



# Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line (314) 935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings  
Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, January 2006, Vol. 78, No. 1

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Yvonne Homeyer

**HOLIDAY PARTY** - Margy Terpstra and her committee did a wonderful job of coordinating a delightful party at the Green Center. The door prizes (24, all donated) were amazing--two hand-carved pins by Michael van Houzen, hand-made wreaths by Barb Troutman at Shaw Nature Reserve, original notecards by Jim Rathert, Margy Terpstra, and Jim Ziebol, gift certificates to the Cheshire Inn by Pat Lueders, a copy of WGNSS's own book, "Birds of the St. Louis Area: Where and When to Find Them", a bird wind-chime from Dave Pierce of Wild Bird Center, seed wreaths from Danna and Bob Stephens of Wild Birds Unlimited, photographs by Rick Walters, and much, much more. We appreciate the generosity of the donors.

**ORNITHOLOGY ACTIVITIES** - Jim Ziebol, our new co-Chair of Ornithology, has resumed our Sunday bird walks, which will be led by a variety of experienced WGNSS birders. These Sunday field trips are in addition to those led on Saturday by David Becher, who also serves as the Ornithology chair, and to those led on Thursday by Jackie Chain. So on most weeks we will be offering THREE bird walks! In addition, Jim Ziebol is planning several ornithology meetings/programs, kicking off with his video "Hawks in Flight" in February. Be sure to check the Calendar for the dates, times and locations of all these field outings and indoor activities. If you're interested in birding, there will always be something to do this winter!

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** Of the 5 officer positions that are voted on by members, three are coming open this spring: President, 1st Vice-President, and 2nd Vice President. I have selected a Nominating Committee composed of Jack Harris (Cont'd, p. 2, col. 1)

## BRAD JACOBS OF MDC TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL WGNSS-ST. LOUIS AUDOBON JOINT MEETING ON F-E-B-R-U-A-R-Y 17

Brad Jacobs, biologist for the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, is the author of the beautiful "Birds of Missouri", published in 2002. He has just returned from a conference of the Mesoamerica Society for Conservation and Biology Congress in La Ceiba, Honduras, and he will discuss bird conservation and cooperation between conservationists in North and Central America. Brad has provided a summary of the program, which follows.

"Every year about 448 bird species migrate from the United States and Canada to Latin America and the Caribbean Islands. For these long-distance migrants, U.S.-based land management and conservation efforts focus on their breeding habitat needs, which they occupy for only about four months each year. In contrast, these 448 species spend about eight months of the year in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, with some even migrating far into South America. The wintering region with the highest concentrations of species of Missouri breeding birds is located between Mexico and Panama, an area about one-eighth the size of the breeding ground for the same species. Simply stated, one acre of bird conservation on the wintering ground is equal to eight acres of conservation on the breeding ground. It is also much less expensive to manage habitat on the wintering ground. Survivorship is important in the winter--bird's surviving the non-breeding season hazards translates to more breeding birds in Missouri".

We will meet at the Creve Coeur Community Center on Ballas at Creve Coeur City Hall, between (Cont'd, p. 2, col. 2)



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont'd)**

(chairperson), Jim Ziebol and myself to put together a slate of candidates for the April elections.

In May I will have completed my second two-year term as President and it is time to turn this job over to a new leader. The Nominating Committee has already identified a well-qualified candidate for president who has volunteered to serve if elected. Dr. David Mendelson is our current 1st Vice President in charge of program and Margy Terpstra is presently serving as our 2nd Vice President in charge of special events (holiday party, May banquet.) If anyone is interested in joining the Board to fill either of these important positions, please contact Jack Harris, Chairperson (314-368-0655), Yvonne Homeyer (314-963-7750) or Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372)

Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year.

## **THE PARTY'S OVER - Margy Terpstra**

But, a GREAT time was had by all! Fifty-five+ people attended the Holiday Party on Dec. 4th at the Green Center in University City. As always, members of both Audubon and WGNSS were very generous with their time and energy to make it happen in a special way. The food was terrific, the camaraderie so pleasant. A very big thank you to Tina Weyman, Ann Earley, Dency Kahn and Phyllis Oakes, my committee, for coming up with great ideas and making it happen. Special thanks to Dan Terpstra and Bob Siemer for helping to set up and take down. Also, to Pat McCormick, Mike Grant and Sue Gustafson, a special thank you for staying to clean up. Our special 'drawing' at this event meant that many appreciative members went home with very nice items to enjoy or give as gifts. Thank you so much to those who donated beautiful things: Photographers Jim Rathert, Rick Walters, and myself; Artists: Jim Ziebol, Dale E. Ponce and Michael Van Houzen; Retailers: Dave Pierce of the Wild Bird Center, Danna and Bob Stephens of Wild Birds Unlimited; Pat Lueders for the Cheshire Inn; Shaw Nature Reserve Staff Educator: Barb Troutman. (Ed. Note: Betty and I enjoyed the fireplace fire created with massed lighted votive candles; our compliments to the Green Center!)

## **BRAD JACOBS TO SPEAK (Cont'd)**

Olive and Ladue Roads, at 300 N. New Ballas. It is located on the east side of Ballas, across the street from the post office. This building is the former Weber School. We meet at 7:30 PM, FRIDAY, Feb. 17, 2006. (No WGNSS general meeting is scheduled for January because the weather on the first Thursday of this month is so often nasty. If the weather is nasty on Feb. 17, call the Creve Coeur City hall to see if the meeting has been canceled before starting out. Call 314-432-6000.)

## **REPORT ON DEC. 7 BOARD MEETING - Editor**

Several important issues were discussed. The first agenda item was a review of a draft of a WGNSS policy covering announcements/advertisements in Nature Notes, prepared by George Yatskievych. Anne McCormack briefed the Board on past practice/precedents. Several comments were made by Board members. George will incorporate Board suggestions and send to the Secretary for transmittal to Board members prior to the Jan. 4 Board meeting.

A list of possible candidates for the WGNSS 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award was reviewed. Yvonne announced that she would appoint a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of officers for presentation at the annual business meeting in April.

The Membership Committee reported that contacts with delinquent members are going well. Most of those who have been contacted to date by the Committee have indicated an intent to renew.

Adams reported completion of his Nature Notes Indexing project. Indexes for the first forty annual volumes (1919-60) have been sent to the webmaster for website addition. (See Historian's Corner)

Homeyer/Adams have initiated genealogical searches on the Satterthwait and O'Byrne families, important WGNSS pioneers. Only limited information on these individuals and their families is presently available.

Advance schedules for Group activities are in excellent shape. Interesting new Sunday bird walks are being scheduled by Ziebol. The Entomology group is flourishing. Good monthly bird and botany reports are being received.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**1. St. Louis Zoo/Academy of Science of St. Louis**

Wednesday, January 18, 7:30-9 PM

Preventive Molecular Medicine is Here - Dr. David Moskowitz, Chairman, CEO and Chief Medical Officer, GenoMed Inc. Come and hear how this St. Louis-based biotech company is working to turn medical genomics into clinical practice. Free admission. Held in the Living World, North side of the zoo. Free parking in the north lots.

Wednesday, February 15, 7:30-9 PM

Was Einstein Right? - Dr. Clifford Will, Physics Dept., Washington University. Physicist and renowned Einstein expert, Dr. Will explores how the most celebrated scientific theory of the 20th century has held up under the exacting scrutiny of planetary probes, radio telescopes and atomic clocks. Dr. Will relates the story of testing relativity, from the 1919 measurements of the bending of light to the 1980's measurements of a decaying double-neutron star system that reveal the action of gravity waves, to a 2005 space experiment to test whether space-time "does the twist":

**2. The Green Center**

The Green Center, a not-for-profit arts and environmental organization in University City, Mo., is looking for an Executive Director to provide leadership and direction to a small staff. See our web-site ([www.TheGreenCenter.org](http://www.TheGreenCenter.org)) for a complete job description. Send a letter and resume to the Green Center, Attn. Jane Schaefer, 8025 Blackberry Ave., University City, Mo.

**3. The Green Center**

The Green Center is looking for a part-time Coordinator for volunteers who can begin work in January, 2006. The person hired will set up a formal volunteer program at the Green Center. The person hired for this 20 hour/week job will be paid on an hourly basis. The schedule is flexible. Send applications to the address above or E-mail (Cont'd in Col. 2)

applications may be sent to:  
[info@thegreencenter.org](mailto:info@thegreencenter.org)

**3. Trailnet**

Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14-15, 2005, 9 AM to 3 PM. An eagle education program is repeated every half hour. Viewing scopes on the bridge permit close-ups of eagles. The program also includes Lewis and Clark re-enactors and a dugout canoe and crew from the Mo. Dept. of Conservation to give visitors a glimpse of life during the explorer's time. Free parking is available at the Missouri Tourist Information Center, Riverview Drive and I-270 and the North Riverfront Park. A free shuttle is available from both locations. Sponsors: MDC, IDNR, and Trailnet.

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**WHAT'S AHEAD?**

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- Feb. 17 - Joint meeting with St. Louis Audubon to hear Brad Jacobs
- Feb. 27 - "Hawks in Flight at Machacek Library with Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer
- Mar. 2 - WGNSS Gen. Meeting with NABA
- Apr. 6 - WGNSS Gen. Meeting/Officer Election
- May 13 - Birding Big Day
- May - WGNSS Annual Banquet, date t.b.a.

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**JANUARY DATES**

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- WGNSS Board Meeting - 7 PM, Jan. 4, Conf. Room, 15th Floor, University Club Tower
- NO GENERAL MEETING
- Entomology Group Meeting - Jan. 22, p. 12
- N.N. Deadline - Jan. 6, p. 20
- Bird/Botany Walks - p. 10-12

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## HISTORIAN'S CORNER – Jim Adams

**Indexing Project** - Since the last issue, I've completed indexing the complete *Nature Notes* file, 1929-present. The indexes for the first 40 annual volumes have been edited and sent to Randy Korotev, our webmaster. It is planned to add these indexes to the WGNSS website ([www.WGNSS.org](http://www.WGNSS.org)) so that members can have ready access to them. A bound index volume covering 1929-2005 will be added to the archived file of *Nature Notes* in the Missouri Botanical Garden Library. In the future each bound volume of *Nature Notes* will contain an index.

**Dr. Brandhorst Speech** - One of the last two very early members of WGNSS, Dr. William (Bill) Brandhorst, died in 2005. (The other surviving very early member, Marshall Magner, also died in 2005.) Dr. Brandhorst spoke at the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, and the text of his remarks is reproduced here for the record. In 1995 Dr. Brandhorst was about 79 years old. Brandhorst's surviving wife, Emilie, graciously provided a copy of his remarks, which were put in writing for presentation. It's a historical gem in my opinion.

### WGNS IN THE EARLY YEARS – Bill Brandhorst

A neighbor, knowing I had a butterfly net, paid me 10 cents for every cabbage butterfly I caught in her garden. I was about 10 years old then. My father and mother, having joined the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, found out about the Society's insect collecting contests for young people. I entered and received a prize and another one the next year, 1929. Marshall Magner, George Furse, Jack Neavles and Don and Bob Berkemeyer were involved in the contests. I was 12 then.

I was in King Barnett's first science class when he came to Webster Groves High School. I introduced him to WGNS. A few years before thru the Schwarz Taxidermy Studio, I had become aware that there were Cecropia moth cocoons all over south St. Louis. King and I went there one Saturday and brought back dozens of cocoons. He let his hatch in the classroom. Later, he joined with Stuart O'Byrne in building one of Stu's planetariums in his science classroom. When King became principal of Clark School, he took the little museum with him, where it remained after he retired until a short time ago when it was destroyed by bursting steam pipes. At the time of this writing Stu and King are in good health but are going in for minor surgery for the same problem one day apart a thousand miles away from each other.

Later, about college time for me, there was a WGNS meeting on a warm sunny afternoon in Marshall Magner's yard. Dr. Satterthwait was there. He asked Marshall if he was going into entomology. He showed great delight when Marshall said yes. Then he turned to me. By that time I knew I was more attracted to an insect's appearance, particularly butterflies, its history, so I told the good Doctor that I knew I was not going to be an entomologist. He was very disappointed. The Satterthwaits were very dear people. They very much influenced my early life and the lives of many others.

In college I minored in geology. Ever since then geology has been in the background for me where ever I travel.

I went on many outings with WGNS. (I have a feeling that Dr. Satterthwait, being a  
(Cont'd, next page)

HISTORIAN'S CORNER – Jim Adams  
(Cont'd from previous page)

very precise man, would not have tolerated our short form “WGNS”). I watched our lodge grow its stone walls. Then the unfortunate happened, our stone mason died. My Dad, who was chairman of the “Lodge Unit”, helped find another mason and complete the financing. He was proud of the lodge. It was well used.

Editor's Note – Bill's father, Dr. Otto W. Brandhorst, was the ninth president of WGNSS (1931-32). For a more complete information about Bill Brandhorst's life, see my articles in the May, 2005 (p. 10) and the August, 2005 (p. 5) issues of *Nature Notes*. See also the “Correction”, p.5, in the Nov. 2005 issue regarding a memorial to Bill erected recently in the Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden at Busch Wildlife. If you refer back to these references, you'll find that Bill Brandhorst maintained a lifelong interest in butterflies. In next month's Historian's Corner I will include a biography of Harold O'Byrne, brother of Stuart, who was, like Marshall Magner, strongly influenced by entomologist Alfred Satterthwait in his career choice.

According to Emilie, Bill served on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and videotaped the entire program. He gave copies to a number of individuals, according to Emilie. If any reader who has a copy would like to donate it to the WGNSS historical archives, I (as Historian), would be most grateful.

**Help Wanted** – In indexing the *Nature Notes* file, I was surprised to find that Stuart O'Byrne, the founder and first editor of *Nature Notes*, a natural history “polymath”, and a person almost unbelievably active in the affairs of WGNSS for many years, suddenly dropped from the WGNSS “radar screen” in the mid-sixties. There is no information in *Nature Notes* that would explain this “disappearance”. If any reader can help fill in the story of Stuart's “post-WGNSS life”, I'd be very grateful. Dr. Brandhorst's reference to Stuart in his 1995 speech indicates that Stuart was alive and well at that time. Give me a call at (314) 961-2494, send me an E-mail, or whatever. We need to fill this gap in the WGNSS historical record.

PLEISTOCENE FLOODWATER PATHS IN THE NORTHWEST AND  
IMPLICATION – Clarence Zacher

It has been proposed recently by Congress to look at the creation of a possible park-like National Geologic Trail following the path of giant scouring floodwaters that flowed through the northwestern United States at the end of the last Ice Age (Pleistocene), about 15,000 years ago.

Scientists speculate that as many as 50 floods deluged an area extending from Missoula, Montana to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Having roamed with a research forester some of Missoula's backcountry in search of lightning-strike scars on the conifer trees in the area, I particularly recall the Clark Fork River (named for the explorer). The Clark Fork is located close to the Idaho-Montana border. This is the locale where  
(Cont'd, next page)

## PLEISTOCENE FLOODWATER PATHS – C. Zacher (Cont'd)

millennia ago continental glaciers backed up the Clark Fork, forming Lake Missoula, a huge freshwater lake. When the natural dams forming the lake failed, vast quantities of water came crashing through to the west, causing a “superflood”.

It's been estimated that approximately 500 cubic miles (!) of water coursed these gorges, carrying huge boulders of miles and carving out ravines and giant waterfalls. Floods occurring in the late Pleistocene would be contemporaneous with the large mammals and other fauna found along these water courses. Opportunistic birds of prey, such as the once wide-ranging (in the west) California Condor and the extinct Teratorns would be eager to take advantage of carcasses of their ice age contemporaries and small fauna (e.g., gulls and their eggs) as well as the placenta and baby animals that accompany the calving seasons. We know today that raptors follow the ice break-up along rivers and lakes. Such mobile fliers, with the advantage of aerial mobility, might easily enter and leave such floodwater scenarios with impunity. For these raptors, the floods would be no disaster but a blessing.

## TRIBUTE TO CARL DARIGO – Father Jim Sullivan

We are most grateful for the 14 years Carl Darigo kept us up on the exploits of the weekly botany group. When he reported on mosses, lichens, and fungi, and often on sedges and grasses, the research was strictly his own. When necessary he confirmed his discoveries with professional botanists. Carl wrote very pleasing accounts, even though he couldn't always walk with us on sloping trails. Thank you very much Carl!

We are delighted that George Van Brunt has begun to report for us!

(Ed. Note – For a Carl Darigo contribution to the botanical literature (with Nels Holmberg), see Item 1 of “Publications by Members”, p. 2 of the December 2005 issue of *Nature Notes*. And Carl's at least a “double-threat” WGNSS member. He's been a long time member of the *Nature Notes* Mailing Team! Thanks also, Carl, from Marjorie Richardson and me. – JFA).

## NOVEMBER BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: If you want your sightings included in the report, please email Yvonne Homeyer at [homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net), or call Jim Ziebol at 314.781.7372. Since we started doing the report, several people have been kind enough to submit regular monthly reports. We don't always have access to MoBirds so please let us know directly as well. Sometimes it becomes difficult to include every sighting because of the quantity of reports received.

The bird of the month was a female Chaffinch found by Wally George at his Cedar Hill home. The bird was in excellent plumage with no sign of excessive feather wear associated with cages, and the bird was not banded. Unfortunately, the exact origin of this bird will be very difficult to ascertain. Sadly, the bird may have fallen victim to a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the afternoon of Nov. 28. It has not been seen since.

**NOVEMBER BIRD REPORT** - Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer  
(Cont'd from previous page)

Sightings: Two rare loons were reported in November: a Red-throated Loon on 11/17 at Carlyle Lake (JE) and a Pacific Loon on 11/18 at Creve Coeur Lake (CM). Six Common Loons were seen at Creve Coeur Lake on 11/7 (JS) and 4 were still present on 11/8 (JC, RAB). Sixteen Horned Grebes, 4 Common Loons, 10 Hooded Mergansers and 5 Buffleheads were observed at HL on 11/20 (FH, SM, JZ). On 11/17, Dave Rogles located an Eared Grebe among a large flock of Horned Grebes at REDA, and another Eared Grebe was seen at Creve Coeur Lake on 11/29 (JE). A Least Bittern found on 11/29 at Heron Pond, REDA, was probably a record late date (DR). Great Egrets were found in FP on 11/19 (CZ) and on 11/21 (SM). Six Great Egrets were seen on Route 3 on 11/28 (FH). Four Trumpeter Swans returned to REDA on 11/9 (JU). Tundra Swans were reported from REDA on 11/20 (JM, KP) and on 11/21 (BB). On 11/3, the Thursday Group found Snow Geese, 2 Ross's Geese, a few Greater White-fronted Geese and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Baldwin Lake (J Chain). The Barkers located a Ross's there on 11/5. Green-winged Teal numbered about 150 at HL on 11/6 (FH, SM, JZ). On 11/1, Frank Holmes estimated 1,500 Gadwall at HL and by 11/5, Mike Thelen estimated 4,000. Mike also found a first-year Black-crowned Night Heron on 11/5 at HL. Charlene Malone reported 2 Black Scoters at Winfield Dam on 11/9. A female Oldsquaw was found at REDA on 11/16 (DR). The Thursday Group reported the following ducks at REDA on 11/12: Mallard, Shoveler, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Common Goldeneye. The Saturday Group on 11/12 found Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, Snipe and Killdeer at the marsh on Hwy. 143 (DB). On 11/30, Frank Holmes found 2 Least Sandpipers, 10 Snipe, and 12 Killdeer at the same marsh. Rheba Symeonoglou saw a Woodcock in the fallen leaves in her City backyard on 11/14. On 11/19, a Snipe was seen in FP (CZ). Ten Franklin's Gulls were seen along Layton Road at HL on 11/8 (FH, SM, JZ). One hundred + Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at HL on 11/13 (FH). A second-winter Herring Gull, first seen at CL on 11/13, was much discussed by the birders present (BR). A possible Long-billed Murrelet was seen at CL on 11/12 (DK) but it was not re-found.

Mike Thelen reported a Sharp-shinned Hawk at HL on 11/5. On 11/20, a Sharpie, a Cooper's, and Red-shouldered Hawk were found along Bend Road, HL (FH, SM, JZ). Bill Rowe found a Harlan's Hawk at Cuivre Island CA on 11/15, and on 11/27, the Harlan's that has wintered along Sand Prairie Lane for several years has returned (FH). On 11/9 at REDA, Josh Uffman found 3 Peregrine's Falcons and on 11/12, the Saturday Group found one at Heron Pond, REDA (J Chain). A Short-eared Owl was observed at REDA in late November (DR). A flock of 55 Crows was seen in St. Louis County on 11/9 (Margy T). The number of Crows and Bluejays counted on the Busch Bird Survey in June indicate that these species are recovering from the decline in population several years ago due to West Nile Virus. A Phoebe, along with 6 Sapsuckers, were seen at BCA on 11/19 (MT). On 11/3, Jean Cook found a Loggerhead Shrike for the Thursday Group  
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**NOVEMBER BIRD REPORT** – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer  
(Cont'd from previous page)

at Peabody Coal. On 11/6, Jeannie Moe heard a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Lindenwood College. Clarence Zacher reported a Carolina Wren in FP on 11/5. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at LCCL on 11/19 (MT). On 11/7, Jeannie Moe reported about 20 Cedar Waxwings and a Rufous-sided Towhee at the Katy Trail. A cold front passing through on 11/4 moved a large number of Savannah Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows out of our area to the south, but 2 LeConte's and 4 Savannahs remained near the Borrow Pit on 11/20 (FH, JZ). On 11/8, Kent Lannert reported a LeConte's at REDA. Torrey Berger found a flock of about 50 Lapland Longspurs on Confluence Road on 11/16. Bill Rowe found 2 Pipits and 6 W. Meadowlarks at the Keeteman Rd. sod farm on 11/15. Sue Schoening found a female Yellow-headed Blackbird for the Thursday Group at Brier Island Stables on 11/10. On 11/15, large numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds and Red-wings were found in Lincoln County, and about 50 Great-tailed Grackles and one Rusty Blackbird were seen at Brier Island Stables (BR). On 11/10, the Barkers found a Rusty Blackbird on Confluence Road and on 11/27, Frank Holmes found one on Bruns Road. Two Great-tailed Grackles and 30 Rusty Blackbirds were seen at the intersection of Church and Dwyer Roads on 11/20 (JM, KP). On 11/17, the Thursday Group found good numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds, 2 Lapland Longspurs and a small flock of Pipits in Lincoln County (J Chain). Dave Rogles found a Snow Bunting at REDA on 11/27 and had seen one earlier in the month on Confluence Road.

A typical day for the Thursday Group on 11/10 included Common Loons, Bonaparte's Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Ruddy Ducks, 7 Hooded Mergansers, several Scaup, Mallards, and Gadwalls at Creve Coeur Lake; an American Pipit at Keeteman Road sod farm; Red-tailed Hawk and Bald Eagle on Hwy. 79; several Great Egrets and a Great Blue Heron where the slough meets the river; a treeful of Brewer's Blackbirds on Big Box Road; Snipe, Dowitchers, Dunlin and Least Sandpipers behind Fowl Play; and a Yellow-headed Blackbird and 2 Great-tailed Grackles at the Brier Island Stables. Dennis Jacobsen, who was present with the Thursday Group, noted of some swans seen at Riverlands, "Viewing those birds in water that reflected a pink sky, watching them form a feeding circle with their heads under water while a variety of ducks paraded around them was sublime. Include a scene where a Great Blue Heron gently moved three swans out of his feeding area by slowly taking a step toward them while making two gentle pecks at the water. He repeated this behavior four or five times before the swans got the message and moved."

**Backyard Birds:** Margy Terpstra reported that her resident Great Horned Owls fledged two young this year. Bonnie Grant found a female Towhee in her yard. On 11/16, Margy observed a Krider's Hawk near her Kirkwood home. Connie Alwood had a Sharp-shinned in his Ferguson yard on 11/23 and heard a Great Horned Owl on 11/29. Connie commented on how good the habitat is at Wally George's yard in Cedar Hill, with sightings of Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Siskins, House Finch, White-throated Sparrows, Chaffinch, and a Hermit Thrush on 11/28. Phyllis and Tom Miller saw what  
(Cont'd next page)



## WGNSS MEMBERS LEAD SE BRAZIL TOUR (AUGUST 5-14, 2006)

WGNSS members Dale & Nancy Delaney (Delaney EcoTours, Ltd) will be leading a birding tour to the Atlantic rainforest of SE Brazil as noted. Three WGNSS friends have already registered for the tour, along with three others. Since the tour is limited to 10 participants, only 4 spaces are left.

On the first part of the tour, we will search for lowland Atlantic rainforest species in the scenic *Ubatuba* coastal area. One night will be spent in a top-notch lodge on a rainforest-covered peninsula and two nights in an upscale resort with rainforest right on the grounds. On the second part of the tour, we'll search for higher elevation Atlantic rainforest ("cloud" forest) specialties in the mountainous region in and around *Itatiaia* National Park. We'll spend two nights in a luxurious "mile-high" lodge and two nights inside the park at a hotel surrounded by lush "cloud" forest.

We'll be up by dawn each morning and our walks will be conducted at a comfortable pace. Throughout the tour, walking conditions will be relatively easy for physically fit participants of all ages. On most days, we'll have an afternoon break followed by a late afternoon excursion. We are *not* planning to do any birding after dark. On most evenings, there will be a checklist session after dinner.

In August, temperatures can vary from 65 to 80 degrees in the coastal region and 40 to 80 degrees in the mountains, although temperatures may occasionally drop to the freezing mark. Rain can occur at any time.

You'll see many fantastic birds, including several species of dazzling hummingbirds and tanagers coming to feeders at various locales along the tour route. There also will be great birding on the grounds of our accommodations. You'll ride in comfortable vehicles with Dale, Nancy and a bilingual escort as your guides. If you'd like to join the tour or want more information, please e-mail us at [delaneyd8@earthlink.net](mailto:delaneyd8@earthlink.net) or call us at (636) 230-9675. Obrigado!

### NOVEMBER BIRD REPORT - Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer (Cont'd from previous page)

appeared to be an albino Red-headed Woodpecker at Clarence Cannon in late October.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Bob Bailey, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Jack Cowan, Joe Eades, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dennis Jacobson, Les Jenkins, Pat Lueders, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Mark Mittelman, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, David Rogles, Eric Schuette, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Clarence Zacher, and Jim Ziebol. An asterisk means "documented". Please submit sightings by the last day of the month to Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or Yvonne Homeyer ([homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net)).

Abbreviations: Busch Conservation/Wildlife Area, BCA; Carlyle Lake, CL; Clarence Cannon, CC; Forest Park, FP; Horseshoe Lake, HL; Little Creve Coeur Lake, LCCL, Lost Valley Trail, LVT; Marais Temps Clair, MTC; Riverlands, REDA; Shaw Nature Reserve, SNR; Tower Grove Park, TGP; World Bird Sanctuary, WBS.

Webster Groves Nature Study Society  
**GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES**  
 January 2006 Update

**Ornithology – SATURDAY Bird Walks – David Becher (314-576-1146)**  
**(If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
<b>Jan. 14, 2006</b>	North side of County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh (just south of Hwy. 40)	8 AM	Becher
<b>Jan. 28</b>	Teal Pond Parking Lot Riverlands.	8 AM	Becher
(From I-270 go north on Rte. 367 towards Alton. Cross Missouri River bridge. Turn right into Riverlands at gasoline station just before bridge over Mississippi River)			
<b>Feb. 11</b>	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
<b>Feb. 25</b>	Teal Pond Parking Lot	8 AM	Becher
<b>Mar. 11</b>	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
<b>Mar. 18</b>	Teal Pond Parking Lot	8 AM	Becher
<b>Mar. 25</b>	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
<b>Apr. 1</b>	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
<b>Apr. 8</b>	Hampton Lake, Busch Wildlife	8 AM	Becher
(Exit from US 40 at first exit- Rte. 94- after crossing Missouri River and follow signs)			
<b>Apr. 15</b>	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
<b>Apr. 22</b>	Tower Grove Park	8 AM	Becher
(Take Kingshighway south from US 40, left on Magnolia, first right to enter park, then right past tennis courts and stable to first picnic area on right.)			
<b>Apr. 29</b>	Castlewood State Park	8 AM	Becher
(From Manchester Rd. go south on New Ballwin Rd. to Kiefer Creek Rd. and follow signs east to park. Meet near boat launch)			
<b>May 6</b>	Weldon Springs Wildlife Area, Lost Valley Hiking Trail	8 AM	Becher
(Rte. D in St. Charles Co. west of Busch Wildlife Area)			
<b>May 13</b>	WGNSS Birding, Big Day	8 AM	Becher
<b>May 20</b>	Gray's Summit Arboretum	8 AM	Becher
(From St. Louis take I-44 west to Gray's Summit exit. Turn left across highway. Turn right onto service road and immediately left into Arboretum. Meet at entrance to Brush Creek Trail)			
<b>May 27</b>	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher

**Ornithology – Thursday Bird Walks – Jackie Chain – Leader (314-644-5998)**

Meeting time is 8:30 AM on Thursdays at Des Peres Park. Call Jackie for more information. See **Need Directions?** for directions to the park.

## Ornithology – Sunday Bird Walks

Note: New Birders are cautioned to dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**Jan. 29, 2006** McDonalds in Carylyle, Ill. 8 AM\* Bill Rowe  
(for Carlyle Lake Walk)

\*8 AM departure time. If you want breakfast, arrive by 7:30 AM. Lunch will be at McDonalds or some other restaurant, not in the field. Walk will continue in the afternoon, but those wishing to depart earlier may do so. For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372.

**Feb. 12, 2006** Riverlands Hdqtrs. 8 AM M. Thelen  
For a more information, call Mike Thelen at 314-862-6642

**Feb. 26, 2006** Baldwin Lake 8 AM K. Lannert  
Directions: From the Poplar Street Bridge follow I-64 east to I-255. Take I-255 south to Il. Route 15. Take 15 east to Freeburg. At far end of Freeburg 15 turns right. **Do not** turn but continue straight ahead on route 13 towards New Athens. About 1.5-2 miles after crossing the Kaskaskia River turn right onto the Baldwin Rd. This is the second road to the right after the bridge. After about 5-6 miles turn right on Risdon School Rd. The berm of Baldwin Lake will be on your left. Proceed about 1 mile and turn in at the entrance gate. Follow the road for about a half mile until it runs into the boat ramp parking lot. This is not the first parking lot by the entrance. If you have questions, call Jim Ziebol (314) 781-7372)

**March 5, 2006** Busch Wildlife C. A. 8 AM Bailey  
& Garcia

For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

**March 12, 2006** Horseshoe Lake Causeway 8 AM Ziebol  
& Holmes

For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372 or Frank Holmes at (618) 451-2127.

**March 26, 2006** Riverlands E.D.A. 8 AM T. Berger  
Meet at the Headquarters. For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

**April 30, 2006** Tower Grove Park 8 AM Bailey  
(Gaddy Bird Garden) & Garcia

For Information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

## Ornithology Special Meeting

**Monday, February 27 – 7 PM** at the Machacek Library, 6424 Scanlan, St. Louis.  
Program: “Hawks in Flight”, a video presented by Yvonne Homeyer and Jim Ziebol. Mark Peters, former Missouri Hawkwatch Coordinator, has viewed the video and was impressed. The public is invited. The library is at Watson and Scanlan between Arsenal and Fyler. The library itself is unusual because it’s underground. The library’s telephone number is (314) 2948.

**(Birders, don’t over look special message, top of following page!)**

## **BIRDERS – COMPILE AND REPORT YOUR 2005 LIST TOTALS FOR PUBLICATION IN NATURE NOTES**

**Botany Walks – Jeannie Moe – Co-Chair , Leader (636-946-9802)  
George Yatskievych – Co-Chair (314-577-9522) – Work Phone**

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

**Entomology Group Activities – Rich Thoma, Chair (314-965-6744)**

**Sunday, January 22, 2006** - "The Biology of Braconid Wasps and a Look at a Newly Discovered Lineage" will be presented by St. Louis University professor and taxonomist, Joe Fortier. The meeting will be held at the home of George Winkler, 10 Covington Lane, St. Louis 63132. Tel. (314) 993-1652

**Sunday, February 26, 2006** – "Rare Butterflies of Southwestern Missouri Prairies" will be presented by Phil Koenig, an active WGNSS member and considered to be one of St. Louis' premier Butterfly experts. This meeting will be held at Phil's home. Directions will be given in next month's *Nature Notes*..



**LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!**

## NATURE NOTES MAILING PARTY LUNCHEON

At the November Board Meeting Mike Flieg recommended that the Nature Notes Mailing Party be recognized in some manner for its faithful service in preparing monthly issues for mailing, a sizeable job since about 400 issues are mailed each month. He recommended a luncheon. His suggestion was enthusiastically endorsed by the Board. Not one to let grass grow under her feet, Marjorie quickly scheduled a luncheon at a nearby Sweet Tomatoes restaurant. As member of the Mailing Party, I was privileged to along, with Betty. Not all of the mailing party were able to attend, but those who did dug in with gusto. I saw one member (who shall be nameless) pile her plate high three times. (This is an all you can eat place.)

Members of the mailing party (during the past year) have included: Betty Adams, Jim Adams, Rose Ann Bodman, Jackie Chain, Missy Chouteau, Jean Cook, Cal Darigo, Pat Diener, Barbara Elftman, Vivian Liddell, John Loomis, Pat McCormick, Ginnie Young, and (of course), Marjorie Richardson. I attend the mailing parties so that I can have face to face contact with Marjorie and/or help out if questions arise. I've been impressed with the efficiency of the group. It's no small job to handle such a large mailing. And Marjorie has given me some valuable suggestions concerning format, which were very much appreciated. - Jim Adams

### **BIRDS & BIRDS: A Nexus in Texas (part 3)**

By Ted C. MacRae & Christopher R. Brown

...continued from the December 2005 issue of *Nature Notes*.

The drive north towards Alpine and the Davis Mountains passes through barren desert habitat with little woody vegetation, save for a couple of roadside picnic areas along the way. At the first of these were some large soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*) trees – the only host for several uncommonly encountered buprestids – under which I gathered whatever fallen branches I could find. Although a nice series of *Agrilus limpiae* did emerge from the wood, none of the really uncommon species (e.g., *Agrilus sapindi* were reared). We watched another vermilion flycatcher here also, at much closer distance than at Rio Grande Village. As we approached another picnic area we saw some wind-thrown branches under a large gray oak tree. I spent my time collecting a sampling of this wood – this proved worthwhile, as later in the summer one specimen of *Chrysobothris axillaris* emerged from one of the branches. This uncommonly collected species has been bred from a few species of oak, but gray oak is one of several previously unrecorded oak species I've now reared the beetle from. I also found a nearly complete javelina mandible (missing only a few front teeth) for my bone collection. We then completed the drive to Ft. Davis and looked forward to exploring the Davis Mountains for our final day in the field.

Faunistically, the Davis Mountains are unmistakably western. However, they form an enclave for a number of beetle species (and I suspect other insect groups as well) more

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## BIRDS & BUGS – A Nexus in Texas (part 3)

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commonly encountered in the eastern U.S. The vast expanse of desert between the Davis Mountains and forested regions of the eastern United States has resulted in disjunct populations – some of which have recently been determined to be specifically distinct from their eastern relatives. Floristically, the Davis Mountains are similar to the oak/juniper woodland habitats encountered in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park, with gray oak, vasey oak, emory oak, alligator juniper, and pinyon pine being the dominant trees. Land in the Davis Mountains is almost all privately owned, thus, access for natural history study can be limited. However, good examples of pristine habitat are accessible to the public at Davis Mountains State Park – much of it in the Limpia Canyon Primitive Area. There are several roadside parks where I have had good collecting success in past visits. One of these, located about 11 miles west of Ft. Davis on the southern edge of the Davis Mountains, was destination number one! On a previous visit to this spot in 2001, I had collected a dead branch of vasey oak, from which a small black beetle had emerged the following spring. It was a buprestid, and I recognized it instantly as belonging to the genus *Mastogenius*. Being unaware of any species of this genus known from west Texas, I immediately began comparing it to the species I had in my collection and published descriptions for those I did not have. It did not match anything – I had discovered a new species! The beetle was described later that year by Dr. Charles Bellamy (California Department of Food and Agriculture), who was revising the genus in North America and named it *Mastogenius texanus*. Unfortunately, no additional specimens emerged from the wood, and my single specimen had been deposited as the holotype for the species in the collection at the California Academy of Sciences (it is always best to deposit primary type specimens in a public museum). Thus, I was anxious to try to recollect this species. We arrived at the roadside park first thing in the morning, and I began to look at the vasey oak trees. There were a number of dead branches within reach, and since my specimen had emerged during April I decided to get out the beating sheet and see if anything was out before I started collecting branches for rearing. I gave one branch a whack, looked on the sheet, and there sat two *M. texanus* adults! After popping them into a vial, I gave another branch a whack, looked on the sheet, and there sat two more adults! Woah – I had just quintupled the number of known specimens of the species with just two whacks of a stick! I called Chris over to tell him what I had just found, and the two of us proceeded to collect ~60 adult specimens during the next hour. The adults were mostly on small, dead branches on living trees and with bark still attached (more recently dead). I was elated to have found the species, and finding such good numbers of it would allow me to distribute male/female pairs among several colleagues who also work on this group of beetles. But believe it or not, this was not the big success of the day! I went back to the trees from which I had beaten many of the beetles and cut off some of the dead branches. I planned to bring them back for rearing, but before bundling them up I inspected them and found holes that looked to be of the right size and shape to be emergence holes for the beetle. I started splitting the wood and immediately encountered what were obviously the larvae. I let out a big yell! Why? Because until now, no larvae of any species in the entire tribe to which this genus belongs had been discovered. Moreover, the placement of this tribe of beetles within the family, more so than any other, has long been problematic. Discovering the larva of one of its species is sure to yield

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## BIRDS & BUGS – A Nexus in Texas (part 3)

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valuable morphological characters that will help clarify the systematic relationships of this tribe within the family. For the taxonomist, this is like striking gold! I managed to collect and preserve several perfect larvae – some of these have since been sent to Dr. Volkovitsh in St. Petersburg (Russia) who will be coauthoring a paper with me to describe the larva and comment on how it impacts the higher classification of the family. The euphoric success we felt after this discovery was magnified by some excellent bird sightings at the same location. The striking yellow and black oriole of the southwest – Scott's oriole – was seen in the very trees from which we collected *M. texanus*. And one of the last birds of the trip turned out to be one of the best. We had been intently scanning groups of vultures for zone-tailed hawk for the entire trip, and it wasn't until this morning that a zone-tailed hawk appeared overhead among a few turkey vultures and offered wonderful looks. It was hard to imagine we would have had such spectacular success on our final day in the field – both bugging and birding – and it put us in a grand mood as we headed towards Limpia Canyon in Davis Mountains State Park as our final trip destination. The first question in my mind was obvious – would we find *M. texanus* at this locality also. That question was answered quickly, as I soon beat one adult from the dead branch of a vasey oak. That would be the only specimen we found, however, and is a perfect example of how a species can be abundant at one locality, yet scarce at a nearby locality despite the presence of suitable hosts, etc. There is still so much we don't know! The only other beetles we encountered were a few *Acmaeodera conoidea* – like closely related species in other parts of the country (*A. neoneglecta* in the LRGV and *A. tubulus* here in Missouri), this species signifies early season and is among the first buprestid species to emerge. We finished up with more wood collecting – vasey oak, of course, along with cat-claw (*Acacia greggii*) and blackbrush acacias, which are always promising hosts for buprestids and cerambycids. Our final collecting act of the trip occurred when we encountered a nice, clean pronghorn antelope skull – perfect except for a missing half of the mandible. The 'bone shelf' in my study at home has benefited nicely from this trip.

The drive back to St. Louis was long and tedious (as return trips always are), but it gave us the chance to savor the sights we had seen and the successes we had experienced. I had already been to most of the localities we visited (some several times), yet still saw things I had never seen before (and a few that nobody has seen before!). This, to me, is the essence of natural history study – the possibility to observe something new, the chance to advance our collective knowledge about the natural world. I have been to many places far more exotic and had trips where I've collected far greater numbers of specimens, but few of those trips compare to this one in terms of new knowledge gained. In total, I collected about 600 beetles during the trip. This really is not a high number for a 2-week field trip, which can yield two to three thousand specimens if the timing is right. But during the following summer, an additional 1,500 beetles emerged from the batches of wood we brought back with us. A significant number to be sure, but more importantly, the scientific value of these specimens far exceeds that of field-collected specimens because of the unequivocal association with their larval host plants, many of which have not previously been reported. The wood batches are being kept for one more season, and while I don't expect them to produce near as many beetles during this second season, it is certainly worthwhile to see what does emerge. In the meantime, I'm beginning to think about where to go to 'replenish' the rearing containers after this season is over!

## A POTENT CRITICISM

Your manuscript is both good and original, but the part that is good is not original, and the part that is original is not good. Samuel Johnson – 1709-84.

## OCTOBER BOTANIZING – George Van Brunt

### October 3, 2005 Botany Field Trip

This morning we met at 9:00am at the Kevin and Nancy Rice property in Jefferson County. We had a larger than usual group for this special field trip. Present were Dave Alspaugh, Nancy Clark, Wayne Clark, Bob Coffey, Kathy Coffey, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Martha Hill, Rex Hill, Nels Holmberg, Tom O'Gorman, John Oliver, Anne Orth, Nathan Pate, Kevin Rice, Nancy Rice, Dave Schilling, Sue Schoening, Father James Sullivan, and George Van Brunt. The exposed bedrock on the Rice property and adjoining properties is St. Peter's sandstone, a mid to lower Ordovician age (~ 475 million years old) formation. This exposed sandstone bedrock produces some very unusual habitats and plant communities in Missouri. We explored West Club Moss Hollow, a small canyon, and a sandstone glade. We identified more than 150 species of plants including flowering plants, club mosses, horsetails, ferns, mosses, and liverworts.

In West Club Moss Hollow, some of the interesting plants we identified were *Adiantum pedatum* (maidenhair fern), *Amelanchier arborea* (serviceberry), *Ammannia coccinea* (toothcup), *Amphicarpaea bracteata* (hog peanut), *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam and Eve orchid), *Aralia racemosa* (American spikenard), *Asplenium platyneuron* (ebony spleenwort), *Athyrium filix-femina* (lady fern), *Boehmeria cylindrica* (false nettle), *Botrychium dissectum* (grape fern), *Brachyelytrum erectum* (sang grass), *Carex albursina* (white bear sedge), *Huperzia lucidula* (shining clubmoss), *Manfreda virginica* (American aloe), *Mitchella repens* (partridge-berry), *Monotropa uniflora* (Indian pipe), *Panax quinquefolius* (ginseng), *Saxifraga pensylvanica forbesii* (Forbes' saxifrage), *Sullivantia sullivantii* (sullivantia), *Phegopteris hexagonoptera* (broad beech fern), *Trichostema dichotomum* (blue curls), *Leucobryum glaucum* (cushion moss), *Thuidium recognitum* (fern moss), *Chiloscyphus profundus* (two-toothed liverwort), *Conocephalum conicum* (great-scented liverwort), and *Trichocolea tomentella* (fuzzy liverwort).

On the glade, we identified *Croton willdenowii* (rushfoil), *Hieracium gronovii* (hairy hawkweed), *Clematis fremontii* (Fremont's leather flower), *Clematis pitcheri* (Pitcher's clematis), *Acalypha gracilens* (slender three-seeded Mercury), *Hypericum hypericoides* var. *multicaule* (St. Andrew's cross), *Talinum calycinum* (large-flowered flower-of-an-hour), *Vaccinium pallidum* (lowbush blueberry), and *Amorpha canescens* (leadplant). One species of orchid which we found blooming was *Spiranthes tuberosa* (little ladies' tresses).

At the sandy margins of the pond near the Rice home, we found *Lechea tenuifolia* (narrow-leaved pinweed).

### October 10, 2005 Botany Field Trip

We met on a bright, cool, fall morning at 9:30 at the Pfizer Global Research and Development campus in Chesterfield, MO. Present were Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jeannie Moe, Nels Holmberg, Bob Siemer, David Weber, June Jeffries, Father James Sullivan, Marlene Bopp, John Oliver, and

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## OCTOBER BOTANIZING (Cont'd)

George Van Brunt. We were there at the invitation of Gary Schimmelpfrenig, whom we were going to assist in a plant survey. Gary is the Volunteer Land Stewardship Coordinator of the campus and a WGNSS member. He is involved in restoring a 200 acre site on the campus to a more native state. We divided into teams of two; each team was equipped with a clipboard, a circular hula-hoop like ring about 113 cm in diameter (encircling one square meter), and latex gloves to protect against poison ivy. Gary had set up two transects in a wooded area, each marked by a 30 meter long cord. Each team surveyed one part of one side of each cord. The survey was done by randomly throwing the hoop on the ground and then counting and recording the number of each species inside the hoop. About 6 square meters on each side of each transect were surveyed. Following the meter square survey, we did a meander survey in which each team walked randomly over the survey area identifying plants that we didn't find in the meter square survey. When our work was done, Gary took us on a walk through various areas of his domain. We identified *Bidens bipinnata* (Spanish needles), *Reynoutria japonica* (formerly *Polygonum cuspidatum*) (Japanese knotweed), *Verbena urticifolia* (white vervain), *Chenopodium album* (lamb's quarters), *Hackelia virginiana* (stickseed), *Ribes missouriense* (Missouri gooseberry), *Cirsium discolor* (field thistle), *Perilla frutescens* (beefsteak plant), *Antenoron virginianum* (formerly *Polygonum virginianum*) (Virginia knotweed), *Agastache nepetoides* (yellow giant hyssop), *Fallopia scandens* (formerly *Polygonum scandens*) (climbing buckwheat), *Humulus lupulus* var. *lupulus* (hops), *Persicaria cespitosa* (creeping smartweed), *Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora* (blue sage), and *Artemisia annua* (annual or sweet wormwood).

### October 17, 2005 Botany Field Trip

On a sunny, comfortable, fall morning, we met at Faust County Park in St. Louis County. The group included Father Sullivan, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Kathy Thiele, Jeannie Moe, Bob Siemer, Dave Alspaugh, Susan Orr, and George Van Brunt. We walked the 1.1 mile Governor Bates Trail, named in honor of the second governor of Missouri, Frederick Bates, governor from November 17, 1824 until his death on August 4, 1825. Governor Bates' home, Thornhill Farm, is on the park property. The trail led up and down steep loess hills near the Missouri River. Among the plants we identified were *Urtica gracilis* (stinging nettle), *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven), *Rumex patientia* (patience dock), *Paulownia tomentosa* (princess tree), *Solanum sarrachoides* (hairy nightshade), *Verbena urticifolia* (white vervain), *Symphotrichum ontarione* (Ontario aster), *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam-and-Eve orchid), *Laportea canadensis* (wood nettle), *Symphotrichum cordifolium* (heart-leaved aster), *Gymnocladus dioica* (Kentucky coffee tree), *Botrychium dissectum* f. *obliquum* (grape fern), *Phryma leptostachya* (lopseed), *Actaea pachypoda* (doll's-eyes), *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger), *Rudbeckia laciniata* (goldenglow), *Quercus muhlenbergii* (chinquapin oak), *Morus rubra* (red mulberry), *Verbesina alternifolia* (yellow ironweed), *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster), *Ratibida pinnata* (gray-headed coneflower), and *Cosmos bipinnatus* (common cosmos).

### October 24, 2005 Botany Field Trip

Father Sullivan, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Nancy Clark, Wayne Clark, Nels Holmberg, Kathy Thiele, Tom O'Gorman, Rex Hill, Jeanne Clauson, Dick Russell, Susie Russell, Carl Darigo, and George Van Brunt met at 9:30am at Shaw Nature Reserve. The morning was cloudy and fall was in the air; the temperature was between

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## OCTOBER BOTANIZING (Cont'd)

45° F and 50° F. James Trager, the naturalist at the reserve and a member of the Missouri Native Plant Society, led us on two walks: one on a glade, and the other in the wetlands/prairie area. Species in the family Asteraceae, most of which were blooming, included *Symphotrichum oblongifolium* (aromatic aster or oblong-leaved aster), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower), *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (prairie dock), *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster), *Boltonia asteroides* (false aster), *Silphium laciniatum* (compass plant), *Solidago speciosa* (showy goldenrod), *Helianthus mollis* (downy sunflower), *Grindelia lanceolata* (spiny-toothed gumweed), *Echinacea paradoxa* (yellow coneflower), *Helenium autumnale* (common sneezeweed), *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup-plant), *Solidago rigida* (stiff goldenrod), and *Solidago rugosa* (rough-leaved goldenrod). Species in other families that we found in fruit included *Onosmodium molle* (marbleseed), *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (prairie ladies' tresses), and *Hexalectris spicata* (crested coral-root orchid). We identified *Carex muskingumensis* (muskingum sedge) and *Eryngium yuccifolium* (rattlesnake master). As its name indicates, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, has leaves that look like a yucca although it is not closely related to the yucca. Two species which were flowering were *Gentiana andrewsii* (closed gentian) and *Gentiana puberulenta* (downy gentian). Low water in the wetland made it possible to get close to some water-loving plants including *Persicaria hydropiperoides* (mild water pepper) *Ammannia coccinea* (tooth-cup), and *Penthorum sedoides* ditch stonecrop.

The wetland pond had dried to a large expanse of cracked mud, and on this ephemeral habitat was found a bryophyte bonanza. Two mosses were found which had had been seen only once before in Missouri: *Micromitrium tenerum* and *Physcomitrium collenchymas*. Three liverworts, *Riccia sullivantii*, *Riccia stenophylla* and *Ricciocarpos natans*, were found, with the *R. sullivantii* being known from only 5 Missouri counties. Thick patches of *Physcomitrium immersum*, another seldom seen moss, were found throughout the mud flat, while nearby the hornwort *Anthoceros laevis* ssp. *carolinianus* was located. The site yielded 4 new Franklin County records, with 3 listed as Species of Conservation Concern. After the visit, Carl Darigo spent several hours making species determinations, especially for the tiny *Micromitrium tenerum*. Word of the finds reached Peter Raven, who suggested a list of Shaw Nature Reserve bryophytes be compiled.

### October 31, 2005 Botany Field Trip

We met this morning at the visitor center in Babler State Park. Present were Father Sullivan, Rex Hill, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Nels Holmberg, Kathy Thiele, Carl Darigo, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jim Wiant, John Oliver, and George Van Brunt. It was raining and the temperature hovered in the mid 50's. We decided first to watch a movie that the Babler park receptionist suggested. It was **Grandin**, the story of logging in southern Missouri in the late 1800's and early 1900's. During this time virtually all of Missouri's virgin shortleaf pine forest was cut down. After the movie, we were all depressed, and decided to go for a walk as the rain had let up some. We walked on a paved bike trail where we identified *Rhus copallina* (winged sumac), *Symphotrichum pilosum* (white heath aster), *Potentilla recta* (sulfur cinquefoil), *Fraxinus americana* (white ash), *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood), *Quercus rubra* (red oak), *Solidago nemoralis* (field goldenrod), *Quercus imbricaria* (shingle oak), *Cercis canadensis* (redbud), *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), *Lobelia inflata* (Indian tobacco), *Corylus americana* (hazelnut), *Geum canadense* (white avens), *Diospyros virginiana* (persimmon), *Glechoma hederacea* (ground ivy), *Carya ovata* (shagbark hickory), *Boehmeria cylindrica* (false nettle), *Celtis occidentalis* (hackberry), *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (coral-berry), *Acer rubrum* (red maple), and *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras). Even though it was raining fairly hard by the end of the walk, we felt cheered up.

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(Cont'd, next page)

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Randy Korotev - Website Manager  
Barbara Perry Lawton - Brochure Coordinator/  
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Jim Adams - Historian  
Jim Ziebol - Bird Report Compiler  
Jim Ziebol - Busch WA Breeding Bird Survey  
Coordinator  
Jack Harris - Botany Walk Coordinator  
George Van Brunt - Botany Report Compiler  
Sherry McCowan - Nature Line Coordinator

### Call The Nature Line!

Call (314) 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis Area and dates and times of bird and botany walks; there are occasional schedule changes. Please report any unusual birds to Sherry McCowan (314) 664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature Line recording.

### Nature Notes Deadline and Mailing Info.

The mailing party meets at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood, 10 AM-1 AM to prepare N.N. mailings. We could use your help! Call Marjorie Richardson (314) 965-8974 to volunteer. Deadline and mailing party dates for future months are given below.

NN Deadline	Mailing Party
Fri. 12/9	Mon. 12/19
Fri. 1/6	Wed. 1/18
Fri. 2/10	Tues. 2/21, 1:30-5 PM
Fri. 3/10	Mon. 3/20
Fri. 4/7	Mon. 4/17
Fri. 5/5	Mon. 5/15

### Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the 15th floor conference room at the University Club Tower (near the elevator) 1034 S. Brentwood Blvd., at 7 PM. The Board ENCOURAGES attendance by WGNSS members. Come see your Board in action!

### Publication Policy

Notices/Proposed Articles/Letters to the Editor must be signed to be considered. They will be considered for publication based on content and availability of space. Some editing may be done. Communications from non-member individuals or organizations must include the name and title (if any) of the sender along with a mailing address and telephone number. Send communications to the Editor, 35 Tulip Drive, Webster Groves, MO 63119. (Tel. 314-961-2494, E-mail dadams5084@charter.net.

### Copyright Statement

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### Society Objectives

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.

### Making Nature Notes Useful - S. L. O'Byrne

Nature Notes, the Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, has long been published because of its utility in furthering the work of the Society. Its most important function is bringing the monthly program of the Society to the members....from June, 1948 issue of Nature Notes

## NEED DIRECTIONS?

### **Busch Wildlife Area**

- 1) Take 40 west toward St. Charles Co., left on 94, right on D, follow signs. Hampton Lake, usual meeting spot, is the first lake beyond Hdqtrs.

### **Castlewood State Park**

- 1) Take Manchester west, south (left) on New Ballwin Rd., east (left) on Kiefer Creek Rd., follow signs.

### **Clarence Cannon NWR**

- 1) from I-270, take I-70 west to Mo. 79, then go north 35 miles to Annada, Mo.
- 2) Just past the city limit sign there will be the sign for the refuge. Turn right and follow the road all the way to the refuge parking lot, the usual meeting spot.

### **Des Peres Park**

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

### **Eden Seminary (WGNSS Banquet)**

- 1) At intersection of Lockwood and Bompat in Webster Groves.
- 2a) From 40, east to Hanley Rd.; south on Hanley (which becomes Laclede Station Rd.); right on Big Bend; right on E. Lockwood; left on Bompat; enter from Bompat
- 2b) From I-44, east on 44; Exit 220, Elm Ave.; left on S. Elm; right on Big Bend; left on; Bompat; enter from Bompat

### **Forest Park, Kennedy Forest**

- 1) Highway 40 to Hampton north; follow signs to St. Louis Zoo's Living World; Kennedy Forest is about 1/4 mile west on the way to the Living World

### **Horseshoe Lake State Park**

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

### **Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area**

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

### **Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)**

- 1) Take I-44 west to Gray Summit (Hwy. 100) exit, left over highway, right into service road and immediately left into Arboretum
- 2) Meet at Brushy Creek Trailhead

### **Tower Grove Park**

- 1) Take I-44 to Kingshighway; south on Kingshighway; east (left) on Magnolia; first right into park.

### **Wildwood Trail, Al Foster Trail**

- 1) I-44 west to north 109
  - 2) right on Old State Road
  - 3) quick right on Washington Ave. (becomes Grand)
  - 4) Parking lot on left
- From Manchester Road:
- 1) take Old State Road south
  - 2) Left on Washington at intersection with 109
  - 3) Proceed as above

### **Green Center, University Center (Xmas Party)**

- Directions from I-64/Hwy. 40:
- 1) Take the I-170 North exit; take I-170 north to the Delmar Blvd. exit.
  - 2) Go east on Delmar Blvd. three stoplights to North and South Road.
  - 3) Turn left and go north on North and South Rd.
  - 4) Turn left (west) on Blackberry to the Center, 8025 Blackberry (on right). Park in small Kaufman Park to east of the Center, in the driveway if handicapped, or park on Blackberry.

*webster groves nature  
study society \*\*\**

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Call the Nature Line at 314-935-8432 for meetings and bird sightings

Membership categories (circle one):

Individual or Household.....\$20

For 1<sup>st</sup> class mail.....add \$8

Student.....\$10

Jan. 2006 issue

Please mail this form with check to:

Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook  
Lane, St. Louis, MO 63132

Make check payable to Webster  
Groves Nature Study Society