia astyanex*).

July 25, Powder Valley Nature Center, St. Louis County--due to the continued heat wave, an air-conditioned meeting room @ Powder Valley was commandeered for a "members" slideshow.

August 1, Dresser Island, St. Charles County--a large group of 15, including new members, Liz Jones and Rueben Rigel, sweltered under the 95° sun, even though an hour's earlier start @ 8:30 was tried, to alleviate the heat. The day's highlight was Father Sullivan's finding leaves of the unusual *Sesbania exaltata* (bequilla), a tropical species which has had only a few previous sightings in the state. The big white, and often pinkish flowers of *Hibiscus lasiocarpus* (hairy rose mallow) and *H. laevis* (rose mallow) were visible throughout the wetlands. Abundant in the old road surface were *Polygonum arenastrum* (dooryard knotweed), *P. neglectum* (narrow leaf knotweed) and *Plantago rugelii* (broad leaf plantain). Also seen were *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Pyrrhopappus carolinianus* (false dandelion), *Phyla lanceolata* (northern fog fruit), *Teucrium canadense* (wood sage), *Carex hyalinolepis* (clear scale sedge), *Commelina diffusa* (small dayflower), *Lactuca serriola* (prickly lettuce) and *L. saligna* (willow leaf lettuce). Numerous butterflies were present, some of which were cloudless sulfur (*Phoebis eubule*), little yellow sulfur (*Pyrisitia lisa*) and pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*).

August 8, Missouri Botanical Garden-- in deference to another 90°+ day, 14 members enjoyed a leisurely Garden tour, where even the Climatron felt cool for a change. The "flowers of the day" table on Ridgeway's 2nd floor featured *Schoenoplectus lacustris* (bulrush) and purple inflorescence spikes of *Eryngium caucasicum* (sea holly). Near the water ponds opposite Linnaeus House were seen lavender pin cushion flowers (*Scabiosa columbaria*) and hanging blue fan flower plants (*Scaevola aemula*) were still present. Dodging frequent water sprinklers, the group saw blooming *Aralia alata*, related to our devil's walking stick and fruiting red hot peppers (*Capsicum sp.*), which no one volunteered to taste. Two giant, four feet diameter, native trees flanked

SUMMER BOTANIZING (Cont'd)

the sidewalk to the Climatron, pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Among the more unusual of the Climatron's many plants were two members of the tropical Zingiberaceae family, torch ginger (*Nicolaia elatior*) having five feet tall stalks crowned with a large red inflorescence and ginger lily (*Helychium sp.*), 10 feet tall plants sporting one foot long flowering racemes.

August 15, Little Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis County—temperatures eased slightly to 85°, but seven persons had to contend with scattered showers, as the mitigation areas in Creve Coeur Lake Park were surveyed. Two uncommon plants were discovered, *Lychnis coronaria* (mullein pink) and *Ambrosia psilostachya* (western ragweed). Some other interesting plants seen were *Nelumbo lutea* (American lotus), *Lycopus americanus* (American bugleweed), *Carex frankii* (bristly cattail sedge), *Chamaesyce nutans* (small nodding spurge), *Typha angustifolia* (narrow leaf cattail), *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop) and three *Polygonum* species, *P. hydropiper* (water pepper), *P. hydropiperoides* (wild water pepper) and *P. amphibium* (water smartweed). Father Sullivan had a “buggy” field day with three of the best finds being *Alypia octomaculata* (eight-spotted forester moth), black with yellow and white spots and parts of their legs bright orange; the delicate, white, fuzzy, moth larva (*Cycnia tenera*) feeding on dogbane (*Apocynum sp.*) leaves, and a black and red *Neacoryphus bicrucis* bug on one of its favorite plants, *Erechtites hieracifolia* (pilewort).

August 22, Onondaga Cave State Park, Crawford County--enjoying pleasant, sunny, mid-80s weather, eight people negotiated the Blue Heron Trail and also a Meramec River gravelbar. Signaling a hint of the oncoming fall season, four goldenrod species were found, *Solidago altissima* (tall), *S. drummondii* (Ozark), *S. gigantea* (late) and *S. ulmifolia* (elm leaf). Other plants of note were *Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (pale Indian plantain), *Cirsium altissimum* (tall thistle), *Clematis pitcheri* (leather flower) in fruit, *Commelina erecta* (slender dayflower), *Croton monanthogynus* (one seeded croton), *Eupatorium perfoliatum* (boneset), *Heliopsis helianthoides* (ox eye), *Hydrangea aborescens* (wild hydrangea), *Ipomoea pandurata* (wild potato vine), *Justicia americana* (water willow), *Lycopus americanus* (American bugleweed), *Passiflora lutea* (yellow passion flower), *Silene stellata* (starry campion), *Tradescantia subaspera* (wide leaf spiderwort), *Verbesina virginica* (white crownbeard) and *Vernonia gigantea* (tall ironweed).

August 29, Lower Meramec Park, St. Louis County--11 persons came out on an 85° day, luckily with reasonably low humidity, to check out again this well-diversified Meramec River trail. Near the parking area, *Lactuca floridana* (Florida lettuce) and *Rudbeckia triloba* (brown-eyed Susan), were growing in abundance. A tiny mystery plant turned out to be the introduced *Majus pumilus* (majus). Father Sullivan pointed out *Scutellaria lateriflora* (mad dog skullcap), commenting that the common name originated due to the plant flowering late, in the “mad dog days” of summer. Nels Holmberg and Nathan Pate came up with several nice sedges, *Carex lupulina* (hop) and *C. muskingumensis* (palm), *C. tribuloides* (blunt broom) and *C. grayii* (space ship). The bearsfoot (*Smallanthus uvedalius*) patch was in good bloom. Some other interesting plants seen were *Bidens aristosa* (tickseed sunflower), *Spernacoce glabra* (smooth buttonweed), *Mimulus alatus* (sharpwing monkey flower), *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop), *Eclipta prostrata* (yerba de tajo), *Acalypha rhomboidea* (rhombic copperleaf), *Commelina virginica* (Virginia dayflower), *Lespedeza violacea* (violet lespedeza), *Lobelia siphilitica* (blue cardinal flower), *Strophostyles helvula* (trailing wild bean), *Vernonia missurica* (Missouri ironweed) and *Stachys tenuifolia* (thinleaf betony).

Thanks to Jack Harris, Rex Hill and Jeannie Moe for furnishing information to complete this article.

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Call The Nature Line!

Call (314) 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis Area and dates and times of bird and botany walks; there are occasional schedule changes. Please report any unusual birds to Sherry McCowan (314) 664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature Line recording.

Nature Notes Deadline and Mailing Info.

The mailing party meets at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood, 10 AM-1 AM to prepare N.N. mailings. We could use your help! Call Marjorie Richardson (314) 965-8974 to volunteer. Deadline and mailing party dates for future months are given below.

NN Deadline	Mailing Party
Fri. 11/11	Mon. 11/21
Fri. 12/9	Mon. 12/19
Fri. 1/6	Wed. 1/18
Fri. 2/10	Tues. 2/21, 1:30-5 PM
Fri. 3/10	Mon. 3/20
Fri. 4/7	Mon. 4/17

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the 15th floor conference room at the University Club Tower (near the elevator) 1034 S. Brentwood Blvd., at 7 PM. The Board ENCOURAGES attendance by WGNSS members. Come see your Board in action!

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Notices/Proposed Articles/Letters to the Editor must be signed to be considered. They will be considered for publication based on content and availability of space. Some editing may be done. Communications from non-member individuals or organizations must include the name and title (if any) of the sender along with a mailing address and telephone number. Send communications to the Editor, 35 Tulip Drive, Webster Groves, MO 63119. (Tel. 314-961-2494, E-mail dadams5084@charter.net.

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The objectives of the Society are: to stimulate interest in nature study on the part of adults and children; to cooperate with other organizations in nature study; to encourage amateur research in the natural sciences; to promote conservation of wildlife and natural beauty. Open to all with an interest in nature.

Making Nature Notes Useful - S. L. O'Byrne

Nature Notes, the Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, has long been published because of its utility in furthering the work of the Society. Its most important function is bringing the monthly program of the Society to the members....from June, 1948 issue of Nature Notes

NEED DIRECTIONS?

Busch Wildlife Area

- 1) Take 40 west toward St. Charles Co., left on 94, right on D, follow signs. Hampton Lake, usual meeting spot, is the first lake beyond Hdqtrs.

Castlewood State Park

- 1) Take Manchester west, south (left) on New Ballwin Rd., east (left) on Kiefer Creek Rd., follow signs.

Clarence Cannon NWR

- 1) from I-270, take I-70 west to Mo. 79, then go north 35 miles to Annada, Mo.
- 2) Just past the city limit sign there will be the sign for the refuge. Turn right and follow the road all the way to the refuge parking lot, the usual meeting spot.

Des Peres Park

- 1) On Ballas Rd., one block north of Manchester Rd. in Des Peres
- 2) Turn right (east) at the Des Peres Park sign; park in the first lot on the right

Eden Seminary (WGNSS Banquet)

- 1) At intersection of Lockwood and Bompert in Webster Groves.
- 2a) From 40, east to Hanley Rd.; south on Hanley (which becomes Laclede Station Rd.); right on Big Bend; right on E. Lockwood; left on Bompert; enter from Bompert
- 2b) From I-44, east on 44; Exit 220, Elm Ave.; left on S. Elm; right on Big Bend; left on; Bompert; enter from Bompert

Forest Park, Kennedy Forest

- 1) Highway 40 to Hampton north; follow signs to St. Louis Zoo's Living World; Kennedy Forest is about 1/4 mile west on the way to the Living World

Horseshoe Lake State Park

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

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

- 1) From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Hwy. 367 north to Alton.
- 2) Turn right into Riverlands at the Fisca service station, just before the approach to the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi River.
- 3) Teal pond is first right.

Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)

- 1) Take I-44 west to Gray Summit (Hwy. 100) exit, left over highway, right into service road and immediately left into Arboretum
- 2) Meet at Brushy Creek Trailhead

Tower Grove Park

- 1) Take I-44 to Kingshighway; south on Kingshighway; east (left) on Magnolia; first right into park.

Wildwood Trail, Al Foster Trail

- 1) I-44 west to north 109
 - 2) right on Old State Road
 - 3) quick right on Washington Ave. (becomes Grand)
 - 4) Parking lot on left
- From Manchester Road:
- 1) take Old State Road south
 - 2) Left on Washington at intersection with 109
 - 3) Proceed as above

*webster groves nature
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