



nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

January, 2001 Vol. 73, No. 1

January 8, 2001 Meeting

Doug Corbett 1st VP

I will be presenting slides from my two trips to Southeast Arizona this year. Both trips consisted of birding Phoenix, Tucson and points south, catching the spring migration. Please be advised that the weather may be nasty, so if it is please stay home, my feeling won't be hurt. We meet on Friday, 8:00 PM Jan. 8, 2001 in the Auditorium at the County Library on Lindbergh, south of Highway 40. See you there. ~

WGNSS Announces a New Annual Scholarship: The Menke Scholarship for Wildlife Habitat

Sue Gustafson

Over the last year, I have had the privilege of working with the children of the late Don and Nell Menke in establishing an annual scholarship that will support university undergraduate and graduate research aimed towards enhancing or preserving wildlife habitat in Missouri. Don and Nell were WGNSS members for over 30 years, and many members may fondly recall the monthly production of Nature Notes that took place at the Menke's home, complete with the infamous cranky mimeograph machine in the Menke's basement. We are honored that the Menke children chose WGNSS as the recipient of their generous financial contributions, and we look

forward to the annual administration of the scholarship selection process. Most notably, I would like to thank the Menke's son-in-law, Rod Owen, of Andover, Massachusetts, who served as the family's spokesperson and brought this idea to fruition. Enclosed within this newsletter (p. 10) you'll find the announcement of the scholarship that was sent to seventeen colleges and universities in Missouri seeking applications from eligible students. ~

Christmas Bird Counts

Busch Wildlife	Dec. 30
Mingo.....	Dec. 30
Orchard Farm.....	Jan. 1

Welcome to new members...

Anne Craver.....	Clayton
Mary Donaldson.....	Wildwood MO
Daryl Michals.....	Maryland Heights MO
Mary Lou Miller.....	Pasadena Hills MO
James & Gertrude Wiant.....	University City

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www.wgnss.org

Orchard Farm Xmas Count

The Orchard Farm (central St. Charles Co.) Christmas Bird Count will be held on Monday, January 1, 2001. We welcome all enthusiastic volunteers. The Orchard Farm CBC routinely records the greatest numbers of Eurasian Tree Sparrows of any Missouri count, and last year we had the highest for the country—727. What could be more fun than that? Contact Randy Korotev at 314-993-0055 or rlk@levee.wustl.edu. Randy will be out of town from about from about Dec. 20 through 28, so please contact him before Dec. 20. ~

Mingo Bird Count

Bill Reeves

This year's Mingo Christmas Bird Count will be scheduled on Saturday, Dec. 30. As usual, we will meet in Count Day at 6:00 AM at the Puxico Restaurant, which is located on E L Hawk Street, one block east of the yellow flashing light on Highw2ay 51. After breakfast, teams will begin by 7:00 and report back to the restaurant about 5:00 PM. The participation fee of \$5 per person will be collected.

If you intend to participate in this year's count, please notify me at least by Dec. 23 so I can organize groups.

Bill Reeves
PO Box 189
Farmington MO 63640
573-760-8810 work
573-756-2994 ~

Busch Xmas Count

The annual Christmas bird census will be held on Saturday, Dec. 30 at Busch Wildlife Area in St. Charles Co., Mo. Meet at the new headquarters at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call: Tom Parmeter 921-6017, home or 837-1360, work. Fee \$5. ~

 www.wgns.org

Oscar and Audrey Anderson

Linda Virga

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Oscar and Audrey Anderson, WGNS members, who died this past year.

Thursday Birding Group Changes Meeting Area

Dottie Herweg

We have a change in the Thursday birding meeting area—West County parking lot has become hazardous to our health!!

In December meet 8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas Road, one block north of Manchester Rd. Turn right (east) at the Des Peres Park sign—park in the first lot on the right. Any questions, call Dottie Herweg: 314-699-2274. ~

Next Deadline: Jan. 12

Anne McCormack

Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or mccormacka@earthlink.net

Please note that Jan. 12 is the **latest possible deadline**, since our normal mailing date is Martin Luther King Day and the library is closed. The mailing date and deadline were pushed back one week.

But wait! There's more! I have a new e-mail address. Although I will still check the old one, I prefer that submissions be sent to the one listed above. ~

Only One Room Left!!!

Only one left for the Canopy Tower for the Panama tour March 31-April 5. If you want to take advantage of the special pricing for this tour, then let us know ASAP. Prices definitely will be increasing for next year. Also, if you are a single person wanting to participate on this tour, we have a female tour participant currently booked into a double room who would prefer to have a roommate. For more information or to register, call Dale at (636) 230-9675. ~

Help Wanted!

Betty Kellerman

The time for selecting the WGNSS recipient of an Audubon Ecology Camp scholarship for the summer of 2001 is rapidly approaching. Notices will be sent to area science coordinators in January. However, it is difficult to get the news disseminated and we know that many worthy people are not hearing about this wonderful opportunity.

If you know of any area educators who would benefit from this enriching experience, please pass the word along to them. Applicants have their choice of ecology camps in Maine, Wyoming, Connecticut, Wisconsin, or Minnesota. Full tuition is provided and this year partial travel expenses will be available from WGNSS. Interested educators may obtain an application from Julie Leeman, 314-962-2093 or Betty Kellerman, 314-962-8887.

Bird of the Year

What bird made the biggest impression on you in 2000? Send your nomination to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122, or mccormacka@earthlink.net. The next deadline is Jan. 12. If you prefer, your "Bird of the Year" can be published in the March issue—deadline Feb. 9. Please, no phone nominations. ~

Year List

If you wish to be included in the list of birders who saw 200 species in the St. Louis area in 2000, please send your total to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122, or e-mail mccormacka@earthlink.net by Feb. 9, 2000. Please, no phone lists. ~

Revised Deadlines for Nature Notes '01

Marjorie Richardson

The Oak Bend Library has reserved several Monday mornings for their own programs, so WGNSS will have to change our third Monday of each month mailing schedule somewhat for 2001. Please note that on Jan.

22 and April 23—the fourth Mondays, not the third—we will meet at Oak Bend to mail *Nature Notes*. The February 19 date will possibly change, depending on the library's plans. All mailing parties start at 10:00 AM and are usually over by 12:00.

Besides doing a completely necessary job for WGNSS, these dedicated volunteers, usually six to ten of us, have a very good time together! Any member who wishes to help is welcome to join the fun.

Dates for NN in 2001

10 AM Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood

mailing party	deadline
Jan. 22	Jan. 12
Feb. 19 (may change)	Feb. 9
March 19	March 9
April 23	April 13
May 21	May 11
Aug. 20	Aug. 10
Sept. 17	Sept. 7
Oct. 15	Oct. 5
Nov. 19	Nov. 9
Dec. 17	Dec. 7

Lighten the Load?

David Rabenau

Help on even a few small tasks each month could help Anne McCormack, our newsletter editor, in a big way. For example, once a month someone could pick up the finished newsletter original from Anne and deliver it to the printer. Perhaps someone else could then pick up the printed newsletters and deliver them to Marjorie Richardson's great crew, who collate and prepare *Nature Notes* for mailing. Of course, Marjorie can always use help once a month, too. In the past, many, not just by a few, shared these kinds of activities. Will you help out? If so, please call Anne McCormack at 314-965-8091 or Marjorie Richardson at 314-965-8974 for all the possibilities. If not, please tell them "thanks" next time for the great job they do each month getting the newsletter out. ~

Thank You, Honeysuckle Hackers

KWAG*

The second annual "Free the Kennedy Woods" was a great success. Over 120 persons brandished loppers, pruners, and saws to thin the aggressive bush honeysuckle in the Kennedy Forest of Forest Park on Nov. 12. The weather was ideal and the fervor contagious. At least one attendee wanted to know why we didn't hold such an invigorating event more often. In addition to honeysuckle and poison ivy, a few volunteers even found a variety of stolen items cached and trashed in the woods. We thank the following persons and groups for their muscles, liquids, and support: Tammy Laws and Eileen Rueth of Forest Park Forever for providing volunteers and logistic support, Jim Jordan of the Saint Louis Zoo for breaching the fence with his chainsaw, the Central West End Starbucks for supplying coffee, Monsanto for supplying Roundup, volunteers from CitiGroup and the American Youth Foundation, and all the other volunteers who spent a few hours of their Sunday on this project. We expect that with three more years of effort, all of the large berry-producing plants will be gone.

*Kennedy Woods Advisory Group: Ken Cohen, Jerry Farm, Jim Holsen, Randy Korotev, and Ben Senturia ~

Lost & Found

Did you go home with the wrong coat after the WGNSS/Audubon Open House at Tyson, Sunday, December 10, 2000? Call Paul Bauer, 921-3972. ~

St. Louis Audubon new URL

A new web address for St. Louis Audubon, www.stlouisaudubon.org Many new features have been added as well as directions bird-walks. ~

November 2000 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Abbreviations:

BCA = Busch

HL = Horseshoe Lake

REDA = Riverlands

CL = Carlyle Lake

TGP = Tower Grove Park

MTNWR = Mark Twain Nat. Wildlife Refuge

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands

TGP = Tower Grove Park

We want to thank our friends Kathy Andria, Kathleen O'Keefe and Jack Norman at American Bottom Conservancy for their purchase of Canteen Lake in Madison County, Illinois. This will ensure the preservation of that lake, which had been for sale. Canteen Lake is the 200-acre body of water on the left side of Ill. Hwy. 111 as you are driving north from I-70 toward the main entrance of Horseshoe Lake.

In October's issue, we mentioned the problem of birds striking windows. Dr. Klemm of SIU-Carbondale, has studied this problem extensively. Since World War II, many more picture windows and glass sliding doors are being used in houses. Large numbers of birds strike these glass structures and this is often fatal. A simple solution is to not put a bird feeder directly in front of any large glass window. Another solution is to offset the angle of the window by 5 degrees. The observation windows at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City have offset glass. Other simple measure will be discussed next month.

Twenty Common Loons were present at CL on 11/6 (m. ob.). A Western Grebe was hotlined from REDA 11/30 by the Thurs. Group. On 11/24, Yvonne Homeyer and others found 11 Great Egrets and 20 Great Blue Herons at Canteen Lake. Two Cattle Egrets were seen at REDA on 11/3 (JM). On 11/26, a Black-crowned Night Heron was located at HL (FH). Two White-fronted Geese were observed in flight on 11/11 (YH) and 20 more were found at Baldwin Lake on 11/12 (JL). A Ross' Goose was also seen at

Baldwin Lake that day (JL). Jeannie Moe found 18 Trumpeter Swans off of Hwy. 367 near West Alton and 20 Trumpeter Swans were seen in a West Alton cornfield on 11/27 (CM). At the beginning of the month, Ruddy Ducks, Redheads, Scaups, Ring-billed Ducks and Coots were building in number across our area. Connie Alwood reported 6 Wood Ducks at HL on 11/18. A White-winged Scoter was seen at Reiter's Sewage Lagoon on 11/6 (T Bo) and another was present there on 11/18 (JC, G&TB). Mike Nelson found 4 Surf Scoters at REDA on 11/4. A Black Scoter and a Surf Scoter were observed at the Reiter's Sewage Lagoon on 11/18 (DK). On 11/12, David Becher found the area's first Goldeneye at REDA and Bill Rudden located the first Common Merganser on 11/19 at HL. The Malones had a male Oldsquaw at REDA on 11/27. The remains of a dead Coot were found on the 14th floor of Barnes Hospital, on 11/15 (RAB); this was probably dinner for a Peregrine Falcon.

A Bald Eagle was seen at Peabody Coal on 11/12 (JL) and on that same day, Bill Rowe found a Golden Eagle in St. Charles County. On 11/7/00 at REDA 5 Northern Harriers were seen. On 11/19, Frank Holmes and others observed a light phase immature Rough-legged Hawk at HL. An apparent dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk was observed on Sand Prairie Lane on 11/26 (JM) and on 11/30, the Thursday Group saw a Merlin there. The staff of MTNWR reported 6 Sandhill Cranes on 11/2. The Barkers found an Avocet at REDA on 11/2. Fifty-five Killdeer were seen at the Emerald Turf Farm, Monroe Co., Ill., on 11/16 (JZ). On 11/2, the Thursday Group found 5 Black-bellied Plovers at REDA. The Malones were treated to several species of shorebirds on Salle Road, St. Charles Co., including Snipe, Dunlin, 4 Least, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs and 6 Westerns. Many people were lucky to see thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls on 11/6 at CL. Tom Borman had 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at CL on 11/16. Dan Kassebaum found a probable Parasitic Jaeger at CL on 11/5 and the bird was seen again the

following day. Helen Wuestenfeld* and others had 2 sightings of jaegers on 11/11 at the Brussels Ferry. A Barred Owl was seen at BCA on 11/23 (YH). Short-eared Owl was reported from Peabody Coal on 11/12 (JL) and 2 were found at Clarence Cannon by Dave Hoehne. On 11/6, hundreds of Tree Swallows were present at CL (T Bo). From approximately 11/10 to 11/17, a probable Ruby-throated Hummingbird was visiting a feeder off Hwy. 109 at the home of Janet Baker. The immature male Rufous Hummingbird reported last month is still present at Anne McCormack's home in Kirkwood.

A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed in East Alton on 11/21 (FH). Helen Wuestenfeld found a Hermit Thrush near Grafton on 11/18. A wintering Brown Thrasher was seen at Lake 24, BCA, on 11/23 (YH). On 11/7/00 at REDA, a Common Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler were seen; the Yellow Warbler is very late.

On 11/4, an entertaining Sedge Wren was captured on video at close range at BCA (YH) and several LeConte's Sparrows were observed in the same spot (JZ, YH). LeConte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows continued to be numerous in November, with both seen on Bend Road on 11/5 (CA). On 11/26 at HL, a LeConte's Sparrow was observed for several minutes running back and forth (YH); nearby was a flock of Savannah Sparrows (JZ). Several sightings of Harris's Sparrow included an immature on 11/5 at REDA (MT), an adult at HL on 11/24 (FH, BR) which was re-found on 11/26 (JZ), and another on 11/26 on Bend Road (JM). Brewer's Blackbirds first occurred in St. Charles County on 11/11 (T Bo) and Rusty Blackbirds were seen area-wide from 11/10 to 11/19 (BR, FH). Lapland Longspurs were first heard on 11/12 in St. Charles County (BR) and they appeared in numbers at CL on 11/16 (T Bo).

Comments: A first occurrence for Connie Alwood's back yard was a Brown Creeper earlier this month. Charlene Malone found a patagial-tagged White Pelican at HL on 11/2.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Jackie Chain, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, John Loomis, Jim & Charlene Malone, Jeannie Moe, Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen, Helen Wuestenfeld, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documents." To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or email Yvonne at homeyer@postnet.com by the last day of the month. If you want to send photos or videos of birds reported, please mail them to Jim Ziebol, 3900 Berger, St. Louis, Mo. 63109. We will keep them on hand for future reference. ~

Conservation Committee Report

Yvonne Homeyer

Urgent action again needed. The Corps has granted our request for an additional 30 days to submit public comment on the proposed cement kiln, 2000-acre quarry and harbor that Holnam, Inc.—a U.S. subsidiary of a Swiss multi-national corporation—wants to construct in northeastern Ste. Genevieve County along the Mississippi River. The new **deadline is January 6.** We now need to write again to let the Corps know in more detail why we are objecting to this proposed project. We have prepared an individual letter (different than the one in last month's newsletter) that you can sign and mail/fax/email to the Corps—all such information is found on the letter—or feel free to write your own.

Your individual letters are important.

Many organizations are working with WGNSS in this effort, among them the Coalition for the Environment, American Bottom Conservancy, Sierra Club, and the Missouri Native Plant Society, and we are having joint meetings with these other groups. In addition, on December 6, the WGNSS Board unanimously approved the involvement of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Committee of Washington University to represent WGNSS on the Holnam matter. Maxine Lipeles, an attorney and professor at Washington University's School of Law, is the direc-

tor of the Environmental Clinic, and Judith Coyle is the Clinic's engineer. What this means for WGNSS is that we will have a team of attorneys, engineers, law students and environmental science students helping us gather information about the Holnam project and representing us before the various state and federal agencies that will be involved in the permitting process, such as EPA, Fish & Wildlife Service, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources. We are very grateful to the Clinic for their assistance and look forward to working with them. Their web site is:
<http://ls.wustl.edu/Clinics/Intenv>.

The 4,000 acre tract that Holnam wants to commercialize is a heavily wooded area along the Mississippi River which contains Isle du Bois Creek, many other streams, springs and seeps, wetlands, ravines, hollows and glades, as well as Native American Indian prehistoric sites. Only one gravel road runs through the entire tract—it is a truly unique, almost wilderness, area that lies just 30 miles south of St. Louis. John Karel, now director of Tower Grove Park, included this tract of land in a survey of seven Missouri counties that he undertook in 1975. To quote from John Karel's recent public comment to the Corps: "One of the areas ranking highest in this study for its natural integrity and importance as a natural heritage resource of regional and statewide significance was the wild, steep-sided watershed of Wolf Hollow. Wolf Hollow, consisting of roughly 600 acres, is located entirely within the area that would be affected by the proposed development." According to the map shown to us by the Corps, Wolf Hollow is part of the 2,000 acre proposed quarry.

The site of the proposed cement plant is located within the range of 5 endangered species—Least Tern, Peregrine Falcon, Pallid Sturgeon, Indiana bat and Gray bat—and one threatened species—Bald Eagle. In addition, the habitat is perfect for Cerulean Warbler, a candidate for being classified as Endangered. It is on the Audubon Society's Watch List and WGNSS Vice President

Doug Corbett is the St. Louis area liaison for the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project, sponsored by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Across the Mississippi River from the site is Beagles Island, which has a heronry/rookery. On a site visit on December 3, arranged by Michael Ricketts of the Corps at WGNSS's request, we were able to see the large nests in the trees on Beagles Island. We also saw a Bald Eagle flying past. One-half of Lee Island, which is the floodplain/wetlands below the bluffs, will be dug out to create the harbor. The Mississippi River did not look very wide at this site. Holnam wants to construct a harbor that would hold up to 30 barges and also wants to have up to 87 more barges piled up in the Mississippi River—"in-river fleeting." It is difficult to imagine the changes to the river that this project would entail, to say nothing of the devastation to the land and the wildlife.

Cement kilns emit air pollutants and, if they burn hazardous waste, they can emit dioxin. Holnam has another plant in Missouri at Clarksville, and that plant does burn hazardous waste. Ken Midkiff—Ozark Chapter, Sierra Club—did a study of Missouri Department of Natural Resources records on the history of air quality violations at Holnam's Clarksville plant. Although Holnam says that there is no present intention to burn hazardous waste at the proposed cement plant in Ste. Genevieve County, their representative did admit that the plant would have the ability to do so. St. Louis has been designated as a non-attainment area by the EPA for many, many years because St. Louis does not meet the EPA's air quality guidelines. The impact of Holnam's proposed cement plant on St. Louis air quality and the public health needs to be thoroughly evaluated. In addition, it could affect other development in our region.

If you would like to read the Public Notice from the Corps of Engineers, go to the St. Louis District's web site at: <http://www.mvs.useace.army.mil/permits>. Then click on Open Public Notices and then click on P-2259. Holnam's own web site is:

<http://www.holnam.com>. Holnam is a subsidiary of the Swiss company Holderbank, the largest cement producer in the world. The general contractor is CDK, a Swedish company.

On the good news front: Those of you familiar with Horseshoe Lake near Granite City, Ill. have passed Canteen Lake along Hwy. 111 on your way to the main park entrance. Canteen Lake is privately owned and has been up for sale for some time. Recently, American Bottom Conservancy, an environmental organization working in the Metro East area, received a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to purchase Canteen Lake, thereby saving it from possible development or commercialization. Kathy Andria, one of ABC's founders, has asked WGNSS and the Missouri Native Plant Society to assist ABC is surveying the flora and fauna of Canteen Lake.

Contact Yvonne Homeyer (314-963-7750; homeyer@postnet.com) for the date of the next Conservation Committee meeting and the dates of any joint meetings with other organizations about Holnam. ∞

The Conservation And Reinvestment Act—CARA

Dennis R. Ballard, Executive Director Conservation Federation of Missouri "Bizarre!" "Unbelievable!" "Astounding!" How else could you describe the eleventh-hour political maneuvering that torpedoed the largest, most widely supported conservation legislation in United States history? After years of work on a conservation bill that, it appeared, the U.S. Congress could support, after convincing all 50 governors to support the bill, after building a coalition of over 5,000 conservation and environmental groups that supported CARA, after hard lobbying to get approval in the House and to get it free of Senate subcommittees, after all of that—failure. Our CARA bill only needed to get to the floor of the U.S. Senate, where we had the votes for passage, for the entire

package to become final and be signed into law by a waiting President.

Things came apart in mid-October. CARA did not melt down the way legislation is commonly dismantled, not by legislative pay-backs and favors, the routine maneuvers practiced by polished and high-positioned politicians. At least, we didn't think so. We first became aware of CARA's plight when a small conservation measure was added to the Department of Interior's budget, a paltry \$50 million with many strings attached. It became apparent that administration budgeteers were selling this bill to Congress in lieu of CARA. This CARA-Lite passed in the closing days before the scheduled adjournment, a part of that annual rush to get several deals done before the bell rings. As it turned out, the bell didn't ring because Congress just couldn't get everything finished. They call a session extension a Continuing Resolution. Three have been approved so far that will recall the lame-duck Congress back into session after the November elections to finish their work. CARA is still on the list but there's little hope of its passage. What happened?

Several very important members of our coalition sold out to the administration's bean counters and cut a deal for themselves but cut the throat of CARA. It was one of those late Friday deals in October that left supportive coalition members little time to act to try and reverse the decision to give up CARA for CARA-Lite and future promises. Appointed administration bureaucrats, not elected officials, torpedoed the hard-fought victories of thousands of Americans. But how can that be? Good question.

This article was reprinted with permission. Yvonne Homeyer ~



tyson nature line

Call 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Connie Alwood, 524-8111. ~

Science Seminar Series for January and February

Jim Jordan

Free programs at the Zoo—Wednesday, **January 24, 7:30–9 PM** in The Living World, north side of Zoo.

“Missouri Botanical Garden's Role in the Discovery of Plant-Derived Medicines by Dr. Jim Miller, Applied Research Dept., MBG.”

The Missouri Botanical Garden is home to one of the most active programs in the world for the collection of plants and development of new pharmaceutical, agricultural, or nutritional products. In the last 15 years, more than 40,000 samples have been collected and screened. For example, the US National Cancer Institute has evaluated 15,000 plant samples against 60 different tumor cell lines in an effort to identify new compounds that might be effective at treating cancer.

Wed., Feb. 21, 7:30–9 PM

“Who Will Develop Alzheimer's Disease?” by John C. Morris, M.D.; Harvey and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Professor of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine.

For more information, contact Jim Jordan, Associate Curator of Education, Saint Louis Zoo., 314-781-0900, ext. 340 ~



Next Deadline: Jan. 12

Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or

mccormacka@earthlink.net

need directions?

Busch Wildlife Area

- Take 40 west toward St. Charles Co., left on 94, right on D, follow signs

Des Peres Park

- on Ballas Road, one block north of Manchester Rd. in Des Peres.
- Turn right (east) at the Des Peres Park sign—park in the first lot on the right.

Horseshoe Lk State Park

- Take I-55/70 east to Ill. Hwy 111 exit.
- Turn left onto Hwy 111 and follow road to the entrance of the park on the left.
- Meet at the first parking lot to the right, just past the entrance.

Kohl's

- Take 270 to Olive Blvd. west.
- Kohl's is the NW corner of this intersection.
- Meet at SE corner of parking lot; near highway.

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

- From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Hwy. 367 north to Alton.
- Turn right into Riverlands at the Fisca service station, just before the approach to the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi River. Teal Pond.

2000-2001 WGNSS Board

President: David Rabenau

429 Belleview Avenue
Webster Groves MO 63119-3620
314-968-8128
drabenau@primary.net

1st Vice Pres: Doug Corbett
702 C Overlook Cir. Dr.
Manchester MO 63021
636-861-2829
corbettstl@prodigy.net

2nd Vice Pres: Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin MO 63021
636-825-2842

Treasurer: Randy Korotev
800 Oakbrook Ln.
St. Louis MO 63132
314-993-0055
rik@levee.wustl.edu

Secretary: Jeannie Moe
2419 Mayer
St. Charles MO 63301
636-946-9802

Editor: Anne McCormack
587 Andrews
St. Louis MO 63122-5722
314-965-8091
mccormacka@earthlink.net

Membership: Linda Virga
9734 Antonia Dr.
St. Louis MO 63123
314-544-3313

Ornithology: David Becher
12829 Mariner's Pt Ct.
St. Louis MO 63141
314-576-1146

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

The objectives of the society are: To stimulate interest in nature study on the part of adults and children; to cooperate with other organizations in nature study; to encourage amateur research in the natural sciences; to promote conservation of wildlife and natural beauty. Open to all with an interest in nature.

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Ornithology: Kevin Renick
PO Box 31785
St. Louis MO 63131
314-918-1085

Botany: Fr. James Sullivan
1607 Ville Maura Lane
Hazelwood MO 63042-1054
314-291-7885

Entomology: Marshall Magner
516 Bacon Ave
Webster Groves MO 63119
314-961-4588


Environmental Education: Dick Coles
11 Hickory Ln.
Eureka MO 63025
636-938-5271

rwcoles@artsci.wustl.edu
Conservation: Yvonne Homeyer
1508 Oriole Ln.
St. Louis MO 63144
314-963-7750
homeyer@postnet.com

Member at Large:
John Molyneaux
7822 Garden Ave.
St. Louis MO 63119
314-961-5181

Member at Large: Mike Flieg
6803 Nashville
St. Louis MO 63139
314-645-3356
gmflieg@aol.com

Member at Large: Vicki Flier
18 Algonquin Wood
St. Louis MO 63122
314-968-9166



The Webster Groves Nature Study Society
requests applications for

The Menke Scholarship for Wildlife Habitat

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

The scholarship is to support (a) field work or (b) attendance at off-campus courses (including short-term internships with the Shaw Arboretum, the Nature Conservancy, or similar organizations) or conferences, with emphasis on improving wildlife habitat in Missouri. Students in Missouri colleges or universities are eligible if majoring in areas related to wildlife habitat. Such areas include but are not limited to natural history, environmental education, ecological research or management, natural horticulture, fisheries and wildlife, forestry, conservation, etc.

The amount to be awarded will be up to \$1,000 or more per student, for the year commencing June 1. It will be made to the applicant's institution, which shall monitor the award without receiving any overhead.


Applicants should submit the following materials to the review committee:

1. A description of the nature and location of the proposed field work, course, short-term internship, or conference. Use language understandable to non-technical reviewers. For field work, review the goals and, where relevant, hypotheses to be tested. If some of the field data will be further analyzed in the laboratory, indicate the extent of this analysis. For a course, internship, or conference, indicate how it will supplement your school's courses.
2. A budget for the expected costs. For auto mileage, use your institution's official rate. Air travel must be coach, tourist, or similar class. Itemize any tuition or registration, or living expenses such as food and room (not per diem). Exclude personal expenses. Itemize scientific supplies in general categories, but exclude equipment costs. Expenses above the award limit are the responsibility of the awardee.
3. Three letters of recommendation submitted from current or former faculty. One must be from your advisor and specify (a) that you are a bona fide student currently registered for a B.A., B.S., M.S., or Ph.D. degree, (b) that your expenses are not already covered by existing funds, and (c) that the award would truly enhance your work.
4. A curriculum vitae or brief statement of your academic career, including past education and degrees, the institutions and dates; a terse summary of related formal courses, plus grades; conservation activities, etc. Transcripts are not needed.

Submit seven (7) copies of your application by 15 February to:

The Menke Scholarship for Wildlife Habitat
Webster Groves Nature Study Society
c/o Dr. Richard Coles
220 Hickory Lane
Eureka, MO 63025-3137

Recipients will be notified by April 1 (the funds will be available June 1); you should submit a brief written report within a year of receiving the funds; and you shall acknowledge the scholarship in any resulting published material. You will also be invited to the annual dinner meeting of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society.



By Fax to: (314) 331-8741 or by E-mail to:
mike.ricketts@mvs02.usace.army.mil

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-CO-F (Michael Ricketts)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Mo. 63103-2833

Re: Public Notice P-2259/Holnam Cement Plant/Section 404 Permit Request

Dear Mr. Ricketts:

Thank you for extending the public comment period to January 6, 2001.

I have concerns about the environmental impact that the proposed Holnam cement plant, 2000-acre open-pit quarry, harbor and in-river barge fleetings will have on habitat, wildlife, air quality, water quality, and public health. I understand that the proposed cement kiln would be one of the largest in the United States. For these reasons, explained below, I am asking the Corps to do two things: 1) Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, and 2) Hold public hearings in Missouri and Illinois to allow the public to address environmental and public health concerns.

The 4,000-acre site upon which the proposed project is to be built is remote and undeveloped. Because habitat is rapidly disappearing, and because so much forest is being fragmented by roads and agriculture, this tract of land is unique, especially because it is so close to a metropolitan area. Only one gravel road runs through the entire tract. The site is primarily wooded. The forest remains intact and is not fragmented by roads or fields. The property also contains wetlands, glades, ravines, hollows, riverbrakes, streams, springs and seeps, and Isle du Bois Creek crosses it on its way to the Mississippi River. Wolf Hollow makes up 600 acres of the entire site and it is located right in the middle of the proposed 2000-acre quarry. Wolf Hollow is a natural heritage resource of regional and statewide significance. The entire property provides much-needed habitat for birds, bats, fish, mussels, wildflowers, salamanders, butterflies, and mammals.

Directly across from the bluff where the proposed cement plant would be built is Beagles Island (Illinois), where there is an active heronry/rookery. The site of this proposed project is located within the range of 5 endangered species (Least Tern, Peregrine Falcon, Pallid Sturgeon, Indiana bat and Gray bat) and one threatened species (Bald Eagle). The Indiana bat uses two kinds of habitat - in the winter it uses caves, and in the summer it uses trees. The large wooded expanse is also suitable for Cerulean Warbler, a migratory songbird that nests in mature trees near water. The Cerulean Warbler, once a candidate for classification as Endangered, is quietly disappearing. It is on the Audubon Society's Watch List and is the subject of a study by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology called the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project. WGNSS is involved in the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project and one of our WGNSS members is the liaison for the project in the St. Louis area.

continued on reverse

The proposed project would destroy many acres of wetlands (half of Lee Island and its wetlands would be dug out to create the harbor) and other wetlands would be severely damaged. Isle du Bois Creek is likely to be contaminated with silt and sedimentation, as Holnam plans to carry dirt and rock from the quarry across the creek to fill areas on the other side. The cement kiln is to be built adjacent to Isle du Bois Creek. In addition, prehistoric Native American Indian sites have been identified on the property, and the cultural impact of the project needs to be evaluated.

An Environmental Impact Statement is needed to assess the cumulative impact of the project on the environment as a whole, as well as its impact on individual species and their habitat. The Public Notice states that the operation of the quarry and cement plant would go on for more than 100 years. The impact of this project on the environment would be substantial and irreversible. Only an in-depth study could address all the relevant environmental issues and assess their probable impacts.

An Environmental Impact Statement is also needed to examine the impact that this proposed cement kiln and quarry would have on air quality and public health. Cement kilns emit various pollutants in significant quantities. The EPA has already classified St. Louis as an ozone non-attainment area because our air quality does not meet the EPA's health-based standards. The proposed cement kiln would be constructed just outside of the ozone non-attainment region, possibly subject to less stringent standards yet contributing to pollution throughout the area.

A public hearing is essential to allow the public to address these and other concerns, some of which were not mentioned in the Public Notice. Because so many areas would be affected, there should be hearings in both Missouri and Illinois. I am requesting that the Corps schedule well-publicized hearings after the close of public comment.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Meetings

Wednesday Jan. 3

7:00 PM Board meeting at David Rabenau's, 429 Belleview Avenue, Webster Groves, 314-968-8128. All members are welcome.

Sunday Jan. 12

8 PM Doug Corbett will present slides from birding trips to southeast Arizona. Please be advised that the weather may be nasty, so if it is please stay home. We meet in the Auditorium at County Library on Lindbergh.

Botany

Thursdays Jan.-Feb.

Beginners welcome. Bring lunch, weather gear. Field trips usually meet 9:30 AM. Trip is usually 3-5 hr. plus travel time. Call Fr. Sullivan: 291-7885 after 1 PM Wed for location. An e-mail message is sent every Wed. advising when and where the field trip is scheduled. If you would like to receive it, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris at jahar@stlnet.com

Conservation

Contact Yvonne Homeyer (314-963-7750; homeyer@postnet.com) for date of next meeting.

Entomology

Sunday January 23

7 PM MO Dept. of Conservation biologist, Janet Sternburg, will ask for our ideas in developing methods for a survey in Missouri to determine the status of rare, endangered and threatened species of *Lepidoptera*; butterflies and moths.

Nature Notes deadline Jan. 12

visit: www.wgnss.org

Birding

Thursdays Dec.-Feb.

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas Road, one block north of Manchester Rd. Turn right (east) at the Des Peres Park sign-park in the first lot on the right. Any questions, call Dottie Herweg: 314-699-2274. No trip on Thanksgiving.

Saturday Dec. 30

Busch Wildlife Area Xmas Count. Meet at headquarters at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch. Tom Parmeter 921-6017, home or 837-1360, work. \$5 fee.

Saturday Dec. 30

Mingo NWR, Puxico Mo. Christmas Bird Count. Notify : Bill Reeves by Dec. 23: 573-760-8810 work, 573-756-2994 home. \$5 fee.

Monday Jan. 1

Orchard Farm Xmas Count. Contact Randy Korotev at 314-993-0055 or rlk@levee.wustl.edu. Randy will be out of town from about from about Dec. 20 through 28, so please contact him before Dec. 20. \$5 fee.

Saturdays Jan. 13 & Feb. 10

8 AM "Where the Birds Are." Meet at SE corner of Kohl's parking lot, Olive & 270. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Sunday Jan. 13

1:00 PM St. L. Audubon/WGNSS at Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Call Jim Malone at 636-536-1119 or stlaud@inlink.com for more info.

Saturdays Jan. 27 & Feb. 24

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Sunday Jan. 28

9:00 AM St. L. Audubon/WGNSS at Horseshoe Lk., Hwy. 111. Meet at shelter parking lot. Call Jim Malone at 636-536-1119 for more info.

Sunday Feb. 10

9:00 AM St. L. A/WGNSS at Baldwin Lake.

Join WGNSS Send \$15 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132



Webster Groves
 Nature Study Society
 PO Box 190065
 St. Louis MO 63119

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Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ e-mail _____ fax (_____) _____

Membership categories (circle one):

- Individual or Family:\$15
 - for 1st class mail add \$5
 - Student\$5
 - Life\$300
- (lump sum or equal payments over 5 yrs.)*

Please make check payable to: Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Please mail this form with check to: Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132