



# Nature Notes

## Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society September 2011, Vol. 83, No. 7

First Issue November 1929



### President's Corner

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#### *Rich Thoma*

Hopefully you've had a chance take part in a few of the many WGNSS activities this summer. The Botany and Ornithology Groups had field trips nearly every week this summer except during the hottest days. The Entomology Group was also active doing insect surveys at LaBarque Creek Conservation Area. For those who stayed indoors on those hot days, the Natural History Book Club continued holding monthly meeting throughout the summer. It's been a busy summer for WGNSS.

This fall promises to be just as busy. Be sure to come to the WGNSS General Meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center on Wednesday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m. Long time WGNSS member, **Jane Walker** will be speaking about the field work she has been doing studying the federally endangered Hine's Emerald Dragonfly in Missouri. It's not easy studying an endangered species; Jane will tell you that finding out where an endangered species lives is just one hurdle to studying the species. There are many permits that must be acquired and reports to be written just to look at habitats where the endangered species lives. If one wants to understand the life history of an endangered species and specimens need to be collected, there are even more permits required. Jane has worked many years with the U.S. government Endangered Species Program to study the Hine's Emerald. She will be the first to tell you that Hine's Emeralds are

tough to study, only flying as adults for a few days each year. At the meeting, Jane will talk about all the efforts that are going on in Missouri to study this colorful dragonfly. It appears that there is more Hine's Emerald habitat in Missouri than anywhere else in the country. If you are interested in the Endangered Species Program, dragonflies and some very unique Missouri habitats, this is the meeting to come to.

Be sure to look in this issue of *Nature Notes* for all the other September activities offered by WGNSS. Late summer blooming flowers offers great field trip opportunities for anyone interested in going on a field trip with the Botany Group. WGNSS also has several field trips to witness the early fall bird migration. If you are looking to hear some really great field trip stories, be sure to join the Entomology Group for their annual show and tell night. In addition, the Natural History Book Club is reading "Cold", a topic we all wish would happen to the weather on these hot summer days, and will be discussing this book at their September meeting. There is a lot going on.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to announce that WGNSS is putting together an Outreach Program to bring nature to students in the St. Louis area. **Mark Paradise** has volunteered to organize the Outreach Program and is looking for your help. WGNSS is looking for members that would be willing to spend a minimum of a half day, three to four times a year visiting classrooms. Mark has some ideas about what we can do for the students but is also looking for hands on ideas

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from others. WGNSS is specifically looking for hands on activities that will catch a young students mind and encourage them to enjoy the great outdoors. The plan is to create a list of programs offered by WGNSS that will be distributed to science teachers in the St. Louis area starting January 2012. If you are interested in helping and/or have ideas for natural history programs, contact Mark.

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## September General Meeting

*George Yatskievych*

September 7 marks our first General Meeting after the summer break. Join us at 7:30 p.m. at Powder Valley Nature Center. We will be treated to a talk entitled, **Twelve Years of Searching for Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly in Missouri, with Surprises Along the Way**, by Jane Walker. Jane, along with Joe Smentowski, has been carrying out inventories for this beautiful but endangered dragonfly species for several years and has added much new information on the distribution and biology of the species. Those who would like to join us for dinner with the speaker before the program should meet at the Powder Valley parking lot by 5:30 p.m. We will car-pool to a nearby restaurant of the speaker's choosing.




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## April Bird Report

*David Becher<sup>1</sup>*

As always the April report tends to concentrate on first arrivals and last departures. The weather in April was notably violent with a major tornado in North Saint Louis County and heavy rains and thunderstorms. The weather was even worse to the south and southeast. Despite this the migration was fairly normal. There were a fair number of reports of early migrants, but the majority of the birds seemed to arrive pretty much on schedule. Early in the month the Mississippi River was low at Riverlands and there was lots of shorebird habitat. Eventually the floods arrived and by the end of the month shorebirds were had to find.

At the beginning of the month there were still a fair number of migrant ducks in the area including Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Bufflehead, Green-winged Teal, and Ruddy Duck. With the high water levels, caused by the flooding and heavy rains by the end of the month there were ducks left except the breeding species. There was a late Ross’ Goose with a few Snow Geese at Teal Pond at Riverlands on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were two Cinnamon Teal reports this month one at Columbia Bottom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> by Josh Uffman which disappeared almost immediately. The other at Voelkerding Slough (near Dutzow in SE Warren County) which was reported by Don Hays on the 25<sup>th</sup> apparently stayed a little longer.

There were two reports of Common Loons both in breeding plumage from Horseshoe Lake. Frank Holmes had one the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Johnsons another on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A few Horned Grebes lingered and Frank Holmes had two at Horseshoe on the 5<sup>th</sup>. More remarkable was an Eared Grebe at Riverlands, despite the high water levels, seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and reported by Charlene Malone. It was apparently seen by several observers, but was gone the next day.

Hérons began to return to the area at the start of the month. Black-crowned Night Herons have become much harder to find in the Saint Louis area than they used to be years ago. Josh Uffman

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<sup>1</sup> Photos by Bill Rudden

reported one from Riverlands on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and a few of the Thursday birding group had one at Horseshoe on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The higher water levels normally maintained at Horseshoe Lake in recent years appear to have made the habitat there less attractive to Night Herons. The first Snowy Egrets were reported by Frank Holmes at Horseshoe Lake on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and numbers were seen at various locations as the month went on. The first report of Cattle Egrets was also by Frank at Cahokia Mounds on the 6<sup>th</sup>. More unusual was a pair at the shorebird area at Busch Wildlife on the 14<sup>th</sup> that was found by the Thursday group. Frank Holmes also reported that the Yellow-crowned Night Herons returned to their nest sight in Wilson's Park Granite City by the 6<sup>th</sup>. The first report of Little Blue Heron by Clark Creighton on the 8<sup>th</sup> was also from Busch Wildlife. Herons are becoming much more common on the Missouri side of the river, but such an early report from that area is a bit unusual. The first Green Heron was reported by Pat Lueders on a Saint Louis Audubon trip down to Hawn State Park on the 10<sup>th</sup>, but the next report was not until Bryan Prather had one at Little Creve Coeur on the 20<sup>th</sup>. American Bittern reports were numerous this year although as always this is a difficult bird to find. The first reports were on the 9<sup>th</sup> from Pintail Marsh at Riverlands by Connie Alwood and from Little Creve Coeur by Bryan Prather. The bird at Pintail Marsh was still present the next day and it or another bird was seen by Connie at Heron Pond on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Little Creve Coeur birds were seen by various lucky observers during the month. There were also American Bitterns at Columbia Bottom reported by various observers.

A Black Vulture reported by Mike Treffert at Bee Tree Park on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Although they are now regular at the southern end of the St. Louis area, a sighting in Saint Louis County is unusual. Broad-winged Hawks were reported by numerous people, but only in ones and twos; no large kettles were reported. Charlene Malone on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Babbler State Park, the Saturday Group at Lost Valley on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the SLAS trip to Hawn Park and Margy Terpstra on the 10<sup>th</sup> were the earliest. The first Mississippi Kite was reported from Des Peres by Margie Richardson on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Soras were reported from a number of areas this month. The earliest and most unusual location was

reported in Tower Grove Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> by Rose McClarren. Bryan Prather reported both Sora and Virginia Rail from Little Creve Coeur on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Soras were remarkably common there during the month with more than ten being seen on one visit by several observers. Soras were also reported from other suitable areas Clarence Cannon, Columbia Bottom, and Horseshoe Lake. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Al Smith reported an amazing three Virginia Rails and many Soras at Little Creve Coeur.

Early in the month shorebird habitat was plentiful and there were lots of birds, but not much variety. Once the floods arrived and the habitat along the rivers was flooded, shorebirds became hard to find. Shorebird reports were, therefore, somewhat spotty. Golden Plover numbers were down from what was present in March, but there were reports from a number of areas:

Locality	Observer	No.	Date
Horseshoe Lake	Frank Holmes	7	4/3
Columbia Bottom	David Becher	20	4/8
Monroe Co.	Lorrie Vit	20	4/9
Riverlands (Stonehenge)	Pat Lueders	–	4/12

David Becher also reported a few Semipalmated Plovers from the Stonehenge area on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Phil Wire found eight American Avocets at Clarence Cannon on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Black-necked Stilts, which have become much more common in Saint Louis, were seen in a number of areas. The first reports were seven at Riverlands by Connie Alwood and two at Clarence Cannon by James Hickner on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The first sightings at Columbia Bottom, where they have recently started nesting, were four by Lorrie Vit on the 21<sup>st</sup>. With the flooding they have not yet become reliable in any area.

Early in the month the water level was very low at Riverlands and there were extensive mudflats. There were lots of both species of Yellowlegs both at Stonehenge and in Ellis Bay. Other species were harder to find. Josh Uffman found a few Baird's Sandpipers at Riverlands with some Pectoral Sandpiper and Yellowlegs on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were reports of Dunlin at Stonehenge on the 9<sup>th</sup> by Connie Alwood and the 12<sup>th</sup> by Pat Lueders. The first Long-billed Dowitcher report was two seen near Stonehenge by David Becher on the 10<sup>th</sup> along with a few Least and Solitary Sandpipers and lots of Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers. Phil



**Forster's Tern at Horseshoe Lake—note the white primaries and long tail.**

Ware found the only Stilt Sandpipers also along with some Least Sandpipers at Clarence Cannon on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were two Hudsonian Godwit reports near the middle of the month. Dan Kassebaum had one at the Hawn Access at Carlyle Lake on the 17<sup>th</sup> and Al Smith photographed one at Stonehenge at Riverlands on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were three Willet reports from the Riverlands area by Connie Alwood on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Charlene Malone on the 23<sup>rd</sup> on the rip rap, and by Jackie Chain at Cora Island road on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The first report of Spotted Sandpiper one of the few species to breed in this area was by Frank Holmes from Horseshoe Lake on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Finally there were two reports of Wilson's Phalaropes on the 20<sup>th</sup> at Clarence Cannon and at Voelkerding Slough (near Dutzow in SE Warren County) on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

As usual there were very few Larid reports in April. The high water and flooding at most locations reduced the gull reports even more. There were a few Bonaparte's Gulls around the area. The first I have heard of were at Horseshoe on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Dave Rogles had eighteen at Clarence Cannon on and Frank Holmes had twenty five at Horseshoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Charlene Malone had six Franklin's Gulls on the 23<sup>th</sup> at Riverlands. Frank Holmes reported a Caspian Tern and six Forster's Tern at Horseshoe Lake on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A few were seen at Horseshoe and Riverlands for the rest of the month.

The pair of Great Horned Owls at the west end of Tower Grove Park successfully fledged three young which appear to be doing well. In addition, a second pair which apparently did not nest successfully was being seen repeatedly at the east end of the park. Carole Glauser reported a red morph Screech Owl at Phantom CA in Des Peres on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The first Whip-poor-will report was one heard by Mike Brady along the Chubb Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup> a few members of the Saturday group had on perched in the Gaddy Garden at Tower Grove Park.

The first Chimney Swifts were reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> in Webster Groves by Pat Leuders and numbers increased from there. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrive about the middle of the month with the first sightings in the Saint Louis were on the 12<sup>th</sup> in Chesterfield by Mike Grant and the 13<sup>th</sup> at the World Bird Sanctuary by Pat Leuders. Numbers appeared to remain small all month possibly because of the weather.

Additional species of flycatchers began to join the Eastern Phoebe that were already here this month. The first Eastern Kingbird was seen by Mike Thelan in northern Franklin County on the 10<sup>th</sup> a very early date. The Johnsons found a Great-crested Flycatcher on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Shaw Nature Reserve and Carole Glauser identified a Least Flycatcher at Sugar Creek Park in Des Peres on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The first Eastern Wood Pewee apparently barely made in here in April being reported at Tower Grove Park by the Saturday Group on the 30<sup>th</sup>, possibly a bit later than usual.

In the Vireo family, Yellow-throated, White-eyed, Warbling, and Blue-headed all arrived together. The first Yellow-throated Vireo reports were on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Rockwood Reservation by Charlene Malone and along with a White-eyed Vireo on the Chubb Trail by Mike Brady on the 10<sup>th</sup>. One day earlier a couple of White-eyed Vireos were heard singing at each other near the Beaver Pond at Lost Valley. The first Blue-headed Vireo was reported from the SLAS Trip to Hawn Park also on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The first report from the immediate Saint Louis area was by Andrew Reago and Chrissy McClarren at Tower Grove on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Finally Josh Uffman saw a Warbling Vireo on the 11<sup>th</sup> in Creve Coeur. Bell's Vireo always a later arrival was heard and seen on the Blue Grosbeak Trail at Weldon Springs on the 29<sup>th</sup> by David Becher.

Purple Martins were seen by Nikki Davenport near the houses at O'Connell's at Kingshighway and I44 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Early Bank Swallows were seen by Frank Holmes at Horseshoe Lake on the 17<sup>th</sup> and he found Cliff Swallows were present at Alton on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The last Brown Creeper report appears to have been by Chris Brown in Creve Coeur on the 19<sup>th</sup>, but there was still at least one Red-breasted Nuthatch in Tower Grove Park at the end of the month. At least a few Winter Wrens are usually present all winter although they can be hard to find. Mike Brady reported an influx of migrants at Castlewood on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and they were seen repeatedly in Tower Grove Park for most of the month. Josh Uffman reported a Bewick's Wren singing in Washington County starting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The first House Wrens appeared in Tower Grove (reported by Rose McClarren) on the 10<sup>th</sup> and in Creve Coeur on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Charlene Malone heard at least two Marsh Wrens on the 23<sup>rd</sup> near Heron Pond. David Becher and Loy Barber saw one of them the next day.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher always a harbinger of the migration was seen at Rockwood Reservation on 3<sup>rd</sup> by Charlene Malone. The first Swainson's Thrush was on the 11<sup>th</sup> by James Hickner at Tower Grove followed shortly by a Wood Thrush on the 14<sup>th</sup> by Pat Lueders at the Wild Bird Sanctuary. There were several Veery reports the first on the 24<sup>th</sup> by Andrew Reago at Tower Grove. Veery appeared to be a bit more common than usual early this spring. The first Cedar Waxwing report of the season was on the 10<sup>th</sup> by the McClarrrens.

The Warblers came in at about the usual times, but in some cases the first report was not immediately followed by larger numbers. For example, the first Tennessee a non-singer was seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> and there were few reports after that until the end of the month. By the last few days of April migrants were being seen in some numbers in all of the usual migrant traps. The breeding species also appeared to arrive on schedule in most areas. The total number of reports was large and in most cases it is only possible to report the first reported occurrence or two. Margy Terpstra's Northern Waterthrush seems notably early. The Hooded Warbler in Tower Grove Park was very cooperative, but oddly never seemed to sing. Some of the Spruce Bud Worm specialist species such as



Worm-eating Warbler, Tower Grove Park.



Scarlet Tanager, Tower Grove Park.

Blackpoll and Black-throated Green appeared to be in low numbers, but some of the others did not. It is too early in the migration to draw any real conclusions about numbers, however. It is also interesting to note that six species just snuck into the month on the very last day. A detailed Warbler report can be found in Appendix 1 (page 18) of this newsletter.

The first Summer Tanager was reported by Mark Mittleman from Tower Grove Park on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It was followed shortly thereafter by the first Scarlet

Tanager seen by Josh Uffman on the 18<sup>th</sup> in Washington County.

Sparrow numbers appeared to be a bit low again this year with the exception of course of the migrating White-throated Sparrows which were, as usual, everywhere. Vesper Sparrows were reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at Castlewood by Mike Brady and at Columbia Bottoms by Josh Uffman. There was still one at the latter location on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The only LeConte's Sparrow reported was one that gave exceptional views to members of the Saturday group at the Blue Grosbeak Trail at Weldon Springs on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It was very close to where one was seen in January and may have wintered here despite the cold and snow. The first Henslow's report was by Mike Brady at the Chubb Trail on the 10<sup>th</sup> followed by reports by Josh Uffman from Robertsville State Park on the 18<sup>th</sup> and the Shaw Nature Reserve on the 21<sup>st</sup> by the Johnsons. They have so far not been found in the area a Weldon Springs where they have occurred the last few years. The first Lincoln Sparrow was reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> in Tower Grove by Rose McClarren who also reported that there were still a few Fox Sparrows. Another was seen in Creve Coeur on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but the total number of reports seems low. The Johnsons saw a Harris Sparrow in Kennedy Woods on the 16<sup>th</sup>. This species has been uncharacteristically absent from the area this winter. The first Grasshopper Sparrows arrived at Columbia Bottom on 23<sup>rd</sup> and at Cahokia Mounds on the 24<sup>th</sup> where they were reported by Charlene Malone and Frank Holmes respectively.

The first Indigo Bunting was apparently seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> in Creve Coeur by Chris Brown. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared about the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Busch Wildlife area and Bryan Prather reported a Dickcissel on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Little Creve Coeur. A migrating Blue Grosbeak was seen in Forest Park by the Johnsons on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Purple Finches were not plentiful this winter, but there was still a migrating flock in Tower Grove Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dave Rogles and Tom Bormann found a Pine Siskin mixed in. There were a few other reports of migrating Siskins, which must have wintered south of Saint Louis, including three found at the Busch Wildlife Area feeders by Connie Alwood on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

A female Great-tailed Grackle at Columbia Bottom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> seen by Josh Uffman was both

late for Saint Louis and away from the areas where they have been seen wintering in Saint Louis in recent years. A report of Rusty Blackbirds by James Hickner on the 11<sup>th</sup> in Tower Grove Park was late for this declining species in the Saint Louis area. There only two Yellow-headed Blackbird reports one from Riverlands on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the other from Carlyle, Illinois on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Neither sighting was apparently repeatable. The first Orchard Oriole report of the season was from Horseshoe Lake by Frank Holmes on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the first Baltimore Oriole a day later by Connie Alwood on Ellis Island at Riverlands, always a good Oriole area when it is accessible. The only Bobolink report for April was of a flock in the fields near Elsah on the 28<sup>th</sup> that was passed on by Bryan Prather, but they apparently did not linger.

Despite the violent weather, it was a fairly normal April migration with a few early arrivals and the majority of the birds concentrated at the end of the month. There were no outstanding rarities, but most of the expected species were seen by someone.



## April Botany Report

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*Compiled by George Van Brunt*

**April 4, 2011—Graham Cave State Park,** Montgomery County, MO (text and photos by Jeannie Moe).

Time: 9:30 a.m.—Noon.

Conditions: Cold (50's F).

Participants: Fr. Sullivan, Burt Noll, Jack Harris, Jeannie Moe, George Van Brunt, John Oliver, Wayne Clark, and Nancy Clark.

Eight botanists assembled for a walk at Graham Cave State Park. The first area we botanized was the grass around the parking lot for Graham Cave. *Hedyotis crassifolia* (small bluets), and *Microthlaspi perfoliatum* (perfoliate penny cress) were in bloom. *Lamium amplexicaule* (henbit), *Draba verna* (vernal whitlow grass), and *Holosteum umbellatum ssp. umbellatum* (jagged chickweed) had flower buds that weren't open because of the cold cloudy morning. In the woods, we encountered *Ribes missouriense* (Missouri gooseberry) which was just leafing out and forming flower buds. The *Boechera laevigata*



*Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches).



*Antennaria neglecta* (field pussy toes).



*Thalictrum thalictroides* (rue anemone).



*Floerkea proserpinacoides* (false mermaid).

(smooth rock cress), *Cardamine concatenate* (toothwort), *Uvularia grandiflora* (tall bellwort), and *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty) had flower buds. Plants in bloom included *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), *Thalictrum thalictroides* (rue anemone), *Viola sororia* (woolly blue violet), *Prunus sp.* (wild plum), and *Taraxacum officinale* (dandelion). We encountered *Podophyllum peltatum* (May apple) and *Erythronium albidum* (white trout lily) that had their leaves above the ground but weren't in bloom yet. *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam and Eve orchid) had leaves as well as last year's seed pods. We looked at a few winter twigs on trees including *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw), *Carya cordiformis* (bitternut hickory), *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), and *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras). The *Euyonymus atropurpureus* (wahoo) was just leafing out. We knew the wahoo wasn't burning bush because it had ridges on the stem instead of wings.

We emerged from the woods onto a sandstone glade near Graham Cave. We encountered *Carex albicans* (sedge) in bloom. Other plants blooming on the glade included *Antennaria neglecta* (field

pussy toes), and *Rhus aromatica* (aromatic sumac). We saw the seed heads from last year's *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower) and the rosettes for this year's growth. The *Cercis canadensis* var. *canadensis* (redbud) tree had flower buds on them. A *Fraxinus americana* (white ash) still had the seed pods from last year holding on. We saw the winter twigs of *Fraxinus quadrangulata* (blue ash). Birds on the walk included Phoebes building their nests on the roof of Graham Cave and a yellow-bellied sapsucker in the woods.

Then we drove down to the boat ramp to look for a rare plant known as false mermaid. We searched the bottomland between the Loutre River and the base of the bluff where the plant has been found in the past. While looking for the plant we encountered in bloom *Ranunculus abortivus* (small-flowered crowfoot), *Isopyrum biternatum* (false rue anemone), *Viola soria* (woolly blue violet), and *Cardamine parviflora* var. *arenicola* (small-flowered bitter cress). The leaves of *Lysimachia nummularia* (moneywort), an introduced invasive species, were very abundant and covered the ground in many

places. We encountered the pretty leaves of *Hydrophyllum virginianum* (Virginia waterleaf). We also spotted the leaves and flower buds of *Collinsia verna* (blue-eyed Mary). The *Aesculus glabra* (buckeye) was leafing out. Then Father Sullivan spotted *Floerkea proserpinacoides* (false mermaid). The plant was small and easily missed. Each plant had only a few light green leaves and no flowers.

**April 11, 2011—Washington State Park,** Washington County, MO (text and photos by Steve Turner).

Time: 9:30 a.m.—Noon

Conditions: Mostly cloudy, humid, low 60s F.

Participants: Nancy Clark, Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Jeannie Moe, Larry Morrison, Burt Noll, John Oliver, Fr. Sullivan, Steve Turner, George Van Brunt.

The group assembled in the parking lot adjacent to the petroglyphs on a morning wet from significant rainfall in the preceding hours. Although the cloudy and overcast conditions, coupled with the heavy recent rainfall, were not optimal for many spring wildflower presentations, the subdued lighting did serve to accentuate the showy displays of *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood), which was abundant in the area and in full bloom. These, along with *Cercis canadensis* (redbud) were impossible to miss even on a simple drive through the park.

The day's botanizing began at the margins of the parking lot, in which were found numerous meter-high dried stalks of last year's *Dasistoma macrophylla* (foxglove mullein), which still had small spherical fruits attached to the stalks. In this area was also found many examples of *Uvularia grandiflora* (large flowered bellwort), *Thalictrum thalictroides* (rue anemone), and *Fragaria virginiana* (wild strawberry). One lone *Hedyotis* species observed in bloom was tentatively assigned as *H. nigricans* due to its leafy axils. Examples of *Nothoscordum bivalve* (false garlic), *Viola sororia* (common violet), and *Glandularia canadensis* (rose verbena) were also found.

Across the road in the glade area, additional glade denizens were observed, including *Lithospermum canescens* (orange puccoon), which was in the early stages of flowering; *Draba cuneifolia* (whitlow grass), which was less than fully open due to the conditions; *Viola pedata* (bird's foot violet), which formed large and beautiful displays; *Leavenworthia*

*uniflora* (Michaux's gladecress), of which both blooming and fruiting specimens were found; and *Carex albicans* (a sedge), which sported distinctive flowers which were relatively showy (for a sedge). Glade species observed in abundance, but not yet in blossom, included *Comandra umbellata* (bastard toadflax) and *Dodecatheon meadia* (shooting star).

As we continued on, glade yielded to woodlands, first rocky and open and then richer, with many limestone shelves and outcroppings. We spent some time examining the reproductive structures of the ubiquitous hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), a small tree belonging to the birch family. A single individual typically produces both male catkins, drooping downward in clusters of two or three, and tiny female flowers with numerous pink styles observable with a hand lens. Additional plants seen as we continued into richer woodlands included *Hypoxis hirsuta* (yellow star grass), *Boechea laevigata* (smooth rock cress), *Euphorbia commutata* (wood spurge), *Oxalis violacea* (violet wood sorrel), *Cardamine concatenata* (toothwort), *Viola palmata* (three-lobed violet), *Hybanthus concolor* (green violet), *Hydrastis canadensis* (golden seal), *Trillium recurvatum* (purple trillium), and a second *Trillium* species which was either *T. sessile* (wake robin) or *T. viride* (green trillium). The *Trillium*-rich areas also contained numerous "quadrillium" specimens with four leaves, which are usually somewhat asymmetrically disposed. Steyermark lists 4- and even 5-leafed specimens as being "aberrant."

The second excursion of the day, following our return to the vehicles and a short drive, was along the Thousand Steps trail, which presented yet another ecosystem distinct from those encountered during the first foray. This bottomland environment contained a wild profusion of flowers, with a great abundance of *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Mertensia virginica* (bluebells), *Phlox divaricata* (blue phlox), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (celandine poppy), *Collinsia verna* (blue-eyed Mary), *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger), *Viola pubescens* (of the delightfully contradictory moniker "yellow violet"), and *Enemion biternatum* (false rue anemone). Several flowering *Dicentra canadensis* (squirrel corn) specimens were found, but only a few blooms of the closely related *D. cucullaria* (Dutchmen's breeches). Since the latter plant is actually present in greater abundance in this area, the inference is that *D. canadensis* is slightly later in



*Veratrum woodii*, vegetative rosette.



*Viola palmata*, with lobed leaf.

flowering, or perhaps of longer floral persistence, than *D. cucullaria*. A single flowering specimen of *Anemone acutiloba* (sharp-lobed hepatica) was found, a striking contrast to the author's visit to the area three days previously (4/8), during which many dozens of flowering specimens were observed. On today's visit, virtually all of these had dropped their showy petal-like sepals, leaving behind the bracts and developing fruits. The heavy rainfall of the previous night may have accelerated this transformation. A few specimens of *Boechera shortii* were found. This inconspicuous rock cress is characterized by a basal rosette of ovate leaves on long petioles, a generally "crinkled" appearance, and (usually) multiple ascending stems.

Bottomland trees observed blooming in the area included *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw), *Aesculus glabra* (Ohio buckeye), and *Staphylea trifolia* (bladdernut).

Another plant of some interest, observed on one of the rich wooded slopes adjacent to the Thousand Steps trail, was *Veratrum woodii* (false hellbore). The recent Steyermark revision places

this plant in the Liliaceae family, though some other authors have placed it in the Melanthiaceae (bunchflower) family. Indeed, the plant's inflorescence resembles that of the bunchflower (*Melanthium virginicum*), except that the flowers are brown instead of white. The plant that we saw was not flowering, but was easily recognized by its large rosette of elliptic, pleated, parallel-veined leaves. Flowering in this species is relatively rare, with one study in Illinois finding only four flowering stalks among 1300 individual plants (Ebinger, *Castanea* **1996**, 61(1), 46-48). The plant contains a range of steroidal alkaloids which are teratogenic as well as being cellular sodium ion channel activators, and these render all parts of the plant quite poisonous. Reported pathologies include CNS and cardiac abnormalities, and birth defects, with the latter in particular being a serious problem in livestock which graze adventitiously on the plant. *Veratrum woodii* is listed as "threatened" in several Midwestern states, including Kentucky, Iowa, and Illinois.

For its size, Washington State Park supports an unusually rich flora. During the day's visit, we observed no fewer than four members of the *Ranunculus* genus: *R. fascicularis* (early buttercup), *R. harveyi* (Harvey's buttercup), *R. abortivus* (small-flowered crowfoot), and *R. micranthus* (similar in appearance to *R. abortivus* but with hairy stems).

**April 18, 2011—Engelmann Woods Natural Area**, Franklin County, MO (text and photos by John Oliver).

Time: 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Participants: Fr. Sullivan, George Van Brunt, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Kathy Thiele, Steve Turner, Burt Noll, John Oliver, Jeanne Clauson, Bridget Schaefer, and John Schaefer.

Both George Engelmann and the Natural Area named for him are St. Louis treasures. As I reflected on this trip, it occurred to me that both are examples of that serendipitous synchronicity we sometimes call "being in the right place at the right time."

George Engelmann, the man, was born in Germany and educated in medicine, but had an early interest in botany. At the age of 23, he came to the United States, commissioned by his uncles to find property for purchase in the Mississippi Valley. On arrival, he visited with his botanical



**Dr. George Engelmann.**

plants (*Engelmannia*) bear his name. He was the first to describe many of the iconic plants of the desert Southwest, including the Saguaro cactus. In Saint Louis, he was fortunate to obtain the friendship and beneficence of Henry Shaw, who supported his botanical studies and eventually funded a chair of botany at Washington University in Engelmann's name. The first such Engelmann Professor was also the man chosen to head the Missouri Botanical Garden upon the death of Henry Shaw, Edward Trelease. The frequently cantankerous Trelease took personal charge of Engelmann's large collection of herbarium sheets and was uncharacteristically effusive in his praise of the work and legacy of George Engelmann [http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Biographical Memoir of George Engelmann](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Biographical_Memoir_of_George_Engelmann).

Dr. Trelease's remarks on Engelmann begin about halfway down the page, and end this way: "Dr. Engelmann's last resting place is in the beautiful grounds of Bellefontaine cemetery, in the northern suburb of St. Louis. It is situated in the central part of the cemetery, and is surrounded by small specimens of several of the Rocky Mountain conifers, the study of which was one of his chief pleasures."

→

DORA,  
WIFE OF  
DR. GEORGE  
ENGELMANN,  
BORN IN BACHARACH,  
MAR. 10, 1804,  
DIED IN ST. LOUIS,  
JAN. 29, 1879.

GEO. ENGELMANN M. D.  
FRANKFURT FEB. 2, 1809.  
ST. LOUIS, FEB. 4, 1884.



**The Engelmann Gravesite, Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis.**

hero, Asa Gray at Harvard, and on the advice of Gray's colleague, the widely travelled Thomas Nuttall, headed for Saint Louis. For most of the rest of his life, the growing city was his home. He practiced medicine off and on to provide an income for his family and pursued with characteristic vigor a number of interests, including being a founder and first president of the St. Louis Academy of Science, publishing a German-language newspaper, *Das Westland*, and meticulously documenting his botanical studies in the American West. A number of well-known species (such as Engelmann spruce) and a genus of

Engelmann Woods Natural Area is a 145-acre tract of rugged river hills on soils derived from loess and weathered dolomite, about five miles northeast of Labadie in the northeastern corner of Franklin County. The mature and old-growth forest here is quite rare in Missouri, particularly given its location, close to the most populous part of the state. How could old-growth forest survive in an area continuously occupied from the earliest days of European settlement? Just as the man for whom it is named found the perfect opportunity and place for his talents in Saint Louis, the integrity of this biological community owes its continued existence to its location and topography. In its early days of burgeoning growth, the city had a huge appetite for the wood from surrounding forested tracts, but the steep ravines and cliffs here were unsuited to the type of logging practiced in that time. By the time automated equipment was available, the Rock Island Railroad had constructed a large levee for their track, effectively cutting off the main ravine's access to the Missouri River, and the fate of its trees seemed more secure. The area's earliest protection began with private

landowners, mainly Mrs. Oscar Johnson, who donated the forest to the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1942. During this time, it served as the source of many of the forest species moved to the abandoned farms on the site of what became Shaw Nature Reserve. The Missouri Department of Conservation purchased Engelmann Woods in the early 1980s, and it was designated as a natural area in 1983. The name of the Natural Area honors Dr. George Engelmann and the connection of both the man and this site through their association with the Missouri Botanical Garden.

For visitors like ourselves, there is a window of opportunity during which Engelmann Woods is perhaps the most spectacular venue in our area for a spring wildflower hike. From the time celandine poppies and nodding white wake robin begin to bloom in profusion, until the mesic ravines and their trails are blocked by the unfriendly armies of wood nettle, there is no better place to be. We were fortunate to hit the early part of that window and had a delightful walk. We had barely left the small parking area when we noticed one of the puzzling anomalies of Engelmann Woods. Here along the old access road are a significant number of specimens of *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech). The trees are of varying ages and seem to be a self-sustaining population, but are more than 150 miles from the other Missouri populations of this plant. Were they planted here? It seems likely, but whatever their origin, they are now comfortably established in Engelmann Woods.

As we turned onto the loop trail, we spotted a colony of *Corallorhiza nisteriana* (spring coral root orchid), in bud and still emerging from the underground rhizome. These leafless plants are heterotrophic and more specifically, mycotrophic or “fungus feeding,” obtaining their organic carbon from a host green plant by tapping into an intermediary mycorrhizal fungus attached to the roots of the host plant. Many plant families include mycotrophs, especially in the tropics. In temperate North America, the orchid (Orchidaceae) and heath (Ericaceae) families include the highest numbers of mycotrophic genera. The plants have neither leaves nor chlorophyll, and a group of 15-20 stems such as the one we saw may not flower again at this site for a number of years.

As the trail dropped through mesic forest, we were surrounded by a vast carpet of spring wildflowers

such as *Podophyllum peltatum* (Mayapple), *Phlox divaricata* (wild sweet william), *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), and *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood). The frequent specimens of *Thalictrum thalictroides* (rue anemone) of the rocky upland were replaced by enormous colonies of *Enemion biternatum* (false rue anemone) as we reached the lower elevations and moved into the rich bottomland forest. Here were the iconic spring flowers we came to see: *Stylophorum diphyllum* (celandine poppy) and the superstar of Engelmann Woods, *Trillium flexipes* (nodding white wake robin). Here these two showy flowers form large masses of yellow or white, occasionally appearing in mixed stands with each other and *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pupit), *Delphinium tricorne* (dwarf larkspur), *Geranium maculatum* (spotted geranium), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* (great waterleaf), and *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist). Another welcome sight in this area were some *Morchella esculenta* (yellow morels). These were in perfect condition and several individuals (but unfortunately no large groupings) were spotted in different locations along our route. This find was met with some enthusiasm by WGNSS members, and while pictures will verify our discovery, I cannot confirm whether they were still present after the passage of our group.

Taking a different track out of the bottomland back to the cars, we saw a few new species to add to our list. *Uvularia grandiflora* (large-flowered bellwort) added splashes of yellow to the hillside, and large numbers of the plant that sounds like one of Crayola’s bad ideas, *Hybanthus concolor* (green violet) reminded us that even a relatively abundant and seemingly common plant such as this is sensitive to many factors, and has been extirpated in some parts of its former range, such as Connecticut. We also came upon a group of *Camassia scilloides* (wild hyacinth) in fine bloom and a welcome chance to see the often overlooked flowers of *Orobancha uniflora* (one-flowered broomrape). This last plant is a parasite of other species with no need for green leaves, but which produces a delicate and rather beautiful flower. Another example of a heterotrophic plant, it formed a sort of “bookend” with the mycotrophic orchid we had seen at the start of our hike. Both these plants have exploited unusual strategies for survival and are thriving in Engelmann Woods, a spot which has also survived and prospered



*Corallorhiza wisteriana* (spring coral root orchid).



*Stylophorum diphyllum* (celandine poppy).

through an unlikely sequence of events, but which found itself, like the man for whom it was named, and the fortunate WGNSS walkers on this beautiful spring day, “in the right place at the right time.”

The complete list of plant species observed on this trip: *Antennaria parlinii* (Parlin’s pussytoes), *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger), *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw), *Barbarea vulgaris* (yellow rocket), *Boechera laevigata* (smooth rock cress), *Botrychium virginianum*



*Trillium flexipes* (nodding white wake robin).



*Morchella esculenta* (yellow morels).

(rattlesnake fern), *Camassia scilloides* (wild hyacinth), *Chaerophyllum procumbens* (spreading chervil), *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Corallorhiza wisteriana* (spring coral root orchid), *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood), *Delphinium tricorne* (dwarf larkspur), *Enemion biternatum* (false rue anemone), *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech), *Galium aparine* (cleavers), *Geranium maculatum* (spotted geranium), *Hybanthus concolor* (green violet), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* (great waterleaf), *Orobanche uniflora*



**L:** *Orobanche uniflora* (one-flowered broomrape); **R:** *Camassia scilloides* (wild hyacinth).

(one-flowered broomrape), *Oxalis violacea* (violet wood sorrel), *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist), *Phlox divaricata* (wild sweetWilliam), *Podophyllum peltatum* (Mayapple), *Ranunculus hispidus* (hispid buttercup), *Ranunculus micranthus* (rock buttercup), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (celandine poppy), *Thalictrum thalictroides* (rue anemone), *Trillium flexipes* (nodding white wake robin), *Uvularia grandiflora* (large flowered bellwort), *Viola palmata* (early blue violet), *Viola pubescens* (yellow violet).

A slideshow of photos taken at Engelmann Woods N. A. on April 18, 2011: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/1719556/WGNSS110418/index.html>.

**April 25, 2011—Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO** (text and photos by George Van Brunt).

After nearly a week with the St. Louis area in a weather pattern that included frequent heavy rain, severe thunderstorms, and tornadoes, the WGNSS Botany Group decided to visit the Botanical Garden where shelter is available and plants can be studied indoors. As it turned out, the sky was heavily overcast with only occasional very light rain. Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Burt Noll, Jeannie Moe, Larry Morrison, Steve Turner, Ruth TenBrink, John Oliver, and George Van Brunt met at the Ridgway Center and explored the outdoors Garden.

The Missouri Botanical Garden grows many North American native plant species as well as species native to other parts of the world. In addition, the Garden displays many plants which have been modified by intentional human activity. These modified plants are termed cultigens. People have been modifying plants (and animals) since ancient

times in order to make them more useful. Virtually all of our crop plants, many timber species, and many garden plants are cultigens. Most cultigens have been created by selection of plants with desirable traits, either directly from the wild or from plants already in cultivation. Deliberate hybridization of closely related species has also played a large role in producing cultigens. Liberty Hyde Bailey, 1858-1954, an American horticulturalist, originated the term "cultigen", a general term distinguishing the wild form of a plant, which he termed "indigen", from those forms that have arisen by intentional human intervention in cultivation. Bailey also devised the term "cultivar" which is probably a contraction of cultigen and variety, although it could be a contraction of cultivated variety; Bailey never explained the etymology of his term. Cultivar is a formal classification category in the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP). The correct way to designate a cultivar is the genus and species name, if known, followed by the cultivar epithet in single quotes. Genus and species names are Latin or Latinized names while the cultivar epithet can be a vernacular name. Not all cultigens, for various reasons, have been designated with a cultivar name. For information on this subject beyond the scope and available space in *Nature Notes*, please visit the following web pages.

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultigen>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultivar>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty\\_Hyde\\_Bailey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty_Hyde_Bailey)

One cultivar that caught our interest was a plant called *Tiarella* 'Spring Symphony' (foam flower). Foam flowers are members of the saxifrage family (Saxifragaceae). The name "foam flower" comes from the fluffy raceme which, from a distance, resembles foam on a stick. The genus *Tiarella* includes between 7 and 14 species, many of which are native to various parts of North America. *Tiarella* has attracted the attention of gardeners in the last 15 years and they have produced many cultivars. Most of the new cultivars are the result of hybridization of various combinations of 5 species: *Tiarella cordifolia* (heartleaved foamflower), native to eastern North America; *T. wherryi* (foamflower), native to the Southern Appalachian region; *T. trifoliata* (threeleaf foamflower) and *T. unifoliata* (oneleaf foamflower), both native to



*Tiarella* 'Spring Symphony'.



*Paulownia tomentosa* flowers (top) and previous year's fruits (bottom).



*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'.

Western North America; and *T. polyphylla* (foamflower), native to Himalayan forests. *Tiarella* 'Spring Symphony', was developed in 1999 by Dan Heims of Terra Nova Nursery in Oregon. For more information on this cultivar go to:

➤ <http://www.terranovanurseries.com/gardeners/tiarellaspringsymphony-p-227.html>

Another interesting cultivar we examined was *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'. *Corylus avellana* (common hazel) is a native of Europe and western Asia. The English use it in hedgerows to delineate property boundaries. This species has many cultivars, mostly propagated from root sprouts, that are grown commercially for the nuts. 'Contorta' is an ornamental cultivar that arose spontaneously in the mid-1800's, growing as part of a hedgerow. It is propagated by grafting and usually does not produce nuts. As the name implies, 'Contorta' is characterized by twisting, spiraling stems and branches. It has been described as looking like an

upside down tree with its roots in the air. This cultivar is commonly called "Harry Lauder's walking stick". Harry Lauder, 1870-1950, was a world famous Scottish entertainer who carried a twisted walking stick in his acts.

An indigen that drew our attention was the blooming *Paulownia tomentosa* (princess tree). This native of central and western China has become an invasive species in Japan and the United States. The flowers are reminiscent of foxglove and the species was formerly classified in the

Scrophulariaceae, but recently *Paulownia tomentosa* has been reclassified in its own family, Paulowniaceae. Ecologically, it is a pioneer plant that thrives in disturbed habitat. It does not tolerate shade well and cannot survive in mature forest. The fruit of *Paulownia tomentosa* is a dry, egg-shaped capsule filled with many small, soft, lightweight seeds. Before the advent of modern packaging materials, like styrofoam peanuts, these seeds were used by Chinese porcelain exporters as a packing material. The leaking of seeds during railroad transport as well as trees planted in gardens has led to the spread of this species. It is becoming a problem in the southeastern United States and the WGNSS Botany Group has seen it growing in Faust Park in St. Louis County. Philipp Franz Balthasar von Siebold, 1796 –1866, a German physician and naturalist, along with his collaborator, Joseph Gerhard Zuccarini, 1797-1848, named the genus *Paulownia*, originally spelled *Pavlovnia*, to honor Anna Pavlovna, 1795-1865, daughter of Russian Czar Paul I and wife of King William II of the Netherlands. After returning from 8 years in Japan, von Siebold settled in Leiden, Netherlands where the Dutch government bought his extensive collection of specimens for a considerable sum. King William II supported him with a yearly stipend and appointed him advisor of Japanese affairs. This explains why Siebold honored the queen by naming this genus for her. The common name, princess tree, also honors her. The transliteration of the princess' name from Russian to English is Pavlovna, while the transliteration from Russian to Dutch is Paulowna.



*Achillea millefolium* (common yarrow).



*Helianthus tuberosus* (Jerusalem artichoke).

Since the garden was planted 11 years ago, several people have tried making signs, but none of them held up for very long. This spring the WGNSS board offered to pay for signs similar to the ones at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. After talking it over with the WGNSS board, calling Jim Ziebol to get permission to use his artwork and using the images Phil Koenig digitized of Jim's artwork from NABA's butterfly list for the St. Louis area we had our images for the sign company. We decided to have them made by Banacom signs of St. Charles. The signs are made from engraved plastic with a black background and white lettering. There are 3 lines of text on each sign. The first line is for the common name. The second line is for the scientific name and plant family. The third line indicates whether butterflies use the plant as nectar plant, host plant or both. It was Dennis Bozzay who suggested that we indicate on the signs which plants butterflies used as host plants or nectar sources. We also included a logo for the Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden, an engraved caterpillar for host plants and a butterfly for nectar plants on each sign.

## New Signs for Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden

*Jeannie A. Moe*

The Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden at Busch Wildlife C. A. finally has signs identifying the plant species. I have wanted good signs for the garden since WGNSS (Webster Groves Nature Study Society) and the St. Louis chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association) members planted the garden on Easter Sunday in the year 2000.

It just happened that I was taking Dave Tylka's class, *Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People* this spring, so I had Dave look over the plant list to make sure we had the correct host and nectar information on each sign. He even suggested some plants I could add to the garden to attract more butterflies. As a result I added *Zizia aurea* (golden Alexander), *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (prairie dock), and *Ruellia humilis* (wild petunia) to the garden. Dave has written a wonderful book, *Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People*, which has tables listing the plants, the conditions they need, and which animals use them as nectar and larval sources. I consulted this book frequently in finalizing my plant list.

In conclusion I want to thank the WGNSS board for all of their wonderful help and support of the garden these past eleven years. The board also paid for the mulch for the beds and trails in the garden this spring as well as some new plants. Yvonne Homeyer also contributed money toward the purchase of some new plants for the garden. Come out to see the garden with its new signs. The garden has never looked better.



## Share Your Love of Nature

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### *Mark S. Paradise*

We are forming an outreach program and looking for volunteers to present fun educational programs to students of elementary classrooms or high school environmental clubs. This is an opportunity to bring your expertise and enthusiasm to help cultivate enjoyment and appreciation for nature. Whether your focus is botany, native gardening, insects, birds, or other nature themes, you can be a part of this outreach program. Presentations should provide hands-on activities or exhibits, be developed for a targeted age group, and about 1 hour or less in length. Please consider half day commitments as teachers may ask for presentation to more than one classroom. If you would like to participate but want help developing a program, there are WGNSS members that will be happy to help put a program together. We want to role this out in a communication to teachers by January 2012 for the winter/spring school sessions. To join the WGNSS outreach program or for more

information, please contact Mark Paradise (phone (314) 275-8322 or email [mark.s.paradise@monsanto.com](mailto:mark.s.paradise@monsanto.com)). This is a great chance to help spark interest and enthusiasm for the wonders of nature.



## Group Activity/Walk Schedules

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For general information about WGNSS activities, contact Membership Chairman Paul Brockland at [pbrockland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbrockland@sbcglobal.net) or (314) 961-4661.

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### **BOTANY GROUP**

Chair—George Van Brunt

**Monday Botany Walks** (Leader—Fr. James Sullivan; now in his **44<sup>th</sup> year** as Botany Walk Leader!). The WGNSS Botany Group visits many of the same locations as the Ornithology 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 WGNSS Botany Group emails from Jack Harris by contacting him at [jahar@mac.com](mailto:jahar@mac.com) or (314) 368-0655 and receive an email no later than Sunday about the following Monday's trip.

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### **ENTOMOLOGY GROUP**

Co-Chairs—Phil Koenig and Jane Walker

#### **Monday, September 19; 7:00 p.m.**

The first entomology meeting of the season will be held at the Butterfly House. It will be out traditional show-and-tell event so bring your specimens, photos and stories for an informal evening.

#### **Monday, October 17; 7:00 p.m.**

The October meeting will be held at the Butterfly House. We will be processing the insects collected at the LaBarque Creek Conservation Area survey this summer. Specimens will be relaxed and ready to pin. There are no skills required since we need people to work with the labels and record data as well as pin and identify. Come and learn the process of preparing museum quality voucher specimens.

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## NATURE BOOK CLUB

Chair—Lisa Nansteel

The Nature Book Club is a group of naturalists who meet once a month to discuss a book chosen for its general interest from botany to zoology. The group meets at members' homes on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:30–3 p.m. For meeting locations and directions contact Pat Brock Diener at (314) 962-8665 or Lisa Nansteel at (636) 391-4898. All are welcome—especially newcomers! Upcoming books:

- September 13—*Cold: Adventures in the World's Frozen Places* by Bill Streever
- October 11—*The Beast in the Garden* by David Baron

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## ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

Chair—David Becher

**Saturday Bird Walks** (Leader—David Becher). Walks begin at **8 a.m.** and normally go through early afternoon, so bring lunch if you wish to stay out. Everyone is welcome. The leader reserves the right to change the schedule if necessary. If you have questions, contact David at (314) 576-1146 or [DavidBecher@msn.com](mailto:DavidBecher@msn.com)

- Aug 27—Des Peres Park (Ballas & Manchester)
- Sep 3—Des Peres Park (Ballas & Manchester)
- Sep 10—Des Peres Park (Ballas & Manchester)
- Sep 17—Teal Pond at Riverlands
- Sep 24—Des Peres Park (Ballas & Manchester)
- Oct 1—Teal Pond at Riverlands
- Oct 8—Des Peres Park (Ballas and Manchester)
- Oct 15—Teal Pond at Riverlands
- Oct 22—Des Peres Park
- Oct 29—Teal Pond at Riverlands

**Thursday Bird Walks** (Leader—Jackie Chain). The WGNSS Birding Group will meet at 8 a.m. at Des Peres Park for the remaining Thursdays in August. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> we will meet at 8 a.m. in the Gaddy Bird Garden in the Northwest section of Tower Grove Park. There is parking on Magnolia Avenue as well as inside Tower Grove Park just south of the Garden for those dates. Beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup> for the rest of 2011 we will again meet at 8 a.m. at Des Peres Park parking lot off Ballas Road just north of Manchester Rd. and east of West County Mall as

before. Please contact Jackie Chain at (314) 644-5998 or [chainjac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chainjac@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions.

Note: The first Thursday of each month beginning at noon is when the City of St Louis schedules cleaning of Magnolia Avenue; parking on Magnolia will incur a hefty fine. You might want to park inside TGP on those dates or move your car if you plan to carpool from TGP on those Thursdays.

If there is a change in meeting time or place, we will advise by posting on MOBIRDS.

No trip is planned for Thanksgiving Day, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Let's put out the welcome mat for all those returning migrants and hope they decide to stopover in our 50-mile "circle" on their way south.



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## Editor's Corner

*Ted C. MacRae*

### **BIRDING MAGAZINE BACK ISSUES**

Claudia Spener has informed me that she has back issues of *Birding* magazine circa 1994–2006 that she would like to donate to an interested individual or organization. If interested, please contact me at [ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com](mailto:ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com) and I will put you in contact with Claudia.

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### **NATURE NOTES BY EMAIL**

*Nature Notes* is available by regular post or email; however, there are significant advantages to receiving it by the latter method. These include elimination of printing and mailing costs (reducing not only the cost of your subscription, but also decreasing its environmental impact) and the ability to view *Nature Notes* and its included photos **in full color**. Embedded hyperlinks also allow instant navigation to email addresses and websites. Of course, you can always print your electronic copy of *Nature Notes* if you wish (if you do, please be sure to use recycled paper and print on both sides ☺). *Nature Notes* by email is sent as a PDF, which can be opened using Adobe Reader (download free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>).

Regular subscriptions can be converted to email by contacting Joe Whittington, Assistant Treasurer, at [whittex@aol.com](mailto:whittex@aol.com).

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### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We welcome all announcements of WGNSS or other nature related events in the St. Louis area, notices of published articles—especially those authored by members, and original nature oriented articles. Suggested topics include field trip accounts, information about local natural areas, interesting nature sightings, or reviews of nature

related books. Articles may be reprinted from other sources only by permission of copyright holders.

Please direct all submissions by email to the Editor [ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com](mailto:ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com). Please limit text formatting to bold for emphasis or italics for scientific names. Avoid tabs, extra spaces, multiple hard returns, underlining, etc. (these will be removed during final formatting). Photographs are encouraged and will be published on a space-available basis. Contributions are welcome from all—remember; this is your newsletter!



## April Bird Report (Appendix 1)

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Species	Observer	Locality	Date
Yellow-throated Warbler	Mike Brady	Castlewood	4/2
Northern Parula	Charlene Malone	Rockwood Reservation	4/3
Black and White Warbler	Charlene Malone	Rockwood Reservation	4/3
Black-throated Green Warbler	Bill Duncan	Creve Coeur	4/7
Orange-crowned Warbler	Bill Duncan	Creve Coeur	4/7
Prairie Warbler (heard)}	David Becher	St. Charles Co.	4/9
	Charlene Malone	Francis Howell H.S.	4/17
Prothonotory Warbler	Mike Brady	Chubb Trail	4/10
	Bryan Prather	Creve Coeur Lake	4/12
Nashville Warbler	The McClarrens	Tower Grove Park	4/10
Northern Waterthrush	Margy Terpstra	Kirkwood	4/10
	Andrew Reago, Chrissy McClarren	Tower Grove Park	4/15
Palm Warbler	James Hickner	Tower Grove Park	4/11
Cerulean Warbler	Tom Bailey	Powder Valley	4/13
Yellow-breasted Chat	Bryan Prather	Little Creve Coeur	4/13
Blue-winged Warbler	Lost Valley	Johnsons/Thursday Group	4/14
Worm-eating Warbler	Lost Valley	Johnsons	4/14
	Charlene Malone	Babbler State Park	4/17
Kentucky Warbler	Johnsons	Forest Park Kennedy Woods	4/16
Tennessee Warbler	Becher and others	Tower Grove Park	4/17
Yellow Warbler	Johnsons	Busch Wildlife Area	4/17
Ovenbird	Josh Uffman	Washington Co.	4/18
Hooded Warbler	Connie Alwood	Tower Grove Park	4/19
Common Yellowthroat	Bryan Prather	Little Creve Coeur	4/20
Blackpoll Warbler	Josh Uffman	Washington Co.	4/23
Golden-winged Warbler	Many Observers	Several Areas	4/30
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Many Observers	Several Areas	4/30
Cape May Warbler	SLAS	Forest Park	4/30
Blackburnian Warbler 4	Many Observers	Several Areas	4/30
Magnolia Warbler 4	Many Observers	Several Areas	4/30
American Restart	Saturday Group	Tower Grove Park	4/30