



Nature Notes

Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, November 2007, Vol. 79, No. 9
First Issue November 1929

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Ann Earley

WGNSS members enjoyed a special Ornithology Group program in October, when Jim Ziebol presented "Hawks of the St. Louis Area." Jim provided attendees not only a video overview of various local hawks, but also tips on identification techniques and where to find the birds. Bonus footage Jim shared with the group included sightings of other local birds, reptiles, butterflies and other insects.

Our November program will offer something different, in terms of both the date and the format. Due to a scheduling conflict at the county library headquarters on our usual meeting night, this month's program meeting will be held there on **Tuesday, November 20** at 7 PM. **NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.** The program will be a **members "show and tell" evening.** Come and enjoy the many talents and skills of fellow WGNSS members at our final general program meeting of 2007! Details on p. 10.

Looking beyond November, our annual holiday open house with St. Louis Audubon is being planned for the afternoon of Sunday, December 2. Mark your calendar, and check next month's *Nature Notes* for additional information!

On Thursday, November 8, the 2007 Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum will be held at The Living World, St. Louis Zoo, from 5:30-9:00 p.m. As in years past, WGNSS will have a display table at this event. This year's theme is "Missouri's Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP): Forests Forever?" Presentations will be given by researchers and conservation practitioners working with the MOFEP program. Established in 1990 by the Missouri Department of Conservation in cooperation with universities and research organizations, MOFEP has the goal of applying long-term ecosystem research to 9,200 acres of relatively mature second-growth Ozark forestland. To register for the Forum or for further information, contact Patrick Osborne by phone at 314-516-5219 or by email at osbornepl@umsl.edu.

In late September, WGNSS sent a letter to AmerenUE regarding the route of a high-voltage transmission line the utility is planning in Jefferson County, advocating selection of the "western route" for the line. The other two proposed routes would negatively impact high quality habitat in Hilda Young Conservation Area, LaBarque Creek Conservation Area, and the LaBarque Creek watershed in general. WGNSS members are familiar with the area because the birding and botany groups take frequent field trips to the Hilda Young and LaBarque Creek Conservation Areas. The WGNSS botany group is

also working with landowners in surveying the plants on privately owned property in the watershed. It is essential that no further degradation occur in the LaBarque Creek watershed, which is under pressure from development. The watershed encompasses high quality habitat, much of it heavily wooded. This habitat shelters numerous species of birds, mammals, fish, butterflies, dragonflies, and other insects, some of which are rare in the St. Louis area. WGNSS supports the "western route" because it would create the least damage to the LaBarque Creek watershed. WGNSS will continue to monitor future developments regarding the transmission line project.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Please look at your label to note the expiration date of your membership. If the date is 31-08-2007, this is the last newsletter you will receive. Please renew your membership by mailing your check to WGNSS to our P.O. Box. If you think there's an error in your dues expiration date, please call our Treasurer, Michael Olson, at 577-5160 (day) or 481-3301 (eve.).

AUGUST BOTANY REPORT

August 6, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Eleven botanists met on a St. Louis heat warning morning in an air-conditioned classroom at Powder Valley Nature Center. We shared slides, photographs, and specimens of plants. Pat Harris showed us her slides of a wet prairie in Howell County, MO on the Arkansas border. Gladys Kullman presented a children's slide show of her own drawings, each of which suggested the common name of a common plant. For example, a drawing of a plant root bleeding suggested bloodroot. Nancy Clark presented her digital photographs of spring flora from the St. Louis area, and Nels Holmberg did a brief review of the August 4-5 workshop on Cyperaceae and passed around some of his herbarium specimens of sedges. Jerry Brown shared a photoalbum of plants he is growing on his prairie in Lincoln County. Father Sullivan showed slides made by the late Art Christ, mentor to many St. Louis area botanists.

August 13, 2007

We met at Howell Prairie at the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center, St. Charles County on a morning that was predicted to be very hot, but which turned out to be much more pleasant than anticipated. It was cloudy and breezy as 13 WGNSS botanists toured the prairie at the invitation of Jeannie Moe, who works here during the summer months. First, we inspected the prairie garden area in front of the Interpretive Center, and later the wetland behind the Interpretive Center, and finally the "wild" prairies surrounding the area.

Among the many plants we identified on the prairie were *Euphorbia serpens* (round-leaved spurge) which we spent considerable time keying out in the *Flora Of Missouri* Volume 2. We also found *Asclepias sullivantii* (smooth milkweed), *Helenium autumnale* (yellow sneezeweed), *Liatris aspera* (rough blazing star), *Liatris scariosa* (savanna blazing-star), *Salvia azurea* (blue sage), *Spartina pectinata* (cord grass), *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (fragrant coneflower), *Helianthus mollis* (downy sunflower), *Sida spinosa* (prickly sida), *Vernonia missurica* (Missouri ironweed), and *Verbena hastata* (blue vervain). We identified four species of the genus *Silphium*, all blooming. They were *S. integrifolium* (rosinweed), *S. laciniatum* (compass plant), *S. perfoliatum* (cup-plant), and *S. terebinthinaceum* (prairie dock).
(Cont'd on p. 4)

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Search for a Rare Orchid - Oscar Petersen -
Nature Notes, July-Aug. 1959

The photograph taken by Dr. Julian Steyermark in 1952 after I had called his attention to this evasive plant, is a silent witness to its actual presence. It was taken at its budding period. When we first found the colony of *Isotria Verticillata*, in April 1951, there were approximately 150 plants in the colony with a coterie of mostly infertile specimens. Since then they have dwindled to--none at all. Yet closer scrutiny has resulted in finding scattered specimens here and there, in adjacent local areas on nearby higher elevation. On this, my apparent last visit to Pickel Spring, I had a vague dream of transplanting at least three "Isotery" plants, root and all, on Mr. Palm's estate, near an all-weather spring, hoping to bring them back to life and nearer home. My reason for this was to establish the habit and nature of the plant. On a previous root investigation we discovered that the plant was supported by a dual base, or rootstock about 16 or 17 inches apart. That means: Its running root supported--two individual plants. One fertile, that is--flowering--the other infertile-unproductive. We set to digging--and to make the story short, we selected a fruited specimen and dug--carefully, and before we got much further than to reach the base of the plant and carefully sought and found the lead root to its sister plant--it snapped and we gave up our search.

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

Margy Terpstra is pictured in the Oct. 11-15, 2007 issue of the Webster-Kirkwood Times. While most of us associate Margy with bird photography, in this article she is pictured with the other members of Kirkwood's AIB (America in Bloom) Steering Committee as the Committee's photographer and graphic design coordinator. The article reports that Kirkwood has won the 2007 America in Bloom "American Horticultural Society Community Involvement Award."

Awards are granted to communities in seven population categories. Competition judges use eight criteria in assessing communities, including tidiness, environmental effort, heritage, urban forestry, landscaped areas, floral displays, turf and groundcover, and community involvement.

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Money is like a sixth sense without which you
cannot make a full use of the other five.
W. Somerset Maugham

Weep not for little Leonie
Abducted by a French marquis!
Though the loss of honour was a wrench
Just think how it's improved her French.
Harry Graham 1874-1936

August Botany Report (Cont'd from p. 2)

In the small wetland, we found *Iris virginica* (southern blue flag), *Juncus torreyi* (Torrey's rush), *Scirpus georgianus* (dark green bulrush), *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower), and *Lobelia siphilitica* (great blue lobelia).

The large basal leaves of *Silphium laciniatum* are deeply incised or lacerate, and orient themselves with the lateral edges of the blades facing north-south. This orientation prevents the leaves from getting too much radiation on bright, sunny days. This behavior is the basis for the common name, compass plant. In moister locations, this orientation does not occur, so don't rely on this plant to find your way in Missouri.

Helenium autumnale, named after Helen of Troy, has decurrent leaves. This means that some leaf tissue extends downward along the stem from the point of attachment of the leaf, forming a kind of "wing".

August 20, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Five intrepid botanists met on a warm, rainy morning in the same place we met on June 11, a small unnamed tributary of LaBarque Creek in Franklin County. Recall that this is an unusual area because the bedrock is St. Peter's sandstone, and the acidic and sandy nature of the soils in the LaBarque Creek watershed promote the growth of many species not found in much of the rest of Missouri. We explored two "new" box canyons and some upland area, including a small glade.

We walked up a tributary of the unnamed tributary until we came to a fork in the stream and *we took it* (both of them, that is!). Each led to a sandstone amphitheater with walls about 50 feet high. Along the way we identified a number of mosses, liverworts, ferns, fern allies, and flowering plants. Among the mosses and liverworts we found were *Dicranum scoparium* (broom moss), *Leucobryum glaucum* (cushion moss), *Conocephalum conicum* (great scented liverwort), and *Trichocolea tomentella* (fuzzy liverwort), an uncommon species except in areas like the LaBarque Creek watershed. Ferns included *Adiantum pedatum* (maidenhair fern), *Asplenium platyneuron* (ebony spleenwort), *Dryopteris marginalis* (marginal shield fern), *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive fern), *Phegopteris hexagonoptera* (broad beech fern), and *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), while the one fern ally we found, a member of the Lycopodiaceae, was *Huperzia lucidula* (shining clubmoss). Flowering plants in bloom included *Amphicarpaea bracteata* (hog peanut), *Aureolaria grandiflora* (yellow false foxglove), *Cunila organoides* (dittany), *Hydrangea arborescens* (wild hydrangea), and *Lobelia inflata* (Indian tobacco). Other species not blooming included *Hypericum hypericoides* (St. Andrew's cross), *Polygonatum biflorum* (Solomon's seal), *Aralia racemosa* (American spikenard), and *Mimulus alatus* (winged monkey-flower).

After we left the streambed and climbed the hillside, we found a small glade on which *Croton willdenowii* (rushfoil), *Diodia teres* (rough buttonweed), *Opuntia humifusa* (common prickly pear), and *Polytrichum ohioense* (Ohio polytrichum moss) were growing. *Spiranthes tuberosa* (little ladies' tresses) were in bloom.

We identified *Chenopodium simplex* (maple-leaved goosefoot) growing at the base of an overhanging sandstone bluff that apparently has long been used as shelter by humans. This relatively large-fruited plant is often associated with such places, and it has been suggested that Native Americans planted these at their shelters and harvested the edible fruits when they visited the shelters.

August 27, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Sixteen botanists met at Cuivre River State Park in Lincoln County at Bruce Schuette's invitation to see a state listed plant in bloom. On a warm morning under a cloudless sky, we went to the Dry Branch Prairie to see *Agalinis auriculata* (auriculate false foxglove). There were many blooming specimens of this species of conservation concern, and their presence prompted a flurry of photography. Most of the populations of this plant in Missouri are on the western side of the state, but this is a naturally occurring eastern population. After the excitement of seeing this species we explored the small prairie and identified many other species including *Coreopsis tripteris* (tall tickseed), *Lespedeza capitata* (round-headed bush clover), *Euthamia gymnospermoides* (viscid grass-leaved goldenrod), *Asclepias hirtella* (tall green milkweed), *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (fragrant coneflower), *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass), *Vernonia missurica* (Missouri ironweed), *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (partridge pea), *Rhus copallinum* (winged sumac), *Helianthus mollis* (downy sunflower), *Lespedeza virginica* (slender bush clover), and *Ambrosia bidentata* (toothed ragweed).

After thoroughly exploring the prairie, Bruce took us to two small ponds. The first was McCain's pond where we found *Acorus calamus* (sweet flag), a monocot and *Riccia stenophylla* (a thalloid liverwort), both growing on the shoreline. We then went to Pickerelweed Pond where we found a number of plants in flower including *Utricularia gibba* (humped bladderwort), *Hypericum mutilum* (dwarf St. John's wort), *Phyllanthus caroliniensis* (leaf-flower), *Pontederia cordata* (pickerelweed), *Wolffia brasiliensis* (watermeal) and *Lobelia inflata* (Indian tobacco). Along the roadside near Pickerelweed Pond we found *Liatris scariosa* (savannah blazing star), another species of conservation concern in Missouri, blooming. This was a very successful field trip thanks to Bruce Schuette, who led us to these areas and shared his knowledge of the park geology and biology.

MISSOURI BIRDS IN LATIN AMERICA – John Solodar

Brad Jacobs, the state ornithologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, has started an innovative program to help the migrant birds that spend their summers in Missouri but their winters in Latin and South America. At national meetings of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies he has challenged each state's agency to support the wintering grounds of the migrant birds that summer within each individual state. The response so far has been good and many of these agencies will be contributing to a common fund that can be used for Latin American projects.

MDC has been supporting waterfowl habitat financially in Canada for a long time in order to preserve breeding grounds for the ducks that spend the fall and winter in Missouri or migrate through our state. Brad realized that we should really be doing the same thing for the migrant birds that summer here but rely on Central American areas for their wintering grounds. These birds occupy about one-eighth of the space in Central America as they occupy in North America. This habitat has been shrinking rapidly and that loss, in turn, is a major contributor to the decline in the number of our migrant species such as warblers, vireos, thrushes, etc.

If you want to see where our birds spend their winters go to the website www.partnersinflight.org. The map in the upper right hand corner will show the birds of Kansas, but when you click on the line above this you will see a directory from which

you can select Missouri-winter. The primary concentrations are from southern Mexico through Panama with Nicaragua and Honduras having the heaviest concentrations.

Missouri Department of Conservation Efforts.

MDC has been funding habitat work in Mexico for the last couple of years to the tune of about \$250,000 per year at El Cielo Biosphere Preserve. MDC's contribution has been matched by the Mexican government, and the American Bird Conservancy has been active as well. With El Cielo becoming more self-sufficient in terms of funding, MDC will be switching its focus to another area, probably Pico Bonito National Park and the adjacent El Peligono in Honduras.

In August, Brad Jacobs convened a statewide group of people representing a variety of Audubon chapters, the Missouri Heritage Conservation Foundation and MDC to organize a statewide consortium which would support MDC's efforts. This group met to formally organize, to pick Central American projects of prime interest, to spread the word about the importance of this work and to set some realistic fund raising goals for the first year.

St. Louis International Conservation Committee.

An International Conservation Committee to support MDC's statewide efforts has been organized in the St. Louis area by the Audubon Society. Its purposes are to decide on projects worthy of our support, to collaborate with others statewide who are working on Latin American winter habitat projects and to raise and distribute funds to support these projects. (Many of the members of the committee are also members of WGNSS.) The committee met in early September and agreed to support two areas. The first of these is to fund field studies for up to two Central American graduate students. We will solicit names of worthy candidates for these scholarships from professors in Central America with whom Brad Jacobs, of MDC, has contacts. SLAS intends to fund these scholarships, which cost only \$600 per year, by using funds from its annual scholarship budget.

The second area of work is to support ongoing habitat acquisition and protection efforts in Central America. Brad Jacobs recommended, and the statewide consortium agreed, that the most important project to support right now is one involving Pico Bonito National Park and the nearby El Poligono in Honduras. The lodge at Pico Bonito NP has a list of birds that have been seen up to 1000 ft altitude. I urge you to visit their website http://www.picobonito.com/PB_files/bird.html to see for yourself the list of our birds that winter in just this part of the area. There are even more of our birds on the dry side of the mountains in the El Poligono area.

We intend to raise a minimum of \$2,500 from St. Louis birders for the Pico Bonito project this year. The first \$1,500 will be matched 1:1 by a group of three WGNSS/SLAS members. This will give us a total of \$4,000 this year. MDC will match our money, and all money that is raised statewide as well as the scholarship money. Thus our \$4,000 to Pico Bonito could reach \$8,000 with MDC help and we hope to have the latter total matched again by the Honduran government or by the

American Bird Conservancy

One member of the St. Louis Audubon board, Tom Creley, has donated \$115,000 to establish a special fund as a memorial to his late wife. After an initial period of a few years, the earnings from this fund will be available for our Latin American projects. Tom has challenged us to double the value of his donation within the next five years. When that is accomplished there will be \$11,500 available annually (at 5% interest) for our use. With this challenge in mind, any monies raised this year that exceed \$4,000 will be split with half going to Pico Bonito and half going to meet the Creley challenge.

Making a contribution.

John Solodar will serve as the conduit for donations to our program. He will keep track of all donations and monitor the funds to ensure that they go where we intend. We ask you to send tax deductible donations, made out to St. Louis Audubon Society with a notation that it's for International Conservation, to John at 8135 Cornell Ct., St. Louis, MO.

2007 WHITNEY & ANNA HARRIS CONSERVATION FORUM
Thursday, November 8, 2007, 5:30-9 PM
The Living World, St. Louis Zoo

"Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP): Forests Forever?"

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. David Gwaze, Resource Scientist,
Missouri Department of Conservation
"An Overview of the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project"

Dr. Richard Guyette, Department of Forestry,
University of Missouri-Columbia
"From Ozark fire scars to a North American fire history"

Dr. Wendy Gram, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History,
University of Oklahoma
*"Evaluating the effects of forest management on animal
and plant communities"*

If you would like to attend this forum please visit <http://hwec.umsl.edu/events.html> to register. Admission is free, optional box dinner is available for purchase, but must be pre-ordered.

SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

Co-sponsored by Academy of Science, St. Louis and Saint Louis Zoo
Held in The Living World, Parking Free in North Lot
Wednesday Evenings – 7:30-9 PM

Nov. 14 – Advancing Research Into Climate Change and Natural Hazards – A Multi-disciplinary Approach - Panelists from Saint Louis University Center for Environmental Science

Dec. 5 – Conservation Medicine in the Galapagos Islands - Dr. Patricia Parker, Professor of Zoological Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis

Jan. 30, 2008 – The Greenhouse Effect – Dr. Carl Bender, Professor of Physics, Washington University, St. Louis

Feb. 27, 2008 – Snapshot in Time: Geologic Secrets of the Danville, Illinois Fossilized Forest – Scott D. Elrick and John Nelson, Geologists, Illinois State Geological Survey

April 2, 2008 - Hopping the Gauntlet: Multiple Stressors and Amphibian Diversity – Dr. Jon Chase, Assoc. Prof. of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis.

(Contact: Jim Jordan, Curator of Education, 314-781-0900, ext. 340)

SEPTEMBER BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: Undoubtedly the best bird of September, and a good candidate for best bird of the year, was the Arctic Tern found by Mike Thelen at Carlyle Lake on 9/22. The fall shorebird migration was fairly robust, but the landbird migration was slow and spotty at best.

Sightings: About 3,500 Pelicans arrived at HL on 9/11 (JZ, FH). An apparent Anhinga was seen by Barbara Perry Lawton and others on 9/24 at St. Alban's. Frank Holmes counted 36 Snowy Egrets at HL on 9/16. On 9/22, a Snowy Egret was seen in FP (CZ). Michele Rambaud observed 4 Avocets at Creve Coeur Lake on 9/23. A new bird for Riverlands was a Snowy Plover, seen by Bill Reeves, Bob Lewis and Charlene Malone on 9/6. Also on 9/6, a Piping Plover was seen there by David Rogles. Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone and 4 tern species were present at Riverlands on 9/8 (MT). On 9/19, a Western Sandpiper was seen at Riverlands (DR). Frank Holmes estimated 250 Blue-winged Teal at HL on 9/23. Many Soras and several Marsh Wrens were found along the Causeway at HL on 9/30 (FH, YH, JZ). A new bird for TGP, #197, was a Common Moorhen found by Mick Richardson on 9/28. Two Bonaparte's Gulls and a Franklin's Gull were seen at the Borrow Pit at HL on 9/30 (FH, JZ). Mike Thelen reported a Laughing Gull at CL on 9/16. An adult Glaucous Gull, seen at CL on 9/8, was a first for that location (DK, Mark Sieffert). Charlene Malone reported Parasitic Jaeger, 2 Sabine's Gulls, hundreds of Black Terns, plus Forster's and Common Terns, at CL on 9/8. Shawn Clubb visited Riverlands on 9/9 and found 10 Forster's Terns, 5 Caspian Terns, and 2 Black Terns. Mike Thelen

photographed an Arctic Tern at CL on 9/9. The Thursday Group found 5 Black Terns, Soras, and Tree, Bank and Rough-winged Swallow at HL on 9/6. Late Mississippi Kites were reported on 9/2 in Crestwood (D Bozzay), on 9/8 in TGP (Dave Pierce), and 6 in Webster Groves on 9/5, along with a Barred Owl (D Rabenau).

The first Northern Harrier of the fall was seen at Heron Pond on 9/6 (D Rogles). A Northern Harrier and 2 Canvasbacks were observed at Riverlands on 9/12 (M Richardson). There were few reports of Broad-winged Hawks, but 5 were seen at Busch on 9/20 (J Chain, Thursday Group), and 5 were seen at "Mt. Doom" on 9/22, along with 1 Bald Eagle, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 N. Harriers (J&NS). A large flock of Nighthawks was present at CSP on 9/8 (MB). SLAS visited TGP on 9/8 and reported 5 Yellow-billed Cuckoos and 13 species of warblers (MT). In TGP, Jean Cook found a Sapsucker on 9/17 and a Junco on 9/20. On 9/22, the Saturday Group visited TGP and reported a remarkable number of Flickers, 6 species of warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Cooper's Hawk, and a Great Horned Owl (D Becher). David commented on the small numbers of Palm Warblers observed in recent years; Palm Warblers were once as common as Yellow-rumps. There were several reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch, with 2 in TGP on 9/8 (MT), 2 in Cedar Hill on 9/20 (WG), 2 in TGP on 9/13 (J Chain, Thursday Group), 7 at CL on 9/16 (J&CM), and 2 at Busch on 9/20 (J Chain, Thursday Group). Sept. 23 was a very good day at Blue Grosbeak Trail, where David Rogles found 18 Marsh Wrens, 9 Sedge Wrens, Connecticut Warbler, 140 Common Yellowthroats, 120 Nashville Warblers, and 3 Grasshopper Sparrows. Gail Ahumada reported 2 Winter Wrens at TGP on 9/14. Several House Wrens were seen on the Blue Grosbeak Trail on 9/30 (PL). David Rogles counted 32 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 6 Red-headed Woodpeckers, and 4 Brown Thrashers at Riverlands on 9/21. Six Brown Thrashers, 3 Catbirds, and a Mockingbird were seen near one tree at the Borrow Pit at HL on 9/23 (FH, JZ).

Paul & Barbara Johnson found an adult Hooded Warbler feeding a fledgling at two different locations in CSP on 9/14, indicating probable double brooding. Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were new birds for Riverlands (David Rogles). Jackie Chain reported 5 Golden-winged Warblers in TGP on 9/5. Four Kentucky Warblers were a good find at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 9/30 (PL). On 9/6, the Thursday Group found Black-throated Green, Canada, Red-eyed Vireo and Red-headed Woodpecker in TGP (J Chain). A Wilson's Warbler was seen in FP on 9/20 (SM). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from HL on 9/16 (FH) and from Riverlands on 9/19, along with Swamp Sparrows and 14 warbler species, including Orange-crowned (D Rogles). On 9/9, David Rogles reported a large movement of birds at Riverlands, totaling an incredible 105 species, including King Rail, 12 Sora, 6 Wigeons, 6 Marsh Wrens, 12 Nighthawks, and more. Sept. 27 was a good day in FP, where Sherry McCowan observed 6 Swamp Sparrows, 1 Song Sparrow, 1 Lincoln's Sparrow, 6 Marsh Wren, a possible Sedge Wren, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Nashville, 2 Yellow-rumps, and 2 female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

A typical day at Riverlands on 9/8 included Caspian Tern, 14 Forster's Terns, Common Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, 2 Pintails, Sora, dozens of Lesser Yellowlegs, 10 Stilt, Semipalmated, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers, Dowitcher sp., 2

Cooper's Hawks, a dozen Bobolinks, and 6 Hudsonian Godwits (Bill Rowe).

A typical day at TGP on 9/9 included 1 Baltimore Oriole, female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, 2 Canada, Wilson's, 3 Golden-winged, 1 Blue-winged, 1 Parula, Bay-breasted, Nashville, 2 Black and white, plus several Magnolia, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Redstarts, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, and Wood Thrush (Shawn Clubb).

A typical day at BK Leach on 9/29 included Henslow's, 3 Grasshopper, 9 Nelson Sharp-tailed, 125 Swamp, 75 Savannah, 25 Lincoln's, 1 LeConte's, 10 Song, and a Vesper Sparrow, plus 67 Marsh Wrens, 3 Sedge Wrens, 70 Bobolinks, 39 Sora, 3 American Bitterns, 1 Virginia Rail, 50 Common Yellowthroats, and Wilson's Snipe (David Rogles). A juvenile White-faced Ibis was seen at Riverlands on 9/29 (David Rogles).

Back Yard Birds: Sherry McCowan found a Magnolia Warbler in her yard on 9/23, and a Catbird appeared on 9/26. Margie Richardson had 6 female Redstarts and a Common Yellowthroat on 9/26, plus infrequent visits from a Barred Owl and a Carolina Wren. On 9/16, a possible Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Tufted Titmouse were seen at Clarence Zacher's yard. Jim Ziebol got a good look at a *tundrius* Peregrine Falcon flying over his house on 9/17. Wally George was still seeing 20-25 hummingbirds at his Cedar Hill feeders on 9/19. Ian Hunt reported a Chestnut-sided Warbler was a new backyard bird for him. He also reported that there were 5-6 sightings of Buff-bellied Pipt (American Pipit) in Europe this fall, and one of these was a first for France.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Jean Cook, Wally George, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Pat Lueders, Sherry McCowan, Mick Richardson, David Rogles, Jim & Charlene, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Rad Widmer, Clarence Zacher, Jim Ziebol.

Abbreviations: BCA, Busch Conservation Area; CC, Clarence Cannon NWR; CL, Carlyle Lake; CSP, Castlewood State Park; CB, Columbia Bottoms; FP, Forest Park; HL, Horseshoe Lake; LP, Lafayette Park; LCCL, Little Creve Coeur Lake; MTC, Marais Temps Clair; RMBS, Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, SNR, Shaw Nature Reserve, TGP, Tower Grove Park.

SHARING THE GREAT NATURE MOMENTS OF 2007

Bring your best ten photos from nature this year, OR best five drawings/paintings, OR best one (short-winded) story to share with members. We will have a slide projector plus empty carousel and a digital projector for members to use. Let's have a great turnout!

Webster Groves Nature Study Society – Founded 1920
GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES
 October 2007 Update

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
ORNITHOLOGY – SATURDAY BIRD WALKS – David Becher (314-576-1146) (If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)			
Oct. 13	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 20	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 27	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 3	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 10	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 17	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 24	Des Park	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 1	Riverlands Teal Pond	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 8	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher

ORNITHOLOGY – THURSDAY BIRD WALKS – Jackie Chain – Leader (314-644-5998)

Beginning Thursday, 3 May 2007, the group will begin meeting at 8 AM instead of 8:30 AM. For the first four May Thursdays we will meet at Tower Grove Park at the Maddy Bird Garden in the northwest corner of the park. We suggest parking on Magnolia Avenue. Those "westerners" who wish to carpool may meet at 8 AM at Des Peres Park. Beginning on 31 May **throughout the summer**, we will all resume meeting at Des Peres Park and proceed to where we hope there are birds.

Starting Thursday, 6 September, we will revert to the 8:30 AM meeting time due to school traffic.

For questions prior to birding days, my home phone is 314-644-5998 and my email is chainjac@sbcglobal.net. Beginning by 7:30 AM on birding days, my cell phone should be turned on at 314-497-1628.

There may need to be changes made down the line due to traffic problems with the onset of I-64/Hwy 40 construction, so stay tuned.

ORNITHOLOGY - SUNDAY BIRD WALKS – Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372)
(New birders are **cautioned** to dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them.)

Oct. 14	Castlewood St. Park Park Headquarters	8 AM	Sherry McCowan (Margy Terpstra)
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(Cont'd next Page)

Oct. 28	Riverlands MBS* Headquarters	8 AM	Ian Hunt
Nov. 4	Busch Conservation Area Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden	8 AM	Tom Parmeter
Nov. 11	Riverlands MBS Headquarters	8 AM	Mike Thelen

*Riverlands MBS – Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

BOTANY WALKS – Jeannie Moe – Co-Chair , Co-Leader (636-946-9802)

**George Yatskievych – Co-Chair (314-577-9522) – Work Phone
Leader – Fr. James Sullivan (starting his 41st yr. in January, 2007)**

Botany walks are on Monday. The Botany group visits many of the same locations as the Bird and Butterfly Groups: Busch Conservation Area, Shaw Nature Preserve, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Babler State Park and Cuivre River State Park. Learning plants will help you learn butterfly host plants. Sign up for Botany Group E-mails from 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, October 28 at 7PM - Mark Deering, senior insect curator of the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House will give a talk, titled "*Buggin' in Arizona*". He will be talking about the butterflies and other insects he encountered on a trip to southern Arizona this past summer. During the talk, Mark will also present information about the, "2007 Invertebrates in Captivity Conference" he participated in on the same trip. We will be meeting at the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, St. Louis County Faust Park, on Olive Blvd. just north of Highway 40. For directions to this event, feel free to contact Richard Thoma at (314-965-6744) or thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, November 18 at 7PM - Joe Fortier, St. Louis University professor and WGNSS member will give a talk, titled "*Microcosmos: photographing tiny insect diversity*". This is a great opportunity to see the invisible world of very small insects and to discover their beauty. We will be meeting in Room 142, Biology Department, MacElwane Hall on the campus of St. Louis University. For directions to this event, feel free to contact Richard Thoma at (314-965-6744) or thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, December 16 at 7PM - Keefe Reuther, winner of the 2006 WGNSS Menke scholarship will give a talk, titled "*Spiders, aphids, and roaches, Oh My!*" -- *Tales of the other social arthropods of North America*". When people think of insect societies, they think of a bee hive, or an ant nest or a termite colony. Keefe will show us that there are many other insects that also have social organizations too. We will be meeting in Room 142, Biology Department, MacElwane Hall on the campus of St. Louis University. For directions to this event, feel free to contact Richard Thoma at (314-965-6744) or thomarkas4@sbcglobal.net.

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (Cont'd)

Making Nature Notes Useful

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 - Stuart O'Byrne, June 1948 issue.

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Call The Nature Line!

This line (314) 935-8432 should no longer be used to report bird sightings, but Sherry McCowan will check the line for messages and will relay them to the appropriate person. Call individual Group leaders if you have questions about walk/activity schedules.

Nature Notes Deadline and Mailing Info.

The mailing party meets at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood at time noted 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 below

NN Deadline	Mailing Party
Fri. 11/9	Mon. 11/19, 10-1, A/P
Fri. 12/7	Mon. 12/17, 10-1, A/P

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7 PM, at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold, 63122, Tel. 314-301-1500. Near I-44/I-270 intersection, enter from Geyer Road. Visitors are welcome. Come see your Board in action!
(If snowy or icy conditions prevail, call ahead to find if the meeting has been canceled.)

Publication Policy

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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.

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