



### **MENKE SCHOLARSHIP TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT**

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the Menke Scholarship to Improve Wildlife Habitat. The Menke scholarship honors Don and Nell Menke, long-term members of WGNSS, and lifelong birders/wildflower experts, and their son, David Menke, a wildlife park ranger all his professional life.

The scholarship's goal is to increase and improve wildlife habitat in Missouri by planting, protecting, managing, publicizing, and in various other ways demonstrating specific habitat improvements for fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, plants or invertebrates, The scholarship awards up to \$2,000 for one year.

Applicants typically major in nature study (e.g. biology, ecology, botany, forestry, conservation). But meeting the scholarship's goals is more important than the major field itself (e.g. applications from non-nature study fields are accepted). Recipients may work with, or intern with conservation programs. The scholarship will not support projects that may harm or endanger wildlife, including attaching or implanting objects.

Applications to the education committee must include the following:

1. Abstract not exceeding 250 words; summarizing proposed work, how scholarship funds will be used and brief biography.
2. Summary description (5 pages maximum) of your work in terms understandable to non-technical reviewers. Summary should include; project goals, methodology, and how results will **improve wildlife habitat in Missouri**.
3. Budget of expected costs. Expenses above award limit are responsibility of awardee.
4. Curriculum vitae of academic career; education and degrees, institutions and dates, summary of related courses, grades, conservation activities, etc. Transcripts are not required.
5. Two letters of recommendation from current or former faculty. One must be from your advisor and specify; (a) you are a bona fide student currently registered for a B.A., B.S., M.S., or Ph.D. degree, (b) your expenses are not already covered by existing funds, and (c) the award would enhance your work.

Please send as an electronic submission (<10 MB) to Scott George at [sgeorge3806@gmail.com](mailto:sgeorge3806@gmail.com).  
Reference: Menke Scholarship to Improve Wildlife Habitat.

### **Scholarship Schedule:**

1. February 18, 2022. **Application deadline.** Word or PDF format preferred. Costs may be Excel.
2. April 15, 2022: Award notifications due to students.
3. May 2022: Recipient presentation at WGNSS general meeting.
4. June 2022: Funds awarded to recipient's institution. Award period is one year.
5. 2022 to 2023: Recipient's article to the WGNSS Nature Note journal.

The winner will be invited to the annual WGNSS dinner meeting in May 2022, to give a short presentation on the project. Within two years of receiving the funds, the winner is asked submit a summary article for the WGNSS Nature Note journal, and acknowledge the grant in any resulting published material.

The award will be made to the applicant's institution which is expected to establish and monitor a fund as appropriate to curate the stipend. The funds may carry over beyond the year of award if such is to the benefit of the awardee's research. The scholarship funds cannot be used to pay overhead to any institution. The scholarship must be acknowledged in any resulting published material.

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Don and Nell Menke were WGNSS members for over 30 years. Don was an avid outdoorsman, naturalist, and conservationist. He enjoyed many activities such as canoeing, birding, observing wildflowers, building bluebird nest boxes, camping, and photography. Nell was a charter member of the Missouri Native Plant Society. In 1977, she and Betty Nellums started the Tuesday wildflower tours at the Shaw Nature Reserve, and in 1985, she received special recognition for her continued leadership on the wildflower tours. Her journals record flower location and blooming at the Nature Reserve.

Their son David, one of six siblings, was a wildlife park ranger all his professional life and outdoor recreation planner for the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge. David was an internationally known wildlife photographer builder of hiking trails, photo blinds, and canoe trails; and a tireless promoter of wildlife observation, particularly birding. *"He had become the go-to person for hard core enthusiasts as to where the rare sighting could be found, but he was just as comfortable taking a group of novice birders or an elementary class on their first walk to a wetland."*