



Nature Notes

Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, April 2009, Vol. 81, No. 3

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ann Earley

Many thanks to our March program speaker, Carl Campbell of St. Louis Community College-Meramec, who discussed his geology research and field studies in the southeast Missouri Bootheel and in Montana. Attendees learned about the ongoing efforts to uncover and interpret fossil evidence regarding what occurred more than 65 million years ago when dinosaurs and many other species became extinct. You won't want to miss our April general program meeting—it's for the birds, and just in time for the spring migration! Check Shawn Clubb's article for all the details, and join the WGNSS flock on April second!

This year's **spring banquet** is right around the corner, on **Wednesday, May 6**, at Eden Seminary Commons. A registration form and additional information are included in this issue of *Nature Notes*. Don't delay—register to reserve your space today!

We continue to seek a volunteer to serve as WGNSS Treasurer beginning in June. If you are interested in this office, know someone who might be interested, or would like more information about what is involved, please contact me or current Treasurer Mike Olson. Although the spring season has barely begun, planning is already underway for our WGNSS program meetings to be held later this year, starting in September. If you would like to present a program, or have suggestions for speakers or topics of interest, please let Shawn know. His contact information, along with that

of other WGNSS Board members, can be found near the end of this newsletter.

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

Shawn Clubb

Do you ever hear birdsong and wonder which species you heard? Do you get the feeling you're missing out on locating certain birds because your listening skills need help?

Join us for a presentation on "**Birding by Ear**" to be given by Bob Bailey at the WGNSS general membership meeting at **7 p.m.**

Thursday, April 2, at the **St. Louis County Library headquarters**, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. This meeting will provide a good chance to bone up on your birdsong listening skills prior to the peak for spring migration. Bob will present the different types of songs one will hear from Missouri songbirds, both summer residents and migrants. He will show a photo of a bird, play an audio clip of its song and give a description of a different method used to make birding by ear a reality.

Bob is working to complete his requirements as a Missouri Master Naturalist. Bob frequently conducts birding field trips and nature programs for St. Louis Audubon, Webster Groves Nature Study Society and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

WGNSS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

WGNSS extends a hearty welcome to new members Garry Reed of St. Louis and Carol Gholson of Woodson Terrace.

CALL FOR ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REPORTS

Please submit announcements of nature-related events in the St. Louis area to the editor's email malinda.slagle@mobot.org. Also, original articles regarding nature, particularly local nature are encouraged (not reprints from elsewhere unless you have permission to reprint them). Some suggestions might be accounts of nature-oriented trips you have taken, information about local natural areas, reviews of nature books, or interesting nature sightings. I also always appreciate group reports. Anything pertinent to WGNSS from anyone, member or not is welcome.

JANUARY BOTANY REPORT

January 5, 2009 Botany Field Trip
Contributed by Wayne Clark
Klondike County Park, St. Charles, MO
Nine botanists came out for the first field trip of the New Year on a partly sunny 30° F morning. We assembled at the boat ramp parking lot which is the trailhead of the Lewis & Clark Trail. The trail runs along a wooded stream and the prairie restoration project. One of the first plants noted was *Desmanthus illinoensis* (Illinois bundle flower). Other plants identified include *Setaria faberi* (nodding foxtail), *Acer negundo* (box elder), *Acer saccharinum* (silver maple), *Ambrosia trifida* (giant ragweed), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Salix exigua* (sandbar willow) with its pinecone-like galls which were the first identifying feature. *Robinia pseudocacia* (black locust), *Celastrus scandens* (bittersweet), *Populus deltoides* (cottonwood), *Ampelopsis cordata* (raccoon grape), *Rosa multiflora* (multiflora rose), *Carya illinoensis* (pecan), *Platanus occidentalis* (sycamore), *Morus rubra* (red mulberry), *Xanthium strumarium* (common cocklebur), *Eryngium yuccifolium* (rattlesnake master), *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass), *Penstemon digitalis* (beard-tongue), *Daucus carota*, (Queen Anne's lace). After flowering, the flower heads of *D. carota* curl up into the shape of a birds nest. The seeds grow in the bottom of the nest. Later in fall or winter they open up and disperse their

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seeds. Most of the seeds were gone by the time of our visit, but there was one plant where the seeds were in the center of the open "nest".



Daucus carota (Queen Anne's lace) from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 2: 625.

Elymus virginica (Virginia wild rye), *Juglans nigra* (black walnut), *Liatris pycnostachya* (button snakeroot), *Liatris aspera* (rough blazing star), and *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower) were more plants identified. *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (coral berry) was growing under *Celtis laevigata* (sugarberry). Both of them had berries. Other trees noted were *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras), *Juniperus virginia* (red cedar), *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood), *Quercus velutina* (black oak), and *Prunus serotina* (black cherry). Three mosses were noted. *Entodon seductrix* (glossy moss) growing on a decaying log, *Barbula unguiculata* (claw leaf moss), and *Brachythecium laetum* (common cedar moss).



Entodon seductrix (glossy moss) Photo by Cody Hough
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entodon_seductrix

January 12, 2009 Botany Field Trip

The WGNSS botanists met indoors at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park for a photographic experience. Jerry Brown, Pat Harris, Jack Harris, and George Van Brunt shared some of their photographs of plants.

January 19, 2009 Botany Field Trip

The WGNSS botanists met at the St. Louis Science Center to study a dinosaur named Sue and other displays of interest.

January 26, 2009 Botany Field Trip

Snow flurries and cold temperatures kept the WGNSS botanists home where they studied their books.

JANUARY BIRD REPORT **Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer**

Introduction: Dan Kassebaum and Bill Rudden are exceptional birders and their keen observations made for some very interesting gulling this winter. Their best ID on a bird with a medium-gray mantle was Mongolian Gull. Also, Bill Rudden observed what he believed was a first-winter Western Gull, which he later decided was a hybrid. Bill found a gull that fit the description of a Yellow-legged Gull and it is very likely that it was one. Both Bill and Dan had what they believed were first-year Slaty-backed Gulls at Riverlands and CL (one at each location). They also took the time to show many birders the adult Thayer's Gulls and numerous Iceland Gulls that appeared this winter at Riverlands.



Thayers gull. Photo by Natureguy1980 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thayer%27s_Gull

Sightings: Pat Lueders visited Riverlands on 1/23 and found 250 Trumpeter Swans, Tundra Swan, Cackling Goose, Great White-fronted Goose, a second-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull, 2 Thayer's Gulls, and a Glaucous Gull. The Thursday Group found 4 Ross's Geese, a Cackling Goose, and several Bonaparte's Gulls at Baldwin Lake, and a Loggerhead Shrike at Peabody CA on 1/22 (J Chain). Charlene and Jim Malone found several White-winged Scoters and a Thayer's Gull at CL on 1/11. Five to 600 Canvasbacks were estimated at HL on 1/1 (FH, SM). An Oldsquaw, found by Jim Hickner at CC Lake on 1/11, was seen by many birders. On 1/2, 2 Laughing Gulls were observed at Riverlands and a first-winter Iceland Gull was seen at CL (DK, MS). Bill Rudden and others reported many adult Thayer's Gulls this winter at Riverlands. On 1/2, a medium-sized gull with a medium-gray mantle, yellow legs, and a long nostril slit was believed to be a Mongolia Gull; this was Bill Rudden's and Dan Kassebaum's best ID (BR, DK). Dan Kassebaum remarked that the photos did not give the impression or "jizz" from actually observing the bird. Josh Uffman found a third-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull with pink legs on 1/19. On 1/24, Les Jenkins reported Glaucous, Great Black-backed, and a possible Thayer's Gull at Riverlands. Chris Ferree noted a Sharp-shinned Hawk in FP on 1/30. Two Rough-legged Hawks were seen on 1/18, both in the CL vicinity (CA, CK). Two Bald Eagles were seen in Carondelet Park on 1/4 (MT). Kathy Thiele observed a Peregrine Falcon at the old Chain of Rocks Bridge on 1/15. The Merlin in Carondelet Park, first reported by Bill Rudden, was re-found by Sherry McCowan on 1/2 and by the Thursday Group on 1/15 (RAB). Another Merlin was reported at CB, along with a Winter Wren, on 1/25 (MT). Mike also reported 5 N. Harriers at various locations on 1/6. Good birds for the Thursday Group on 1/8 at Busch included Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Sapsuckers, and a Pileated Woodpecker. Kraig Paradise visited CB on 1/28 and found a Short-eared Owl and 25 to 30 Lapland Longspurs. David Rogles found a Northern Shrike at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 1/12; this bird was seen by many birders over the next month.

A Prothonotary Warbler was a surprise find at BCA on 1/ 3 (PL, CA, AK). A Fox Sparrow and a Harris' Sparrow were seen at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 1/ 1 (YH). A male Spotted Towhee and 2 Eastern Towhees were seen at the dredge area, HL, on 1/ 1 (FH). An amazing 4,000 Lapland Longspurs, plus 40 Snow Buntings, were found in Clinton County, IL on 1/31 (MS, DK). On 1/17, 30 Rusty Blackbirds were observed at Church & Seeburger Roads (MT). Good birds for the Saturday Group on 1/10 at Riverlands included Tundra Swan, Black Duck, Cackling Goose, and Greater White-fronted Goose; the group also saw the Merlin at Carondelet Park (DB). On 1/29, the Thursday Group saw a Great Horned Owl at Connie Alwood's home in Ferguson, plus Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Riverlands (J Chain). After a snow storm, Jim Ziebol found 8 species of sparrows at HL, including Fox, Field, and 20+ Savannahs, along with 50 Horned Larks, 1 Lapland Longspur, and 2 Mockingbirds.



Prothonotary Warbler Photo taken by Mdf at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prothonotary_Warbler

A typical day on 1/25 included Merlin and Winter Wren at CB, plus Ring-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls, Thayer's Gulls, one Iceland Gull, one Lesser Black-backed Gull, one Glaucous Gull, and one Great Black-backed Gull at Riverlands (MT). A typical day at CL on 1/6 included Oldsquaw, 2 White-winged Scoters, Surf Scoter, 2 Iceland Gulls, 2 Glaucous Gulls, Thayer's Gull, hundreds of Herring Gulls, thousands of Common Goldeneyes, and a Palm Warbler (DK).

Backyard Birds: Les Jenkins found a Rusty Blackbird and a Purple Finch at his home in

Manchester in early January. Margy Terpstra reported a Pine Siskin, 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Creeper, Hairy Woodpecker, and a Mockingbird on 1/17; she also reported a Red-winged Blackbird on 1/24. Her best bird was on 1/17 – a Common Redpoll. Other Common Redpoll sightings were: 1/19, Millstadt, IL, Laura Schaefer; 1/26, north county, Josh Uffman; 1/29, CL, Dan Kassebaum. Clarence Zacher reported a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and many Juncos in January. Jack Harris's best birds were an E. Towhee on 1/9, a Pine Siskin on 1/16, and 2 Cooper's Hawks and a Red-shouldered Hawk.

FEBRUARY BIRD REPORT **Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer**

Introduction: The longest documented direct flight of any birds was reported recently, when a Bar-tailed Godwit flew from Alaska to New Zealand in 8 days, covering a distance of 11,000 kilometers. This bird probably weighs 2 pounds and demonstrates the remarkable stamina of birds. The bird's flight was monitored by a device tracked by satellite.

Robert Bakker, a renowned paleontologist living in Colorado, recently stated that when you think "dinosaur," think "big bird." Both came from a common ancestor and their flocking and brooding behaviors were similar.

Sightings: The first Horned Grebe appeared at HL on 2/21, along with 4 Bald Eagles (FH). Sherry McCowan had not seen a Pied-billed Grebe all winter at FP, and then 2 showed up on 2/25. On 2/28, 300+ Pelicans were seen circling over HL (JZ). Connie Alwood reported that by 2/15, most of the Trumpeter Swans had left Riverlands. Frank Holmes found 250 Snow Geese at HL on 2/8. He also reported 5 Wood Ducks at HL on 2/23. As many as 75 to 80 Greater Scaup were seen on the Hwy. 111 side of HL on 2/9 (JZ). These birds were observed in two tight flocks because of the severe wind conditions. An Oldsquaw was reported at CL on 2/15 (CA). On 2/26, Connie Alwood and Ann Kirkpatrick visited CB, where they counted hundreds of Pintails and Mallards. Torrey Berger found 500 Red-breasted Mergansers, plus 30 Greater White-fronted Geese, at Riverlands on 2/23. Good birds for Frank Holmes on 2/9 at HL

included 4 Killdeer, 1000+ Canvasbacks, 500 Ring-necked Ducks, and a first-year Glaucous Gull. An Iceland Gull was observed at HL on 2/15 under very bad viewing conditions and was thought to be a first or second-winter bird (FH). On 2/16, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was found at HL (JZ). A first-winter Slaty-backed Gull was found at CL on 2/21 (DK, CA). On 2/21, Dan Kassebaum located Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls in Hazlet SP. The first E. Phoebe was reported at Simpson Lake Park on 2/19 (DM). On 2/2, Frank Holmes found a Brown Thrasher at HL, and on 2/27, two Brown Thrashers were seen there (JZ). Sherry McCowan observed an apparent female Oregon Junco in FP on 2/25. Pat Lueders observed 2 flocks of Lapland Longspurs on Cora Island Road on 2/1. On 2/26, 40+ Rusty Blackbirds and 40 Grackles were seen at Church & Seeburger Roads (CA). On 2/23, a Ross's Goose and 2 Greater Scaup were seen at Riverlands, and a Loggerhead Shrike was seen at Peabody Coal (PB, AS).

Backyard Birds: Connie Alwood has had Towhees in his yard all winter. Clarence Zacher reported that the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in his yard this winter was still present in February.

Contributors: Connie Alwood; Paul Bauer; David Becher; Torrey Berger; Rose Ann Bodman; Chris Ferree, Jim Hickner, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer; Les Jenkins, Dan Kassebaum, Ann Kirkpatrick; Chris Kirmaier; Pat Lueders, Jim & Charlene Malone, David Marjamaa; Sherry McCowan, Kraig Paradise, David Rogles; Bill Rudden, Mark Seiffert, Al Smith; Mike Thelen; Kathy Thiele; Josh Uffman, Jim Ziebol.

Locations: BCA – Busch Conservation Area; CBCA – Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area; CL – Carlyle Lake; CC Lake – Creve Coeur Lake; CSP – Castlewood State Park; FP – Forest Park; HL – Horseshoe Lake, Granite City; LVT – Lost Valley Trail; SNR – Shaw Nature Reserve; TGP – Tower Grove Park.

DUNGERS AND CHAFERS—A TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

Ted C. MacRae

Those of you who enjoy field trip accounts should check out the December 2008 issue of SCARABS. The lead article - authored by yours truly - is a scarabcentric travelogue of an insect collecting trip I took to South Africa several years ago. Scarabs?!, you say? Well, even though I focus on bups, 'bycids, and tigers (some would argue that actually demonstrates lack of focus), I never pass on the opportunity to collect "cool" insects of all types when traveling somewhere as "exotic" as Africa - and scarabs are definitely cool! Still, I did manage to sneak past the editors a few words and pictures about buprestids, one of the more impressive of which I offer here as further enticement. You can also read about heart attacks, flying Tonka trucks, and evil minions.



Evides pubiventris (family Buprestidae, tribe Evidiini) suns itself on high terminal foliage of *Lannea discolor* (family Anacardiaceae), Waterberg, Northern Province. Photo by Ted MacRae at <http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com>

Previous issues of this fine newsletter are at <http://www.coleopsoc.org> under "Resources" and at <http://www-museum.unl.edu> under "Scarab Beetle Research". For those really interested in scarab newsletter history, archives of a previous incarnation - SCARABAEUS - can be at the same websites.

Read more of Ted's insect musings on his blog: <http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com/>

THE BEES AND BUTTERFLIES OF THE LITZINGER ROAD ECOLOGY CENTER

Malinda Slagle and

Richard Clinebell (Deceased Feb. 2006)

This is a summary of a paper in preparation for scientific publication.

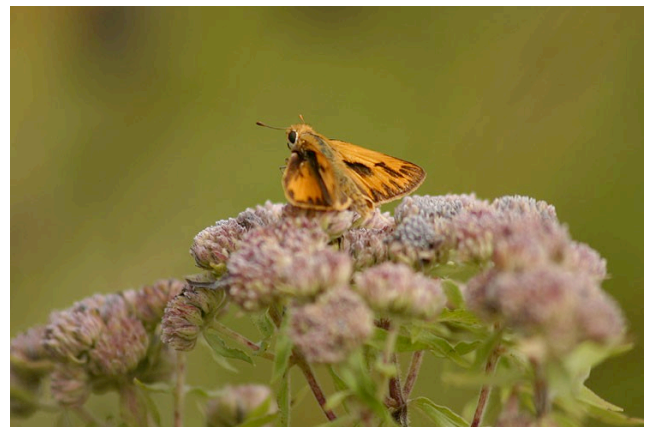
Besides being editor of *Nature Notes*, I am also a restoration ecologist at the Litzinger Road Ecology Center in Ladue, Missouri. One of my assignments there is to assess the success of the restoration programs on site. Plants and vertebrates are often monitored very closely in restoration projects, but invertebrates are neglected. This group, particularly the insects, is essential to monitor because insects comprise the majority of the species in the restoration and provide many ecosystem services such as pollination. Bees are important monitoring subjects because they are the most important pollinator in the Midwest, being the only one that actively collects pollen. Also, bees can be habitat restricted, oligolectic (adults collect plant pollen or drink plant nectar from one plant genus or family), and vary in their social nature and nest type. All of these characteristics can serve to group these bees by ecological function, often called functional groups. These groups can be compared between remnant natural communities and restorations to understand if bee community structure has been restored. Butterflies are also good monitoring subjects because they are easy to identify, can be important pollinators for the reproduction of certain plant species, are highly oligophagous (caterpillars eat only one plant genus or family), are often habitat restricted and may be sensitive to common restoration practices such as prescribed burns.

I conducted my monitoring at my workplace, the Litzinger Road Ecology Center (LREC) in suburban St. Louis, Missouri. It is an environmental educational center and restoration project that is managed by the Missouri Botanical Garden. The LREC comprises 14 ha, 5 ha of which are prairie reconstructions, and 6 ha of which are restored woodlands which surround 1 km of Deer Creek. I also utilized bee data collected by Richard Clinebell, a former researcher at the LREC. I compared the bee and butterfly diversity and functional groups in the restorations at the LREC to local remnant areas

to evaluate whether the site had comparable levels of diversity and functional group composition.

Clinebell collected bees at the LREC from 1996-2005. He primarily concentrated on collecting pollinators from certain species of plants. I collected bees at the LREC from 2004-2006 in randomly selected plots and observed butterflies in plots from 2004-2006.

I compared the bee data to 7 reference areas within 50 km of the LREC that included some undisturbed remnant habitat: Calvary Cemetery, Cuivre River State Park (CRSP), Englemann Woods, Shaw Nature Reserve (SNR), Tyson Research Center (TRC), Valley View Glade, and Victoria Glade. Because bee data collection was more extensive at CRSP and TRC, more comparisons were made to these sites. Butterfly data was compared to data from CRSP, SNR, and TRC.



Fiery skipper (*Hylephila phyleus*) on hairy mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum pilosum*) at the LREC. Photo by Colleen Crank at <http://www.litzinger.org/photos/archives/animals/invertebrates/index.html>

We found more bee species at the LREC (105) than were found at any of the 7 reference communities except for TRC (110). We found similar percentages of bee species in each functional group as at TRC and CRSP, and similar percentages of oligolectic bee species. We found more honeybees at the LREC than at other sites, probably due to neighbors' nearby hives. Honeybees are not native, so they may be having negative effects on our pollinator and/or plant communities. I found fewer butterfly species at the LREC (26) than at any of the reference sites, but the butterfly functional groups were pretty similar between sites. The reference sites were much larger in area than the

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LREC. When two smaller areas of CRSP were compared to the butterfly data at the LREC, the number of butterfly species was comparable. These comparisons indicate that the bee community at the LREC seems to have been restored to the functional group composition and number of species of much larger remnant natural areas, and when the size of the area was taken into account, the butterfly community also seems to be restored to the functional group composition and number of species of a remnant natural area. More sampling over a longer period of the pollinator community will help us to understand effects of management practices and insure the viability of this community. Continued promotion of plants favored by oligolectic species will help increase pollinator diversity and preserve pollinator communities.

**PROFILE OF A ST. LOUIS AREA
NATURAL SITE: THE LITZSINGER
ROAD ECOLOGY CENTER
Malinda Slagle**

While it is somewhat of a challenge to visit, the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center (LREC) in Ladue, Missouri is worth it. I am probably biased since I have been a restoration ecologist there since 2004. The LREC is not open to the public, but educational groups, such as WGNSS groups, are encouraged to make appointments to visit. Primarily K-12 students are the educational groups that utilize the site, with a total of 7000 student visits a year! The LREC is also used by many local researchers, ranging the gambit from bird mist netting and banding to broad insect surveys to GIS studies of our stream channel. The LREC comprises 34 acres, 12 of which are prairie restorations and 14 of which are woodland restorations bordering a half mile of Deer Creek. Over 400 species of plants grow on site, nearly 100 species of birds have been sited at the LREC, 7 species of fish live in the creek, over 100 species of bees live at the LREC, and 26 species of butterflies have been recorded there. There is something for everyone. And the school groups can testify that even in the rain, snow, or hot sun, plant and animal life can be found flourishing throughout the site. One of the best times to see critters and flowers is the

summer, when few school groups are scheduled. Learn more about the LREC at <http://www.litzsinger.org>. If your group is interested in visiting, please contact me at malinda.slagle@mobot.org or 314-961-4410. I plan to make this a regular column, highlighting a new St. Louis natural site each month. If you would like to put in a plug about your favorite St. Louis natural site, please contact me. Otherwise, look out, I may recruit you to write the column anyway!

**SIGN UP FOR A DAZZLING WORKSHOP
ON THE SUBJECT OF "MISSOURI
PRAIRIES"**

Offered in cooperation with the Missouri Native Plant Society. One evening class on Wednesday, 29 April 2009, 7 - 9 pm. at Meramec Community College in Kirkwood.

Two field trips 1. Shaw Nature Reserve - Saturday, 2 May 2009; and 2. Cuivre River State Park - 9 May 2009.

For registration and other info visit : [http://classes.stlcc.edu/ClassSchedule/Term_Search.a](http://classes.stlcc.edu/ClassSchedule/Term_Search.asp)

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Click on CE Spring 2009 >> NATR-Nature Study >> enter course number "723" .

Then fill in "Advanced Search" details, e.g., times as above; "All instructors"; Building >> Meramec-Science West; >> "All Parts" of Term; Sessions >> evening; >> Schedule Type >> All Types >> Characteristics >> XNAT: Nature. Then click on "Search Class".

If all the details of the class meet your schedule requirements, then click on "Continuing Education at the top of the page and follow instructions for registration. Registration started 5 January 2009.

**SAVE A TREE, CHANGE YOUR
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION TO
EMAIL!**

Starting next month (May), a paperless version of the newsletter will be available over email. Not only will this version save paper, it will allow you to see the included photos in color. If you are interested, please email me at malinda.slagle@mobot.org. You can choose to also still receive the paper version of the newsletter, or even both if you would like. Email me your preference.

GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES

April 2009 Update

ORNITHOLOGY – SATURDAY Bird Walks

– David Becher (314-576-1146)

(If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
4/4	Riverlands MBS @Teal Pond	8:00 am	D. Becher
4/11	Des Peres Park	8:00 am	D. Becher
4/18	Tower Grove Park @ Gaddy Garden	8:00 am	D. Becher
4/25	Busch Wildlife Area @ Hampton Lake	8:00 am	D. Becher
5/2	Tower Grove Park @ Gaddy Garden	8:00 am	D. Becher
5/9	BIG DAY	8:00 am	D. Becher
5/16	Castlewood State Park @ Headquarters	8:00 am	D. Becher
5/23	Des Peres Park	8:00 am	D. Becher

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

Continuing on Thursdays in January 2009, the group will meet at 8:30 am until May at the Des Peres Park parking lot off Ballas Road north of Manchester Road behind the Lutheran Church and School and Des Peres City Hall.

In May we will change to 8AM meeting time at the Gaddy Bird Garden in the northwest section of Tower Grove Park, St Louis City. 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 to find.

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

George van Brunt – Co-Chair (314) 993-2725
Leader – Fr. James Sullivan (starting his 43rd yr. in January, 2009)

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

ENTOMOLOGY GROUP ACTIVITIES – Rich Thoma, Chair (314) 965-6744

Sunday, April 19 at 7:00. Ted MacRae, St. Louis' expert on beetles (primarily wood-boring beetles and tiger beetles) and 20+ year member of WGNSS presents "From Hilltop to Swamps: Insects in Missouri's Rarest Prairies". This is a chance to find out about some really unique places in Missouri, few have heard about. For this meeting, we will be meeting at Ted's home, 7 Stone Chimney Dr. in Wildwood. Directions to Ted's home are as follows: From the intersection of highway 44 and 270, take highway 44 west 12 miles to Eureka. Exit at highway 109, turn right (exit no. 264) and drive north 6.2 miles. Turn left on highway 100 (Manchester) and drive west 2.7 miles. Turn right on St. Albans (highway T) and drive 1.7 miles. Make another right turn on DeHart Farm Rd. Go up a very steep hill. The road gently curves around as you go up. Near the top, make a left on Old Logging Rd. (The signs are wooden and hard to see at night so look carefully.) Ted's home is at the corner of Old Logging Rd. and Stone Chimney Dr. Should you need assistance, you may call 314-694-5645.

For general information about WGNSS, contact Membership Chairman Paul Brockland at 314-961-4661.