



# Nature Notes

## Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society March 2012, Vol. 84, No. 3

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### President's Corner

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#### *Rich Thoma*

Members of WGNSS and the St. Louis Audubon Society (SLAS) met at the new Audubon Center at Riverlands for a joint winter party in late January. The Audubon Center is a unique partnership between the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Together they have designated Riverlands a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. They have also built a new visitors center that offers great birding, education and outdoor opportunities. For many people, the plan for the day was to arrive at Riverlands early to look for wintering eagles, ducks, geese, swans and other wildlife. Some of the more notable birds seen this day at Riverlands included Bald Eagles, Trumpeter Swans and large flotillas of ducks. After being out in the cold for a few hours, WGNSS and Audubon Society members then gathered at the Audubon Center to get warm and celebrate. About 65 people, a record for the joint WGNSS-SLAS, spent the afternoon, eating, drinking and enjoying each other's company. This was a great opportunity to hear stories from fellow naturalists about the plants, birds and other wildlife encountered recently. We in WGNSS would like to thank **Jane Deschu** (WGNSS) and **Karen Meyer** (SLAS) for organizing this event. They did a wonderful job getting all the supplies, setting up and making sure everything was cleaned up when the party was over. Without their help, events like

the winter party could not happen. We would also like to thank **Katy Manar**, Biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for being the Riverlands contact and for giving a tour of the new Audubon Center. Many people went home with door prizes, many of which were very nice. All had a good time. Be sure to look for the photos from the winter party found in this issue of *Nature Notes*.

Please look at the meeting announcements in this issue of *Nature Notes*. **Tim Gueterslouh** will speak on his adventures on the Appalachian Trail at the March general meeting. After a long hiatus, WGNSS will once again be meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center. Please also look for the May banquet announcement in this issue of *Nature Notes*. Professor from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and noted author **May Berenbaum** will be the honorary speaker for the evening. The talk for the evening is titled, "Secret Life of Parsnips". This talk will encompass over 30 years of research on plant-insect interactions.

On a more somber note, WGNSS recently lost two its long time members, **Martha Gaddy** and **Carl Darigo**. Martha was an active member of WGNSS for over 40 years and was most active in the birding group of WGNSS, joining both the Thursday and Saturday bird walks. She was a long time member of the board, including President of WGNSS from 1991 to 1993, and was also a frequent contributor to *Nature Notes*. Carl Darigo is best known as one of WGNSS's most avid botanists. He got his start in WGNSS doing an inventory of plants at Meramec State Park,

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collecting over 1000 specimens for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Carl was a contributing author for many articles in *Nature Notes* and wrote the Botany Group report for 14 years. He was a regular on the Monday Botany Walks. Both Martha and Carl have been honored with the WGNSS Lifetime Achievement Award, and their contributions to WGNSS will long be remembered. Memoria honoring Martha and Carl can be found within this issue of *Nature Notes*.

Please note that the following positions are up for election at the April general meeting. These include President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Publicity). All three positions are vital for WGNSS to function properly. If you would like to run or nominate someone for one of these positions, a paragraph describing that person's

outdoor interests and qualifications must be submitted in writing or e-mail to the President (**Richard Thoma**). Nominations are being accepted until Wednesday, March 7. Bio's from each candidate that accepts their nomination will be published in the April issue of *Nature Notes*. We all know WGNSS is a great natural history organization. It is important that we select leaders that will continue to make our organization great.



## WGNSS March General Meeting

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*George Yatskievych*

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, starting at 7:30 p.m., at the Powder Valley Nature Center. Our speaker will be Tim Guetersloh, speaking on "For the Love of Nature: Observations of an Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker." Tim is a passionate nature photographer. In 2005, he fulfilled a life goal of backpacking the complete 2200-mile Appalachian Trail, carrying a relatively light 4x5 sheet film camera of his own design built just for the trip. The trip had such an impact that he returned to the trail each year after for some short hikes, and in 2010–2011 made a second complete hike of the trail. Tim will discuss his experiences along the trail, including some of the most beautiful places and things that he observed and also mention some of the resources available to those contemplating a visit to the region. This will be a rare opportunity to meet someone enthralled with the idea of wilderness who has gone through great lengths to immerse himself in nature. We are fortunate to have Tim speak to us before he tackles his next major challenge: the Pacific Crest Trail, in April.

As usual, those who would like to share a meal with our speaker and get to know him before the program may meet us at the Powder Valley parking lot at 5:30 p.m. From there, we will car-pool to a local restaurant. [Ed. note: A preview of Tim and some of Tim's photos can be seen on pg. 18 of this newsletter.]



## December Bird Report

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*David Becher*

December was unusually mild with no ice, and in consequence some of the winter birds appear to have stayed further north. Gulls and winter finches appeared to be in low numbers, while some water birds that would normally have gone south remained. The biggest excitement was the areas first record for Mountain Bluebird on the Illinois side of the river. The Common Ground Dove continued at Weldon Springs CA as well.

The Trumpeter Swans appeared in large numbers as is now usual. About 270 were counted at RMBS on the 13<sup>th</sup>, which is impressive, but 500 were reported at Two Rivers NWA in Calhoun County, Illinois the same day. There were at least two Tundra Swans also present in the flock. Flocks of White-fronted Geese were reported from RMBS throughout the month. Bryan Prather reported a few Cackling Geese with the Canada's at Creve Coeur Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, he reported that they had been joined by fifteen White-fronted Geese. A Black Duck was reported at RBMS on the 6<sup>th</sup> by Christian Hagenlocher and Charlene Malone reported three on the 10<sup>th</sup>. At least one of the Black Scoters and the Long-tailed Duck found last month continued at Riverlands all month. Frank Holmes reported an amazing 111 Bufflehead at Horseshoe Lake in Granite City, Illinois on the 17<sup>th</sup> for the Collinsville CBC.

Loons and Grebes usually rare by December made a number of appearances this month. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Bill Rudden found a Red-Necked Grebe, a rarity in the Saint Louis area at Riverlands. It was seen by many excited hotline chasers, but apparently was only present that day. Chrissy McClarren reported a Western Grebe at RMBS on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but it apparently also moved on quickly since chasers were unable to refind it. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, Charlene Malone reported a Horned Grebe there and Bryan Prather reported six from Creve Coeur Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The weekend of the eleventh Dan Kassebaum reported both Western and Red-necked Grebes from Carlyle Lake and a Common Loon as well. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Dan Kassebaum found a Red-throated Loon at Carlyle Lake.

Pat Leuders reported the local Peregrine at RMBS on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Sherry McCowan found a Merlin at the east end of Forest Park on the 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Jeannie Moe reported that two Sandhill Cranes had been seen in the Weldon Springs CA area. They were last seen flying down the Missouri River. Dan Curran reported three Wilson's snipe in the wetlands across from Alton Dam in Illinois on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Large gulls were not present in large numbers in December. Presumably they stayed further north because of the mild weather. There were nevertheless a number of good sightings. Tom Bormann found a Glaucous Gull near Winfield Dam on the fourth and it was reported again on the 11<sup>th</sup> by Peter Kondrashov. Dan Kassebaum reported another at Carlyle Lake also on the 11<sup>th</sup>, which was still present on the 18<sup>th</sup> near Keysport, Illinois. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Frank Holmes found one at Horseshoe Lake in Granite City for the Collinsville, Illinois CBC. Chris Barrigar reported a Lesser Black-backed Gull at RBMS on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, Charlene Malone reported a Thayer's Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull in the evening gull roost at Riverlands just above the dam. The Lesser Black-backed was seen again on the 28<sup>th</sup> by Josh Uffman. Frank Holmes reported another sighting at Horseshoe Lake on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Common Ground Dove first reported in November at the Blue Grosbeak Trail at Weldon Springs CA continued to be present through the month. Pat Leuders found a Short-eared Owl perched along Wise road at RBMS on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, Mark Sieffert caused great excitement by finding a Mountain Bluebird along Bischoff Road near Horseshoe Lake in Illinois. This was the first record for the species in the Saint Louis area. Fortunately, it remained along the road all month frequently perching on the wires and was seen by nearly everyone although not always on the first try.

LeConte's Sparrows were more common than usual in winter. They were reported from Weldon Springs, the Horseshoe Lake area (Collinsville CBC) and the Carlyle Lake area (CBC). Frank Holmes reported 11 Brewer's Blackbird near Horseshoe Lake on the 17<sup>th</sup> for the Collinsville CBC.

Chris Barrigar reported two Purple Finches on the Blue Grosbeak Trail at Weldon Springs CA on the third. Winter finches and other northern seed eating migrants were not common. There were no reports of species such as Pine Siskin or Red-breasted Nuthatch.



## October Botany Report

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*Compiled by George Van Brunt*

**October 3, 2011—Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve, Valmeyer, IL** (contributed by Burton Noll).

Botanists in attendance: Richard Abbott, George Van Brunt, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Martha Hill, Rex Hill, Louise Langbein, Burton Noll, John Oliver, Sue Schoening, Father Jim Sullivan, Steve Turner.

This week we returned to Salt Lick Point to walk the Salt Lick Trail. We ascended the steep hill to reach the top of the bluffs. Our walk took us through forest to the hill prairies and glades that stand at drier points atop the bluff. The bluffs are among the highest (800+ ft) in Monroe County, IL, and offer an expansive view across the Mississippi Bottoms to Pevely and Herculaneum in Missouri. On this fall day, we looked particularly for examples of *Solidago* (goldenrod) and *Symphotrichum* (aster) and prairie plants that remain in the narrow niches of unplowed prairie habitat. When we reached the top, at the cliff edge we found *Solidago drummondii* (cliff goldenrod) next to the trail. On the prairies or along the trail we also saw other goldenrods *Solidago radula* (rough), *S. ulmifolia* (elm-leaved), *S. buckleyi* (Buckley's), *S. flexicaulis* (zig-zag or broadleaf), and asters *Symphotrichum anomalum* (blue), *S. patens* (aromatic), *S. oblongifolium* (oblong-leaved), and *S. turbinellum* (prairie). There was a nice display of late-blooming *Liatris aspera* (rough blazing star). Among the many prairie plants there were, *Lespedeza capitata* (round-headed bush clover), *Lespedeza intermedia* (or a hybrid), *Lespedeza virginica* (or possibly *virginica* X *violaceae* = *L. acuticarpa*), *Helianthus hirsutus* (stiff-leaved sunflower), *Helianthus tuberosus* (Jerusalem artichoke), *Eupatorium altissimum* (tall boneset), *Eutrochium purpureum* (formerly *Eupatorium purpureum*) (green-stemmed Joe-Pye-weed),



View westward from a bluff prairie at Salt Lick Point Land and Water Preserve. Photo by Burton Noll.



*Liatris aspera* (rough blazing star). Photo by Burton Noll.



*Lespedeza capitata* (round-headed bush clover). Photo by Burton Noll.

*Arnoglossum atripicifolium* (pale Indian plantain), and *Vernonia* sp. (ironweed). *Chenopodium standleyanum* (Standley's goosefoot) was an uncharacteristic member of its genus, with much narrower leaves than most and a wiry spreading habit.

When we reached the junction with the Newman Trail, we turned into the woods to descend along a woodland ridge to the start. Near the bluff and the



*Anemone virginiana* (thimble flower) (L); *Solidago flexicaulis* (zig-zag goldenrod) (R). Photos by Burton Noll.

turn, we observed a small specimen of hackberry, and discussed whether it was *Celtis laevigata* (sugarberry) or *C. tenuifolia* (dwarf hackberry).

We passed a small glade behind the bluff and observed more of the prairie species. A favorite scattered about the glade was *Anemone virginiana* (thimble flower) with its fluffy white turban. Grasses identified were *Elymus canadensis* (Canada wild rye), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (river oats), and *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass). An *Eragrostis* species (lovegrass) was pointed out with its old inflorescence appearing as a cloud of “insect puffs”).

Other woodland plants seen included *Galium circaeazans* (wild licorice), *Agalinis tenuifolia* (gerardia), *Ageratina altissima* (white snakeroot), *Phaseolus polystachios* (wild bean vine), *Desmodium sessifolium* (tick trefoil, beggar’s lice), *Desmodium glutinosum* (pointed-leaf tick trefoil), and *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower, some still in bloom).

**October 10, 2011—Shaw Nature Reserve,** Franklin County, MO (contributed by Nels Holmberg).

A group of 16 gathered at Shaw Nature Reserve for a viewing of fall flowers, especially the asters and goldenrods. We hiked the wetland trail where the showiest of the asters found were *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster), *Symphotrichum praealtum* (willow aster), and *Conoclinium* (formerly *Eupatorium*) *coelestinum* (wild ageratum or mistflower). The group noted that *S. praealtum* can be differentiated from similar looking asters by the underside of its leaves which have

slightly in-rolled edges and a network of prominent secondary veins.

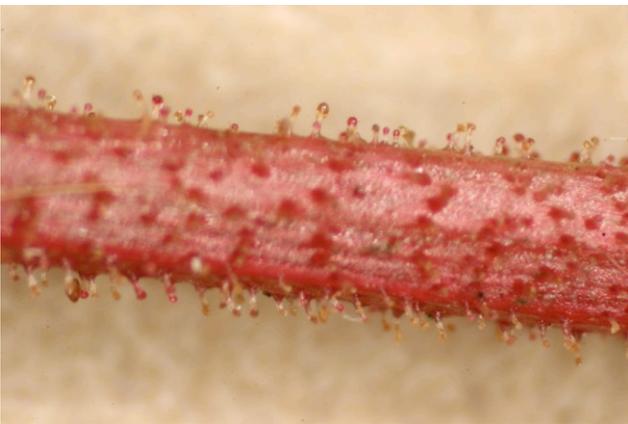
Late-bloomers that should have long ago finished flowering were *Tripsacum dactyloides* (eastern gama grass), *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (sweet coneflower), and *Phlox paniculata* (perennial phlox).

Fall leaf color at its best was displayed by *Rhus copallina* (winged sumac), *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras), and *Amsonia illustris* (blue star).

On this hike, the group paid particular attention to the smartweeds in the *Persicaria* genus (formerly *Polygonum*), as 6 species were found. *Persicaria hydropiper* (water pepper), with its thick spike of small white flowers, formed a thick band along some of the wetland ponds. *Persicaria lapathifolia* (pale smartweed), with its long drooping spike, was found in damp areas along the trail, as was *P. pennsylvanica* (pink smart weed), and *P. punctata* (dotted smartweed). *P. pennsylvanica* is easily recognized by its bright pink flowers and glandular hairs (see photos). *P. punctata* is more difficult to identify, but has widely spaced green/white flowers textured with tiny pocks containing glands (glandular-punctate). In the woods, we noted *Persicaria virginiana* (Virginia knotweed), with its wide leaves and tall spike of widely spaced white flowers. And lastly, we unfortunately saw an abundance of the non-native *P. longisetata* (bristly lady's-thumb), with its sometimes dull red flowers and creeping growth habit.

A few notes on glandular hairs may be of interest. These are found in many plant families, especially the asters, mints, and roses, and produce a variety of chemicals: terpenes, tannins, and salt crystals. These substances often protect the plant from herbivores. And perhaps more importantly, the bitter taste in beer comes from chemicals, notably humulone, produced in the glandular hairs on the bracts of the female flowers of hops.

The highlight of the day was a large number flowering gentians along the trail. Both *Gentiana andrewsii* (closed gentian) and *Gentiana puberulenta* (downy gentian) were in full flower. These are the result of diligent seeding efforts by James Trager. The *G. puberulenta* was sown 7 or 8 years ago, with flowers appearing after 4 years, and then increasing slowly over the years. *G. andrewsii* was sown 5 years ago with about ¼ oz. of recently collected seed placed in the wetter locations along the trail.



*Persicaria pensylvanica*—stem (top) with closer (middle) and closest (bottom) views of glandular hairs. Photos by George Van Brunt.



*Gentiana andrewsii* (closed gentian). Photo by George Van Brunt.



*Gentiana puberulenta* (downy gentian). Photo by George Van Brunt.

One animal was also noted. An aquatic snail, *Helisoma subcrenatum* (rough rams-horn), was abundant in the ephemeral ponds along the trail. A specimen was taken to Ron Oesch for identification.

**October 17, 2011—Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary**, St. Louis County, MO (contributed by Steve Turner).

Time: 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Conditions: Overcast, 60° F.

Participants: Roxanne Oesch, Ron Oesch, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, John Stade, Dorothy Stade, Larry Morrison, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, George Van Brunt, Steve Turner, John Putz, Sam Putz, Abigail Putz, John Oliver.

The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary is a region of some 3700 acres of floodplain lying to the east of Highway 67 and south of the Mississippi River, near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Administered by the Army Corps of Engineers, it serves as an

important wetland staging area for migratory waterfowl and provides excellent viewing opportunities for many species. The day's initial destination had been the "heron pond" roughly 0.6 miles to the east of the Visitors' Center. This wetland pool is served by a small parking lot and a trail which runs along the western edge of the pool. However, as we discovered, this area had been closed to the public as of October 15 for the benefit of migrating waterfowl. We were two days late!

We therefore began our botanizing on the opposite (north) side of the road, directly across from the heron pond, in an open area between the road and Ellis Bay. About two weeks previously, at the end of September, this author had observed a reasonable population of *Boltonia decurrens* (decurrent false aster) growing in the area. Today we were able to locate these plants again, even though they were on the downside of blooming and were intermixed with a gigantic population of *Symphyotrichum pilosum* (heath aster, which also has white composite flowers). The *Boltonia* is easily distinguished by its taller habit (up to nearly 2 m), slightly larger flower heads (up to about 3 cm in diameter), larger leaves, and, importantly, flaps of leaf tissue extending down the stems. It is this "decurrent" feature of the leaves from which the specific epithet is taken. When young, the ray florets of the species also tend to exhibit a delicate pink shade, which unfortunately does not often show up well in photographs.

*Boltonia decurrens* is an imperiled species, listed as Threatened by the federal and Illinois state governments, and as Endangered by the state of Missouri. Today the plant's worldwide natural distribution is limited to about 20 disjunct populations confined mostly within a region of the Illinois River valley. The leading expert on this plant is SIUE professor Marian Smith, whose graduate student, Paige Mettler, presented a seminar on the plant's ecology to the Missouri Native Plant Society in September 2007. A major root cause of the species' decline is increased flood control on the great rivers and a concomitant shift toward delayed floodwater recession, which has been shown to be detrimental to the plant's self-propagation (Smith *et al*, *Ecological Applications*, 15(3), 2005, 1036–1052). Later (typically defined as >June 1) floodwater recession, when combined

with lower than average rainfall in a year, can cause dramatic population crashes. Conversely, in years of early floodwater recession and ample summer rainfall, populations in favorable regions can explode. This "boom or bust" variability of reproductive success correlates with an increased risk of "quasi extinction," in which the plant's population drops below a threshold value. Exacerbating the situation is the inefficiency of the seedbank at restoring populations, possibly due to permeability of the seed coat, permitting microbial attack on the interior, and also deposition of silt, which blocks the sunlight necessary for achene germination. Finally, decreased frequency of flooding allows establishment of other mudplain species, which increases competition pressure. Conservation of a threatened species is often approached via maintenance of protected populations, but this strategy is unlikely to be effective in the case of *B. decurrens* due to the plant's unusual population dynamics.

Aside from the *Boltonia* and *Symphyotrichum* mentioned above, a few other species were found blooming despite the rapidly advancing season of senescence. These included *Physostegia virginiana* (obedient plant), *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* (lanceleaf aster), *Persicaria pensylvanica* (Pennsylvania smartweed), *Eupatorium altissimum* (tall thoroughwort), *Eupatorium serotinum* (late thoroughwort), *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (partridge pea), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Oenothera biennis* (common evening primrose), and *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (telegraph plant). Down by the water's edge we found a lone, depauperate *Bidens*, species undetermined. Of course, we did not limit our attentions to flowering plants; species that we observed which are past blooming for this year included *Hibiscus lasiocarpus* (hairy rose mallow), *Iva annua* (marsh elder), *Apocynum cannabinum* (dogbane), *Solanum carolinense* (horse nettle), *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo), *Desmanthus illinoensis* (Illinois bundleflower), *Croton monanthogynus* (one seeded croton), *Melilotus albus* (white sweet clover), *Xanthium strumarium* (cocklebur), and, upon a sandy, beachlike expanse, vast numbers of *Campsis radicans* (trumpet vine).

For the second part of the day's activities we moved to nearby Ellis Island, where we explored the first quarter-mile of the trail there. In addition to considerable overlap with plants listed above,



*Boltonia decurrens*, flowering head (top) and decurrent leaves (bottom). Photos by Steve Turner.

we also found *Ipomoea lacunosa* (small white morning glory), as well as greater numbers of *Oenothera* and *Heterotheca*. Species past flowering included *Hibiscus laevis* (halberd-leaved rose mallow), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Ambrosia trifida* (giant ragweed), *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), and *Vitis riparia* (river grape). Near the water's edge was a small colony of *Polanisia dodecandra* ssp. *dodecandra* (clammy weed), which is stickily glandular and fragrant with a bell pepper-like aroma. In at least one spot were found enormous prickly basal rosettes of *Carduus nutans* (nodding thistle), at least one of which measured 36" in diameter. Woody species in the area included *Salix exigua* (sandbar willow, with its characteristic cone-like insect galls), *Populus deltoides* (cottonwood, in many cases suffering beaver damage), and *Fraxinus* sp. (ash).

**October 24, 2011—St. Francois State Park, St. Francois County, MO** (contributed by John Oliver).

Time: 9:30–11:30 am.

Participants: Fr. Sullivan, George Van Brunt, Steve Turner, Ruth TenBrink, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Richard Abbott, John Oliver, Jeannie Moe, Nels Holmberg, John Putz, Abigail Putz, Sam Putz, Burt Noll, and Louise Langbein.

One of the good things about being a regular attendee of the WGNSS Monday botany walks is the opportunity to return to the same venues in different seasons over the course of many years. This not only provides a rather complete picture of the floral inventory of a site but also permits us to assess changes in the flora and habitats over time. Some of our familiar field trip locations have been visited by WGNSS members regularly for over 80 years. Almost all of Missouri's public lands, in the form of its state parks and other preserves, have been set aside during that same time period. As a result, many of these sites are well-known to us, having been visited by several generations of botany enthusiasts who have handed down the lore of favorite locations we continue to return to today. St. Francois State Park is certainly one such perennial favorite, and we visit several times each year.

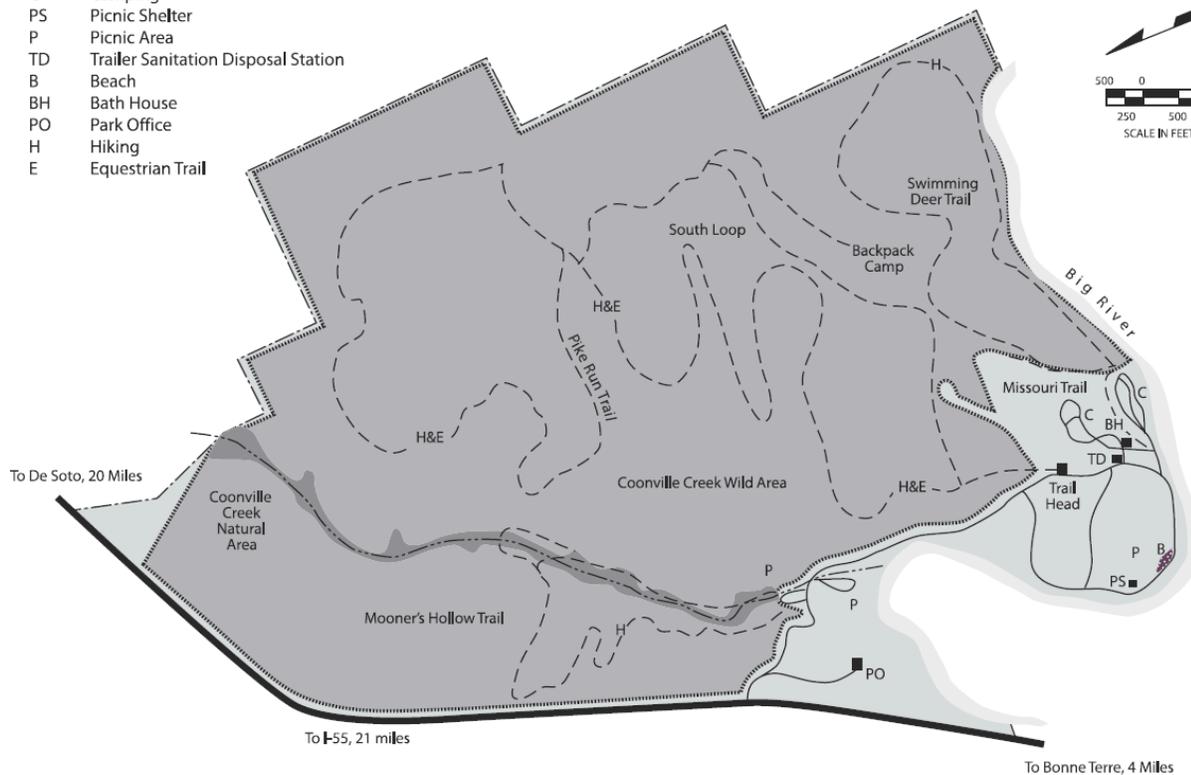
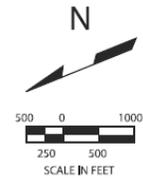
The park is the result of an effort by the citizens of St. Francois County to preserve part of the area's natural beauty. After a door-to-door fund drive, the first acreage for the park was purchased in 1964. With the aid of grants, matching funds and other donations, St. Francois State Park has grown to its present size. The park's history reflects the role it played in the area's local cultural heritage. The first settlers in the area came to work the many lead mines around the park. Although the park land was explored for minerals and some surface mining was done, no significant deposits were ever found in the park.

Place names in the area give an idea of another part of the local cultural heritage. Many residents can still remember the moonshine stills that flourished in Mooner's Hollow. Coonville Creek, which runs through Mooner's Hollow, was a good source of cold, clear water – one of the most valuable ingredients for making good moonshine. According to local custom, it is called moonshine because "it seemed to work out better if concocted in the night under the light of an Ozark moon."

# ST. FRANCOIS STATE PARK

## LEGEND

C	Camping
PS	Picnic Shelter
P	Picnic Area
TD	Trailer Sanitation Disposal Station
B	Beach
BH	Bath House
PO	Park Office
H	Hiking
E	Equestrian Trail

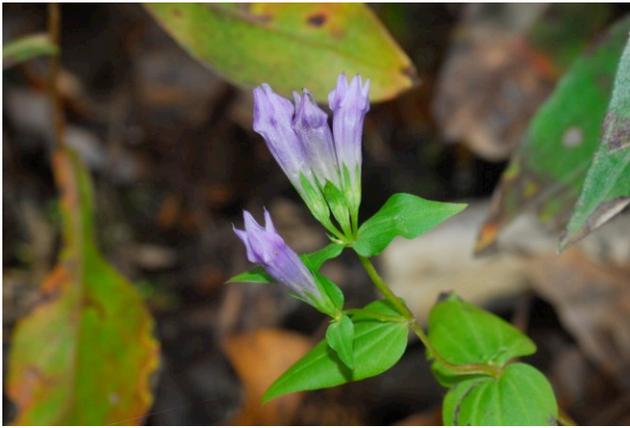


Trail map of St. Francois State Park (from <http://mostateparks.com>).

The park is rich in natural history as well as cultural history. The 2,101 acres that make up Coonville Creek Wild Area contain the forested ridges and hollows of the Pike Run Hills. Three areas in particular have been visited repeatedly by our botany group. Mooner's Hollow trail provides access to the Wild Area, and is covered with woodlands of white oak, black oak, shagbark hickory and dogwood. Coonville Creek flows through Mooner's Hollow, and its narrow valley makes up [Coonville Creek Natural Area](#). This area is rich in the early spring wildflowers and we often seek out *Anemone acutiloba* (sharp-lobed hepatica) and other signs of spring here. In the north end of the park, a separate entrance gives access to the headwaters of Coonville Creek, where small springs, tributaries and wet meadows, or fens, feed this high-quality Ozark stream. Many rare northern plants continue to thrive in the moist, sheltered (grass pink orchid), *Filipendula rubra* (queen of the

prairie), and other uncommon residents. In the area along Big River, Swimming Deer trail is one of the best locations in which to see the flush of blooms during the peak spring season, with one of the state's best displays of *Mertensia virginica* (bluebells) as well as many other spring favorites.

On this particular Monday however, we opted to visit a less-traveled part of the park. Leaving the Mooner's Hollow parking area, we struck off into the bottomland woods east of Coonville Creek, climbing up into the Pike Run Hills in the trailless area near the label "Coonville Creek Wild Area" on the map. Before leaving the creek bottom, group bryophyte specialist Nels Holmberg found *Rhodobryum ontariense* (Ontario rhodobryum moss) growing on bare soil – a first in his experience. As we climbed, we found several of the goldenrods and asters which are to be expected on a fall outing. *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Solidago buckleyi* (Buckley's goldenrod), *Solidago nemoralis* (old



*Gentianella quinquefolia* (stiff gentian). Photos by Steve Turner.

field goldenrod), *Solidago ulmifolia* (elm-leaved goldenrod), *Symphiotrichum pilosum* (hairy white oldfield aster), *Symphiotrichum urophyllum* (white arrowleaf aster) *Symphiotrichum lateriflorum* (calico aster), and *Symphiotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster) were all spotted by sharp-eyed members of the group. One of the best plants of the day turned up in this area also. *Gentianella quinquefolia* (stiff gentian), which we rarely see, was a welcome find.

Eventually, outcrops of dolomite told us we were about to reach our goal for the day. We emerged onto a glade along a southwest facing slope which was largely cleared of cedar trees a decade or so ago, and has been kept open by periodic burns. It contained a suite of glade plants that were duly noted by our group. Here the goldenrods included the glade species *Solidago gattingeri* (Gattinger's goldenrod), and *Solidago ptarmicoides* (upland white goldenrod) which were not seen in the creek valley. These two are interesting because *S. gattingeri* is found only on glades in Missouri, Arkansas, and Tennessee, and *S. ptarmicoides* was long placed in the genus *Aster* (now *Symphiotrichum*), which it resembles in the numerous, long, and white rays compared with those of the other flat-topped goldenrods. It hybridizes with typical goldenrods, however, not with true asters.

Other typical glade or prairie plants noted here included *Symphiotrichum oblongifolium* (aromatic aster), *Symphiotrichum oolentangiense* (azure aster), *Liatris cylindracea* (Ontario blazing star), *Quercus muehlenbergii* (chinkapin oak), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri black-eyed Susan), *Sideroxylon lanuginosum* (gum bumelia), and *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (great



“The goldenrod that thinks it’s an aster,” *Solidago ptarmicoides* (upland white goldenrod). Photo by John Oliver.

plains lady's tresses orchid). We felt fortunate to enjoy a beautiful fall day, in a seldom-visited portion of one of our favorite state parks.

The complete list of plant species observed on this trip: *Acer negundo* (boxelder), *Ageratina altissima* (white snakeroot), *Agrostis stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass), *Asplenium rhizophyllum* (walking fern), *Belamcanda chinensis* (blackberry lily), *Blephilia ciliata* (downy pagoda-plant), *Bouteloua curtipendula* (sideoats grama), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), *Cheilanthes feei* (slender lip fern), *Cornus drummondii* (rough-leaved dogwood), *Cuphea viscosissima* (blue waxweed, clammy cuphea), *Cynoglossum virginianum* (wild comfrey), *Dalea purpurea* (purple prairie clover), *Eupatorium altissimum* (tall thoroughwort), *Fraxinus quadrangulata* (blue ash), *Gentianella quinquefolia* (stiff gentian), *Glandularia canadensis* (rose verbena), *Liatris cylindracea* (Ontario blazing star), *Monarda bradburiana* (Bradbury's beebalm), *Opuntia humifusa* (eastern prickly pear cactus), *Ostrya virginiana* (hop hornbeam), *Pellaea atropurpurea* (purple cliff brake), *Penstemon pallidum* (pale beardtongue), *Perilla frutescens* (beefsteak plant), *Platanus occidentalis* (sycamore), *Ptelea trifoliata* (hop tree), *Pycnanthemum pilosum* (hairy mountain mint), *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (slender mountain mint), *Quercus muehlenbergii* (chinkapin oak), *Rhodobryum ontariense* (Ontario rhodobryum moss), *Ribes missouriense* (Missouri gooseberry), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri black-eyed Susan), *Rudbeckia triloba* (brown-eyed susan), *Sideroxylon lanuginosum* (gum bumelia, woolly buckthorn), *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup plant), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Solidago buckleyi* (Buckley's goldenrod), *Solidago gattingeri* (Gattinger's goldenrod), *Solidago nemoralis*

(old field goldenrod), *Solidago ptarmicoides* (upland white goldenrod), *Solidago ulmifolia* (elm-leaved goldenrod), *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (great plains lady's tresses), *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (buckbrush), *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (calico aster), *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster), *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* (aromatic aster), *Symphyotrichum oolentangiense* (azure aster), *Symphyotrichum pilosum* (hairy white oldfield aster), *Symphyotrichum urophyllum* (white arrowleaf aster), *Toxicodendron radicans* (poison ivy).

**October 31, 2011—Al Foster Trail**, St. Louis County, MO (contributed by George Van Brunt).

A record number of botanists joined the WGNSS Botany walk on a beautiful, crisp, clear fall morning. Accompanying Fr. Sullivan were Richard Abbott, Burt Noll, Steve Turner, Ruth TenBrink, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Michelle Lee, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Jeannie Moe, Ed Kullman, Gladys Kullman, John Putz, Sam Putz, Kathy Thiele, Jim Wiant, Ron Oesch, Roxanne Oesch, John Oliver, Gerri Gilbert, Dan Gilbert, Louise Langbein, Larry Morrison, and George Van Brunt. We met at the trailhead parking lot near the narrow gauge railroad facilities and first explored a newly opened section of the trail to the west. We botanized this branch for about a half mile to its end, returned the way we came, and continued eastward until we reached a large open gravelly area full of cactus plants. We again reversed course and returned to the parking lot.

Species still in bloom along the trail included *Solidago gigantea* (giant goldenrod), *Verbesina alternifolia* (yellow ironweed), *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (white woodland aster), *Polymnia canadensis* (leaf-cup), *Persicaria longiseta* (bristly lady's thumb), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), *Symphyotrichum drummondii* (Drummond's aster), *Rudbeckia triloba* (brown-eyed Susan), *Lactuca floridana* (woodland lettuce), *Lobelia siphilitica* (great blue lobelia), *Rudbeckia fulgida* (orange coneflower) (planted in a small garden), and *Allium stellatum* (cliff onion). Many of the preceding species were fruiting as well as blooming. Other species in fruit were *Ageratina altissima* (white snakeroot), *Perilla frutescens* (beefsteak plant), *Erechtites hieracifolius* (fireweed), *Verbascum thapsus* (mullein), *Acalypha virginica* (three-seeded mercury), *Scrophularia marilandica* (late figwort), *Phytolacca*



*Lobelia siphilitica* (great blue lobelia). Photo by Steve Turner.

*americana* (pokeweed), *Eupatorium altissimum* (tall boneset), and *Clematis terniflora* (virgin's bower).

The large, gravelly, open area at the eastern end of our explorations was heavily overgrown with *Lespedeza cuneata* (sericea lespedeza). The *Froelichia floridana* and *Froelichia gracilis* plants that we have identified on previous trips to this area were nowhere to be found. We did find a few *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (camphorweed) and *Oenothera filiformis* (long-flowered beeblossom) in bloom. Large numbers of *Opuntia humifusa* were in fruit.

*Lobelia* is a genus of nearly worldwide distribution, particularly in tropical and warm temperate regions. Carl Linnaeus named the genus after Mathias de l'Obel, 1538-1616, a Flemish physician and botanist who was the personal physician of King James I of England. There are more than 360 species of *Lobelia*, four of which we see frequently in the St. Louis region: *L. cardinalis* (cardinal flower), *L. siphilitica* (great blue lobelia), *L. inflata* (Indian tobacco), and *L. spicata* (spiked lobelia). Some species of *Lobelia* including *L. inflata*, *L.*



*Lobelia spicata* (spiked lobelia), July 3, 2006. Photo by George Van Brunt.



*Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal-flower), September 4, 2006. Photo by George Van Brunt.

*cardinalis*, and *L. siphilitica* make an alkaloid called lobeline,  $C_{22}H_{27}NO_2$ . Lobeline has various actions on neurotransmitters and receptors and can have effects similar to nicotine. *Lobelia* species were used by Native Americans to treat a variety of conditions including asthma and bronchitis. Peter Kalm, student and close friend of Carl Linnaeus,



*Lobelia inflata* (Indian tobacco), August 14, 2006. Photo by George Van Brunt.



*Acalypha virginica* (three-seeded Mercury) with fruits. Photo by Jack Harris.

was sent to North America by the Swedish government in 1748. His assignment was to look for new plants that would grow in Sweden's high latitude and that might be useful for dyes and medicines. Kalm found the great blue lobelia and reported that Native Americans used the plant as a treatment for sexually transmitted disease. For this



*Clematis terniflora* (virgin's bower) fruits. Photo by Steve Turner.

supposed medicinal value, Linnaeus named the species *Lobelia siphilitica*.

*Acalypha* is a genus of 450 to 500 species in the family Euphorbiaceae. *Acalypha* species are mostly tropical and subtropical and two thirds of the species inhabit North and South America from the southern United States to northern Argentina. The Greek name for stinging nettle is ακαληφη (akalephe); acalypha is a variant of akalephe that Carl Linnaeus used for this genus because of the nettle-like appearance of their leaves. *Acalypha virginica* (three-seeded Mercury) ranges over the eastern part of the United States as far north as the Canadian border and as far west as the eastern parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. *Acalypha virginica* is an annual species with flowers and fruits borne in the axils of the leaves. The flowers and fruits are subtended by bracts as shown in the accompanying photo.

*Clematis* is a genus of about 300 species in the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae; most species of *Clematis* are native to northern hemisphere temperate regions. The Greek name κληματις (clematis) was the name for various climbing plants including perwinkle, *Vinca herbacea*. As in many other instances, Carl Linnaeus used the name of an unrelated plant as the name for a new genus. Eight species of *Clematis* are found in Missouri; all are native except *Clematis terniflora* (virgin's bower) which is native to Japan. The fruit of *Clematis* species is an achene with a persistent style (note the photos of *C. terniflora* and *C. fremontii*). The fruits develop as aggregates of achenes. The persistent style of *C. terniflora* is



*Clematis fremontii* (Fremont's leather flower) fruits, May 21, 2007. Photo by George Van Brunt.

plumose (feathery) which gives the plant loaded with fruits an interesting appearance. *C. terniflora* is often used as a garden plant not only for its beautiful flowers but also the appearance of its fruits.



## January Entomology Group Meeting: “Nine Days, Ten States, 4,300 Miles”

### *Jane Walker*

With a title like that, who could resist coming to hear Ted MacRae speak at the January Entomology Group Meeting. Fourteen entomology enthusiasts gathered at the Butterfly House on January 23, 2012 to hear Ted talk about his whirlwind trip and a subject he is passionate about—tiger beetles. When Ted had to cancel a much anticipated wood burrowing beetle trip to Texas because of the severe drought and heat, he and a colleague turned around and immediately planned a trip out west to see and photograph rare and endangered tiger beetle species that Ted had not seen yet.

While Ted covered ten states, only six states became target states to discover tiger beetles. His trip began in northwestern Arkansas to see the Prairie Tiger Beetle (*Cicindelia obsoleta vulturina*). This tiger beetle is found on the dolomite and sandstone glades of the White River Hills area of Arkansas and Missouri. This disjunct population of tiger beetle has an atypical life cycle for tiger beetles and does not follow the usual "spring-fall"

or "summer" life cycle patterns. Adults emerge in the fall, mate, and lay eggs.

On to Colorado and the Yampa Valley, where Ted saw two of his target species, the Yampa Festive Tiger Beetle (*Cicendella scutellaria yampae*) and Gibson's Big Sand Tiger Beetle (*Cicendella formosa gibsoni*). The Festive Tiger Beetle is widely distributed in sandy habitats and is one of the most variable species. The Yampa subspecies, however, is a disjunct population found only in the Yampa Valley of Colorado. The Gibson's Big Sand Tiger Beetle is another disjunct subspecies of tiger beetle in the Yampa Valley, with only one other disjunct population in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Traveling to Idaho next, Ted visited the St. Anthony's Dune system on the Snake River. He began his search for the St. Anthony's Dune Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela arenicola*) and encountered a whole lot of small holes in the sand. These turned out to be refugial burrows that the adult tiger beetles dig each day to escape the heat of the sun and the cool of the evening. Ted found these beetles to be very active on this live dune system of constantly shifting sands. Like many sand dune tiger beetle species, this species was very hairy.

The Bruneau Dune Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela waynei*) is only found on a single dune, the Bruneau Dune in Idaho. This species is the most critically imperiled of the western sand dune endemic tiger beetle species. Unfortunately, this was the only tiger beetle that Ted was unable to see and photograph on his trip.

In Utah, Ted visited the Coral Pink Sand Dune State Park to look for the Coral Pink Dune Tiger Beetle (*Cicendella albissima*). This tiger beetle lives only on a single sand dune in this beautiful, sand dune system. Its entire range is in this state park of which only 10% of the area in the park is set aside as protected beetle habitat. This dune system is estimated to be 10–15 thousand years old. Ted found the park extremely beautiful and diverse. (I think he plans on returning to explore the park in greater detail.)

On his return, Ted drove through Colorado again to see the Great Sand Dune Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela theatina*) in and around Great Sand Dunes National Park. Ted found the tiger beetle in the Medano-Zapata ranch owned by The Nature Conservancy, adjacent to the National Park.

Ted presented a beautiful display of tiger beetle pictures through his other new passion—beetle photography. He pointed out details of morphology, behavior, habitat, habitat isolation and the importance of conservation. Great talk, Ted!

[Ed. note: Thank you, Jane. For those who missed the meeting, a PDF copy of the presentation is at <http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com/2012/01/25/my-peripatetic-quest-for-north-americas-rarest-tiger-beetles/>].



## Martha Gaddy—In Memorium

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### *Margie Richardson and Richard Thoma*

All in WGNSS are saddened by the news of Martha Gaddy's passing in December 2011. Martha Gaddy and her husband Bob were both unbelievably active members of WGNSS for over 40 years. At a time when women rarely left the home, Martha earned a law degree from Washington University and while raising a family, found every opportunity to learn about animals and plants. Martha had a large number of natural history interests and loved to be outdoors. Like so many of us in WGNSS, Martha found out about our group on a field trip. Martha and Bob were birding in below freezing temperatures one New Year's Day at August A. Busch Wildlife Conservation Area when they ran into Vivian Liddell. Vivian took their names, introduced them to WGNSS, and the Gaddy's have been members ever since. Martha was most active in the birding group of WGNSS joining both the Thursday and Saturday bird walks on a regular basis. One of her favorite places to look for birds was Tower Grove Park, a known birding hotspot. Though her total is uncertain, Martha's St. Louis area birding life-list is said to have competed well with other noted birders such as Phoebe Snetsinger and Dick Coles. Martha is prominently mentioned in "Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds" by Olivia Gentile. Martha loved to get involved and was a long time member of the board. Notably, she was President of WGNSS from 1991 to 1993. She was a frequent contributor to *Nature Notes*. The Gaddy's were the driving force for the creation of a bird sanctuary in Tower

Grove Park and for those efforts WGNSS honored them by naming it the Gaddy Garden. For all their contributions, Martha and Bob received the WGNSS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007. We in WGNSS will miss Martha Gaddy



## Carl Darigo—In Memorium

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### *Nels Holmberg and Richard Thoma*

Long time member of WGNSS, Carl Darigo passed away this past January. Carl is best known as one of WGNSS' most avid botanists. He got his start in WGNSS, doing an inventory of plants at Meramec State Park, collecting over 1000 specimens for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. After retiring from Anheuser Busch, Carl started a second career volunteering for 20 years at the Missouri Botanical garden researching Bryophytes for Dr. Bruce Allen and contributing to the herbarium collection with over 3600 more plant specimens. Many of these specimens were new Missouri county records. He has approximately 56 scientific publications on bryophytes to his name. One of those publications described the identification of a new moss species, *Schistidium viride* H.H. Blom & C. Darigo (Beard moss) in 2009. Carl was a contributing author for many articles in *Nature Notes* and wrote the Botany Group report for fourteen years. He was a regular on the Monday Botany Walks. Carl also helped WGNSS by participating in *Nature Notes* mailing parties. For his many years of service, Carl was honored with the WGNSS Lifetime Achievement Award. Carl Darigo will long be remembered by everyone in WGNSS.



## Attend a Kiefer Creek Hike

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### *Submitted by Dresden Farrand<sup>1</sup>*

Want to learn more about Kiefer? Join us on the second Saturday of every month in Castlewood State Park. We hike for about an hour and a half,

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<sup>1</sup> Deputy Director, Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

and then sit together for snacks and conversation. See the beauty of Kiefer Creek, the watershed, and the Meramec firsthand, learn about the local plants and wildlife, and meet other people interested in the watershed. Bring your friends, your kids, and your dogs!

The next hike will be Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. To learn more, visit: [http://kiefercreek.](http://kiefercreek.weebly.com/events.html)

[weebly.com/events.html](http://kiefercreek.weebly.com/events.html)



## "Bring Conservation Home"

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### *Submitted by Francine Glass*

St. Louis Audubon's Executive Director Mitch Leachman, along with Dave Tylka, presents the Audubon Society's [Bring Conservation Home](#) program.

Sponsored by Wild Ones, St. Louis Chapter. Wild Ones is a national environmental education and advocacy organization whose mission is to promote use of native plants in landscaping.



## 8-Week Native Landscaping Course at Meramec

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### *Submitted by Dave Tylka*

Dave Tylka, author of the MDC book, *Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People*, will teach an 8-week native landscaping class (BIO:156) at St. Louis Community College at Meramec on Thursday evenings, March 22 through May 10, 2012, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Four Saturday field trips from 8:00 a.m.–3:15 p.m. will be held on 3/24, 4/7, 4/21 and 5/5. This course focuses on native trees, shrubs and flowers that furnish food and cover for songbirds, butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Participants will learn how to design, establish and maintain native plant gardens and landscapes around homes, common grounds, businesses and public lands such as parks. For more information, please call Dave at (636) 942-3142.



## March Lectures at St. Louis Zoo

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*Submitted by Sandra Faneuff<sup>2</sup>*

The Academy of Science-St. Louis, in partnership with the Saint Louis Zoo, presents the 2011–2012 Science Seminar Series with *Science Seminars* and *Conservation Conversations*. Adults, teachers, middle and high school students, and the general public are invited to attend these no-cost lectures on topical issues in science. Lectures are from 7:30–9:00 p.m.

### SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

- **Tuesday, March 6.** *Polar Bear Population Projections: Reliability in the Face of Uncertainty*, by Steven C. Amstrup, PhD.
- **Tuesday, March 13.** *Cheetah Conservation Botswana: Carnivore Conservation in the Kalahari*, by Rebecca Klein.

### CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

- **Wednesday, March 7.** *Journey Through the Arctic*—lecture and book signing, by Debbie Miller. Special thanks to *Journey Through the Arctic* sponsor, the Alaska Wilderness League.
- **Tuesday, March 27.** *Bears of North America*—lecture and book signing, by James Halfpenny, PhD. Special thanks to *Bears of North America* sponsor & partner, University of Missouri-St. Louis.

For information on these and other events at the Academy of Science-St. Louis check their website [www.academyofsciencestl.org](http://www.academyofsciencestl.org) or call (314) 533-8586.



## Group Activity/Walk Schedules

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### BOTANY GROUP

Chair—George Van Brunt

**Monday Botany Walks**, Leader—Fr. James Sullivan; now in his **45<sup>th</sup> year!** The WGNSS Botany Group visits many of the same locations as the Bird group: Busch Conservation Area, Shaw

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<sup>2</sup> Office Manager, Education Department, St. Louis Zoo.

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.

### ENTOMOLOGY GROUP

Co-Chairs—Phil Koenig and Jane Walker

Monthly meetings are held September through May and normally occur on the third Monday of the month.

**Monday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.** Our guest this month will be Rich Thoma. The title of his talk is “Camouflage.” Rich will share with us many examples of how insects use camouflage as a defense from would be predators. Butterfly House (Faust Park), 15193 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield.

**Monday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.** John Christensen will be our speaker. The title of his talk is “The Nine Senses of Insects”. Knowing John this will most likely be a humorous as well as scholarly talk. Butterfly House (Faust Park), 15193 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield.

### 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 the Evangelical United Church of Christ in Webster Groves on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:30-3:00 p.m. For more information and directions contact Lisa Nansteel at (636) 391-4898. All are welcome—especially newcomers!! Upcoming books:

- **Tuesday, March 13.** *Krakatoa*, by Simon Winchester.

### ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

Chair—David Becher

**Saturday Bird Walks**, Leader—David Becher. All walks are at Des Peres Park. Walks 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).

**Thursday Bird Walks**, Leader—Jackie Chain. The WGNSS Birding Group meets at 8:30 a.m. at Des Peres Park parking lot off Ballas Road just north of Manchester Rd. and east of West County Mall. Please contact Jackie Chain at (314) 644-5998 or [chainjac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chainjac@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions. If there is a change in meeting time or place, we will advise by posting on MOBIRDS.

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For general information about WGNSS activities, contact Membership Chairman Joe Whittington at [whittex@aol.com](mailto:whittex@aol.com) or (314) 645-3272.



## Editor's Corner

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*Ted C. MacRae*

### **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* **in full color**.

Embedded hyperlinks allow instant navigation to email addresses and websites. Of course, you can always print your electronic copy of *Nature Notes* if you wish (please 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/>). Contact Joe Whittington, Assistant Treasurer, at [whittex@aol.com](mailto:whittex@aol.com) to convert your subscription.

### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

We welcome announcements of nature related events in the St. Louis area, notices of publications, 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 reprinted from other sources must obtain permission from copyright holders.

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



Photos from the WGNSS-St. Louis Audubon Society Winter Party



Top row: Party organizers Jane Deschu (WGNSS) and Karen Meyer (Audubon) (L); Pat Brock Diener, Bob and Lisa Nansteel (R). Middle row: 2011 Lifetime Achievement award winners Vivian Liddell (L) and Jack and Pat Harris (R); Bottom row: Jeanie and Jim Moe (L); Katy Manar giving a tour of the new Audubon Center (R).



May Berenbaum, Ph.D.  
to speak about  
“The Secret Life of Parsnips”

WGNSS Annual  
Spring Banquet  
Thursday, May 10

at Orlando Gardens, 8352 Watson Rd., in General  
Grant shopping center, Webster Groves

The social hour will begin at 5:30 pm. Mingle with other members and meet featured speaker Dr. May Berenbaum, Department of Entomology Chair from the Univ. of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana. At the banquet, the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award will be announced and we will be honoring this year’s WGNSS Scholarship winners.

Reservation Deadline: April 26, 2012. Send payment to:

Jane Deschu  
1431 Tahoe Valley Court  
Ballwin, MO 63021

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Spring Banquet Reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$29 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_