

TALE FEATHERS

St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, St. Louis, MO 63122-0227
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Calendar

BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS

FOREST PARK VISITOR CENTER

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 815 AM

Special walk just for the new and/or casual watchers.

For info contact Chris at birding@forestparkforever.org.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

HAWN STATE PARK

SATURDAY APRIL 9TH AT 630 AM

NATURE WALK FOR KIDS—PAGE 7

CREVE COEUR LAKE MEMORIAL PARK—TACO BELL SHELTER

SUNDAY APRIL 10TH FROM 10A TO 12P

CREVE COEUR PARK BIOBLITZ—PAGE 2

SATURDAY APRIL 16TH FROM 6A TO 12P

TO REGISTER, VISIT WWW.ACADEMYOFSCIENCESSTL.ORG.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

CASTLEWOOD STATE PARK

SATURDAY APRIL 16TH AT 800 AM

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

LINCOLN COUNTY MISSOURI DRIVING TOUR

SATURDAY APRIL 16TH AT 700 AM

APRIL PROGRAM—WILD UTAH—PAGE 6

POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER

TUESDAY APRIL 19TH AT 700 PM

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

MALLARD LAKE AT CREVE COEUR PARK

SATURDAY APRIL 23RD AT 800 AM

CREVE COEUR PARK WORKDAY—PAGE 2

BUSH HONEYSUCKLE ERADICATION CONTINUES

SATURDAY APRIL 30TH FROM 9A TO 1P

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

FOREST PARK AND TOWER GROVE PARK

SATURDAY APRIL 30TH AT 730 AM

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

SHAW NATURE RESERVE

SATURDAY MAY 7TH AT 730 AM

NATURE WALK FOR KIDS—PAGE 7

FOREST PARK VISITOR CENTER

SUNDAY MAY 8TH FROM 10A TO 12P

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The Prairies of St. Louis

By Bruce Schuette

I grew up in Ferguson. Until high school I walked to school every day. Yet it was years later when maps and booklets like Walter Schroeder's *Presettlement Prairie of Missouri* were available that I realized I had been walking through what was once tallgrass prairie. Had I walked the same routes two hundred years earlier I would have seen tall grasses like Big Bluestem, an abundance of wildflowers like Prairie Blazing Stars and Rattlesnake Master, butterflies like the Regal Fritillary, birds like Dickcissels, Henslow's Sparrows and Northern Harriers, and maybe I would have even seen some Elk.

Driving along the tree lined streets of St. Louis or through the wooded suburbs of the county it is easy to think that the St. Louis region was originally a forested wilderness. However, the wooded appearance is actually an artifact of settlement by Euro-Americans. For thousands of years prior to this, American Indians inhabited the region. For a variety of reasons including managing wild game, hunting, making travel easier, encouraging useful plants, and for safety, they would annually burn the landscape. These fires promoted grasslands, stimulating the tall prairie grasses and the abundance and variety of prairie wildflowers. The fires also set back the growth of most woody plants, especially trees, keeping it an open grassland.

See Prairies on Page 4

Board Meetings

Open to All. 2nd Tuesday of Every Month at 7 pm. Powder Valley Nature Center at 11715 Cragwold.

Board recruitment is an ongoing process and requires your interest and our need. If you have thought of serving in such a way, stop by or call one of us.

Officers

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Newsletter

TaleFeathers is published monthly. For submissions, comments or corrections, contact Mitch Leachman as noted above.

BioBlitz April 16th

The Academy of Science of St. Louis with St. Louis Audubon and St. Louis County Parks leads a baseline BioBlitz at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park from 6 am to 12 pm on April 16th. This is a 6-hour, citizen science urban wildlife flash exploration and inventory of the biodiversity of the Park's plant and animal life.

This is the Park's first BioBlitz. Teams of public volunteers led by biologists, naturalists and environmental enthusiasts search natural areas within the park, listing as many different species as they can find.

At the end of the day, participants will have a new appreciation of one of St. Louis' most treasured parks. The event is open to all ages. Visit the Academy's website to register

www.stlouisaudubon.org/bioblitz/. ◆



*Photos by M. Leachman, K. Meyer and A. Smith
All were taken at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park*



Honeysuckle April 30th

Please consider joining us as we continue our bush honeysuckle eradication efforts at Creve Coeur Park.

Volunteers should bring work gloves and loppers or a saw (if you have them).

Audubon and County Parks will provide snacks, beverages, lunch and a limited supply of tools and gloves.

Please register for the project by providing your name, e-mail and number participating to director@stlouisaudubon.org or (314) 599-7390. Families and groups are especially encouraged, however those under the age of 18 must have parental/adult supervision at all times. A reminder with details, including directions to the site, will be sent to all registrants prior to the workday. ◆



President's Message

By Dave Rogles

Spring comes slowly, doesn't it? After a long winter we are finally moving into the season of renewal. The first shorebirds are stopping on our public lands. The first blooms add color to the landscape, and the warmth put a smile on everyone's face.

At Audubon, spring means bird walks, volunteer clean up days and coordination with other groups for various spring festivals. This month we have the Creve Coeur Park Bioblitz (page 2), a bird walk every weekend (free to all—see below) and a public program on Wild Utah (page 6). In May, we will help with the Wings of Spring Birding Festival (page 11), lead bird walks every weekend (and during the week) and have our annual meeting with the election of officers.

If you are interested in birds, the Saturday walks will visit all the regular birding hotspots in search of diversity. Ducks have largely passed through, shorebirds are just beginning and the majority of songbirds are still south of us and won't arrive until the 15th or 20th of the month. Already this spring we have spotted the rare(ish) Cinnamon Teal and Smith's Longspur. The Great Horned Owls are raising their young in the usual spots, and hummingbirds have arrived, pecking on windows asking for their food.

There are still volunteer opportunities on the education team, the Bioblitz, Audubon workdays and Wings of Spring. If you have a few hours and want to spend them with us, call Mitch Leachman our Executive Director.

Lastly, we hope you share our excitement in announcing the kickoff of our new suburban habitat program called Bring Conservation Home that we are piloting this spring and summer (details on page 9).

Good Birding!

Field Trips, Etc.

April 9th to Hawn State Park: Pat Lueders will lead this all day trip that includes moderate hiking over some rough terrain. Meet at 6:30 a.m. for caravan or carpools in the commuter lot closest to the highway on the southwest side of I-270 and Hwy 30.

April 16th to Castlewood State Park: Bernie Favara leads this half day trip that includes moderate hiking and is good for beginners. Meet at 8 a.m. in the lot just after the park office on Kiefer Creek Rd.

April 16th Lincoln County Driving Tour: Torrey Berger leads this all day trip that meets for carpool or caravan at 7 am in the southeast corner of the Dierberg's parking lot at the southwest side of the junction of I-70 and Hwy 79. Birding will begin along Hwy 79 shortly after departure.

April 23rd to Mallard Lake: Mary Dueren leads this half day trip that includes significant walking over

mostly flat terrain and is good for beginners. Meet at 8 am at the Creve Coeur Lakehouse south lot at 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Rd, south of Hwy 364 and east of the Maryland Heights Expressway. Check the STL County website for construction updates.

April 30th to Forest Park/Tower Grove Park: Bob Bailey co-leads this half day trip that includes moderate hiking and is good for beginners. Meet at 7:30 am in the lot of the Kennedy Memorial Forest off Wells Drive, just west of the Zoo.

May 7th to Shaw Nature Reserve: Josh Uffman leads this all day trip that includes moderate hiking over some rough terrain and is good for beginners. Meet at 7:30 am in the lot inside the main entrance. Take I-44 west to Hwy 100 (Gray Summit exit). Cross the hiway and turn right. Entrance is on the left.

All field trips are FREE. Reservations not required, unless noted—consult our website for details. Contact Pat Lueders with general questions at (314) 359-9364.

Prairies of St. Louis

Continued from Page 1

So how do we know that prairie was the predominant ecosystem in the St. Louis region? The *Presettlement Prairie of Missouri* lists several accounts from early inhabitants of St. Louis and St. Louis County. These accounts make reference to not only the extent of the prairie, but also to many specific locations. For example the Missouri Botanical Garden and Tower Grove Park, and Lambert Field were covered by prairie. Many well known St. Louis streets were in, or bounded by prairie. Florissant is said to have been the site of one of the region's largest, most fertile and beautiful prairies. Wet prairies also covered large portions of the Mississippi River floodplain, stretching north from the confluence with the Missouri. Many of these prairies also influenced the settlement of the region, being used as common pastures for livestock or common fields when cultivated.

More systematic are survey records. Government land office (GLO) surveys and other land surveys record brief descriptions of the vegetation and describe witness trees. These surveys, combined with historical accounts, can provide some pretty accurate estimates of the original vegetation. Walter Schoeder in *Presettlement Prairie of*

Missouri generated maps showing at least 61% of the city, 17% of St. Louis County (including most of north county) and 20% of St. Charles County as prairie. In the *Atlas of Missouri Ecoregions* Tim Nigh and Walter Schroeder describe the following land type associations in this region: 1) the 'St. Louis Karst Prairie Plain' was "nearly pure prairie" and covered virtually all of the city of St. Louis. 2) the 'Florissant Karst Prairie Plain' was "mostly a large marsh and pure prairie" covering a large part of north county. 3) the 'St. Louis County Prairie/Savanna Dissected Karst Plain' was "extensive prairie on the flattest lands, grading into oak savanna and woodland" and covered almost all of the county within the Hwy 270 loop. 4) the 'St. Charles County Prairie/Woodland Low Hills' was "prairie dominated uplands" and covered almost all of St. Charles County.

Another piece of evidence for the prairies of St. Louis comes from the plant specimens collected by early botanists in the region. In the 1800's plants like the federally endangered Mead's Milkweed, the state endangered Small White Lady Slipper, and many other characteristic prairie species like Rattlesnake Master, White Wild Indigo, Cream Wild Indigo, Pale Gentian and Big Bluestem were recorded from prairies in St. Louis City and County.

Early records of wildlife are harder come by, but undoubtedly would have included typical prairie fauna. Many animal species are still found in the region, but certainly not in the numbers that the extensive prairies would have supported. This would have included many pollinating and herbivorous insects, reptiles, and birds like the Northern Bobwhite, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Dickcissel, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, and many more. Interestingly the Lark Sparrow, usually considered a grassland/open ground species, was first recorded to science in 1819 from northern St. Louis County.



Rattlesnake Master at Cuivre River B. Schuette Photo

See Prairies on Page 5

Prairies of St. Louis

Continued from Page 4

Unfortunately though, with the destruction of the prairie many species have been lost to the region, or even the state. Large mammals like bison, elk and wolves would have been here, and almost certainly Greater Prairie Chickens were here too.

So what's happened to all this prairie? Most of the land in the region has been plowed up and/or otherwise developed. However, being starved of fire can be just as fatal to a prairie. A quote in *Presettlement Prairie of Missouri* about the land just 'behind' St. Louis provides an example "clothed in a dense forest of black-jack oak, interspersed with thickets of wild plum, the crab-apple, and the hazel. Thirty years ago, and this broad plain was a



Dickcissel

B. Schuette Photo

treeless shrubless waste without a solitary farmhouse to break the monotony. But the annual fires were stopped, a young forest sprang into existence...". This combination of factors eliminated most traces of this formerly dominant ecosystem in the region (and through most of the state and the Midwest). A tract of 25 acres in Calvary Cemetery escaped the plow and has served as a remnant for some prairie species. Several prairie remnants in Cuivre River State Park protect a good variety of prairie flora and fauna (check out the Blazing Star Trail). In addition prairie constructions (planted prairies) can be found at the Shaw Nature Reserve, Forest Park (in two locations), and Howell Prairie at the Weldon Spring DOE Site (see *Missouri Prairie Journal*: volume 28, number 3 of 2007).

Because of the early settlement of St. Louis and the extensive prairie covering most of the city, St. Louis could rightly be called the nation's 'first prairie city'. Yet it is unfortunate that so much of our natural heritage has been lost and that so little is known about it in the region. How ironic that at one time the site that is now Busch Stadium may well have been the home of more Dickcissels and Henslow's Sparrows than Cardinals. And it's even more tragic that globally the temperate grassland ecosystems, which include prairies, are considered to be more critically endangered than tropical rainforests (see *Precious Heritage - The Status of Biodiversity in the United States*). Maybe it's time that citizens of the St. Louis region learn and recognize the value and ecological significance of their own natural heritage.

Literature Cited:

Nigh, Timothy A., and Walter A. Schroeder. 2002. Atlas of Missouri Ecoregions. Missouri Department of Conservation. 212pp.

Schroeder, Walter A. 1982. Presettlement Prairie of Missouri. Missouri Department of Conservation - Natural History Series, No. 2. 38 pp.

Stein, Bruce A., Lynn S. Kutner and Jonathan S. Adams editors. Precious Heritage - The Status of Biodiversity in the United States. 2000. Oxford University Press. 399pp.

Davit, Carol. St. Louis Area Urban Prairies. Missouri Prairie Journal volume 28, no. 3 - 2007. Pp 14-24.

Robbins, Mark B. and David A. Easterla. 1992. Birds of Missouri. University of Missouri Press. 399 pp. ◆

Editor's Note: The author has over 30 years experience in natural areas management and is Park Naturalist for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at Cuivre River State Park.

Wild Utah: America's Red Rock Wilderness

Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 pm, Powder Valley Nature Center

Robert Redford narrates a multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This journey through red rock splendor invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands.

"Wild Utah" will be shown in conjunction with a presentation on the current status of the Utah wilderness movement by Clayton Daughenbaugh, Midwest Regional Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. The Alliance and its partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition seek to gain local support for the "Citizens' Proposal" to protect wilderness areas in Utah's red rock canyonlands. Though portions of the proposal have received protective status current threats continue. Comprehensive legislation is pending in Congress and administrative decisions by the Department of Interior are ongoing.



A short business meeting, our Annual Meeting, will precede the program and will include the election of the board of directors. All are welcome to attend, but only members may vote.

From the intersection of Interstates 44 & 270, take Watson Rd. to Geyer Rd. Turn north on Geyer and cross the bridge to Cragwold Road on your left. Go west on Cragwold for 1 mile to nature center entrance on right. Follow drive to parking lot. Enter building through left entrance. Questions, call Mitch Leachman at (314)-599-7390. ◆

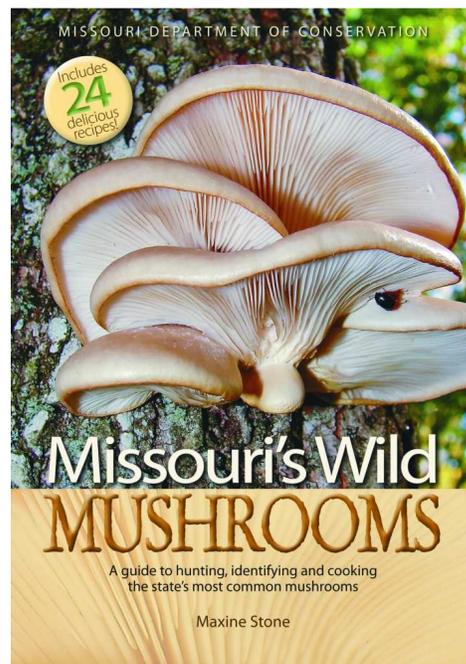
Missouri's Wild Mushrooms: But Are They Edible?

Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 pm, Forest Park Visitor Center

Mushrooms are a source of great fascination for outdoor enthusiasts. What can I eat? Is that one poisonous? Will I die if I eat a bad one? Maxine Stone, author of the long-anticipated and newly published *Missouri's Wild Mushrooms--A Guide To Hunting, Identifying, and Cooking the State's Most Common Mushrooms*, will share information and answer your questions.

Maxine Stone, past president of the Missouri Mycological Society (MOMS), is a passionate mycophile (someone who is fascinated by mushrooms) and loves studying and teaching mycology. She is on the board of MOMS, the St. Louis Master Gardener Program, and the Great Rivers Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists. A happy day for her is one spent in the woods hunting mushrooms with family and friends.

The Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor Center, at 5595 Grand Drive, is just east of the Missouri History Museum at Lindell and DeBaliviere. The program will be held in the Learning Lab. Questions, call Mitch Leachman at (314) 599-7390. ◆



Bird-Smart Clean Energy

By Karen Meyer

We need clean energy, but as wind farms are ramping up, there are serious concerns about the potential bird mortality. Some experts estimate that hundreds of thousands of birds are killed each year from existing wind turbines, and that number could top a million by 2030 if location guidelines are not made mandatory.

One example of a poor site is the Altamont Pass wind farm in California, which was documented killing thousands of birds every year. The operators have recently installed larger turbines with slower blades, reducing the total number of turbines for the same amount of energy. The upgraded operations are expected to greatly reduce bird mortality.

The American Bird Conservancy has helped develop policy guidelines that would require wind farm developers use the best available science to avoid migration flyways and critical ground nesting habitat. The Conservancy has worked with experts in both the wildlife and energy fields in creating the guidelines that include federal approval of pre- and post-construction assessments to ensure better placement and operation. You can review ABC's Wind Smart Policy at http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/wind_policy.html.

This industry needs mandatory regulations to ensure this important, clean energy alternative does not disrupt important bird flyways and habitat. To help protect birds in the U.S. from future mortalities, please sign the petition at <http://www.abcbirds.org/action/index.html>.

For additional information about wind power and birds, including National Audubon's policy statement, visit <http://policy.audubon.org/wind-power-overview-0>.

Thank you so much for your interest and efforts! ◆

Audubon Nature Walks for Kids

St. Louis Audubon continues our Nature Walks for children ages 6 and up. Bring your kids (or grandkids) to see and learn about our amazing birds and their surroundings. Led by volunteers experienced with children, groups and our natural environment, the walks are level and easy. All walks begin at 10 am and include:

Sunday, April 10th at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. From I-270, take Dorsett Rd west to "T" at Marine and turn right. At base of bluff, take first left and follow lot along lake to shelter at turn-around.

Sunday May 8th at Forest Park. Meet in front of the Dennis & Judith

Jones Visitor Center at 5595 Grand Drive just east of the Missouri History Museum at Lindell and DeBaliviere.

Sunday June 12th at Forest Park. Meet in front of the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor Center at 5595 Grand Drive just east of the Missouri History Museum at Lindell and DeBaliviere.

Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Don't forget your water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray. If you have binoculars, bring them along. Reservations not required. Walk will only be canceled for severe weather. If you have questions please contact Nikki Davenport at (314) 566-3445 or nikiastro@att.net. ◆



Horseshoe Lake State Park Recap

By Mike Grant

The St. Louis Audubon trip on March 19th to Horseshoe Lake SP in Illinois started with good looks from the causeway at a Horned Grebe nearing breeding plumage. But this was only the beginning of our experience with this species. As the caravan moved on, Pat Lueders informed us via the FRS radios that a fisherman had hooked the grebe and they were trying to get the hook out. We returned as quickly as we could to see the grebe zipping away on the lake. Pat had successfully removed the hook from the bird's leg and set it free.

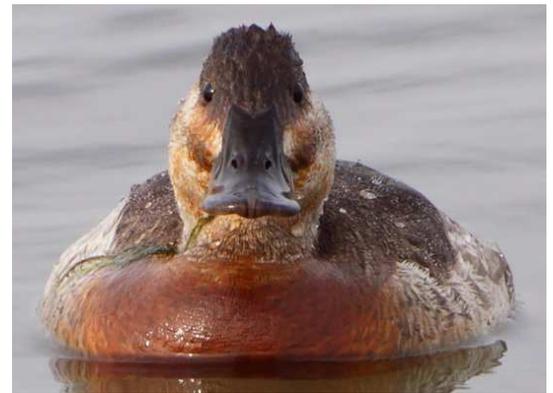
We proceeded along North Shore Drive to the other end of the lake. As we neared the halfway point we came to a large group of fisherman on the bank and I realized that they had also hooked a near-breeding plumage Horned Grebe. How crazy is that? We parked and went to the rescue, but this hook was harder to get out, being in the leading edge of the left wing. With Sue Gustafson and I holding the bird and Pat working with a pair of needle-nose pliers she cut the hook and then removed it from the wing.

How odd that we never see that species in that plumage there and today we see two both hooked by fishermen.

Other than that, we got all three species of mergansers, a good number of ducks, and 50 species in total. ◆



Horned Grebe (left) and Ruddy Duck



Al Smith Photos

Busch Woodcock & Owl Prowl

By John Solodar

The March 12th afternoon field trip to Busch Memorial Conservation Area (St Charles County) was highly successful in terms of getting great views of the target species.

Shortly after 5:00 pm, with the group standing in the Hampton Lake parking lot, the Birdjam call of the Barred Owl was played and one soon appeared across the road. After flitting about for a while it settled down in one location for a long time and afforded very good looks for all and photo opportunities for the lone photographer. About 15 minutes later a second Barred Owl appeared and perched very close to the first one. It was slightly hidden for awhile then hopped up so that both owls were easily seen. What a treat.

Onward to the intersection beyond Lake 23 where Woodcocks have been reported in recent years. At 6:15 we started hearing peents all around us and by 6:25 the birds were flying. The scout group last Sunday had stayed close to the intersection itself and had many flybys. This time a few of us stayed near that intersection for awhile and heard many peents. The main group followed the co-leader, Sue Gustafson, and some other experienced birders to a high spot overlooking a field to the west of the road that runs past Lake 23. This spot is about 150 meters before the previously mentioned intersection. We all finally ended up there and had numerous flyovers and lots of peenting birds.

Mike Grant eventually took one couple out into the field where he was able to spotlight one Woodcock for the man who had been unable to pick up the birds in the air (Audubon bird leaders aim to get everyone on every bird if possible). There were probably at least 12 male Woodcocks in this area judging by the number of different peents heard at one time in different directions.

In total, a very exciting evening, and hopefully one you can plan to attend next year! ◆

Bring Conservation Home

A Habitat Restoration Program Sponsored by the St. Louis Audubon Society

The vision of the Bring Conservation Home program is to create an ever-growing mosaic of native plant and animal landscapes across the St. Louis region. A multi-level assistance and certification process will furnish on-site guidance and recognize the conservation achievements of individuals, businesses and public entities on their properties. This is the same program that was referred to as St. Louis Audubon at Home in the March *TaleFeathers*. The name was changed to better reflect the nature of the effort and our plans for future partnerships.

At this time, we are initiating the Bring Conservation Home pilot phase, a critical step where we will work to assist and certify a limited number of residential landowners in St. Louis City and County. At the same time, we will be adjusting the program through feedback from the applicants and volunteers. While pilot participants will have the distinction of being first, they accept the inevitable, but hopefully few, bumps of a brand new program.

The first, essential step we ask every applicant to take is to commit to the fundamentals of a landscape that is healthy for both wildlife and people. For this, we have borrowed the Healthy Yard Pledge used by National Audubon in their Audubon at Home program. The pledge includes:

- ✓ Reduce pesticide use
- ✓ Conserve water
- ✓ Protect water quality
- ✓ Remove invasive exotic plants
- ✓ Plant native species
- ✓ Support birds and other wildlife on my property

If some of these concepts are new or unfamiliar, consider spending some time with the Missouri Grow Native program and one of their key brochures at <http://grownative.org/documents/NativePlants.pdf> or reviewing materials from the National Audubon at Home program at www.audubonathome.org. Eventually, all program materials, including links to references such as these, will be available via the St. Louis Audubon website.

Once familiar with the pledge fundamentals and if you are interested in being a part of our vision, you can request an electronic application by sending a short note to Mitch at director@stlouisaudubon.org. All applications will be reviewed and everyone will be notified of their status. The landowners accepted into the pilot will be contacted to schedule a site visit. The modest program fee of \$25 (for Audubon members) will be payable in advance of the initial site visit. If you are not an Audubon member, a \$50 fee will cover your participation in Bring Conservation Home and one year of support to the St. Louis Audubon Society.

As Dave Rogles noted in his President's Message, spring is upon us—a "season of renewal." What a great time to make a healthy yard commitment to your family and the environment. The pilot program may be small, but don't let that discourage you from applying. More importantly, check out the references and get started; you will not be sorry you did. After all, our vision is for everyone to Bring Conservation Home! ◆

Awards Dinner a Great Success

On Saturday, March 5th St. Louis Audubon held the 2011 Awards Dinner and Silent Auction at Orlando Gardens in Webster Groves. Awards were presented for education, conservation, volunteer, advocacy and lifetime achievement, followed by a keynote presentation by Peg Abbott, Outreach Coordinator for The Trumpeter Swan Society. More than 80 members and friends attended, with many participating in the silent auction to support the general operations of the chapter.

Mary Dueren accepted the Outstanding Volunteer award for LaVerne Koyn who could not attend. LaVerne was a long-time supporter of the membership and communication efforts of the chapter, especially in responding to requests left on the now-retired voice mail system.

Brad Jacobs, ornithologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, was recognized as Outstanding Conservationist for his decades of work defending birds and their habitat across Missouri, including his recent efforts to initiate protection of wintering habitat in Central America. Also within the conservation arena, Dora Gianoulakis received the first-ever Outstanding Conservation Advocate award as founder and co-chair of the Common Sense Coalition. The group was instrumental in defending key bird and wildlife habitat near the Great Rivers Confluence that was at-risk from multiple gambling casino developers.

Continued on next page

Left, from top: Dora Gianoulakis, Brad Jacobs and graduate scholarship recipients Allisyn-Marie Gillet (left) and Leticia Soares.

Bottom right: Dave Tylka (left) receives the Robert J. Terry Lifetime Achievement Award from Bill Salsgiver.

All photos by Mike Grant





Patrick Osborne—recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award



Peg Abbott, keynote speaker

Patrick Osborne, Executive Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, accepted the Outstanding Educator Award for his work at the Center including mentoring graduate students in their development. In fact, Allisyn–Marie Gillet and Leticia Soares, two biology students from the University, were also awarded scholarships to support their graduate research—part of a long–running program by the chapter.

Finally, Dave Tylka was honored with the Robert J. Terry Lifetime Achievement Award that recognizes years of service and dedication to the Society. Dave served two separate terms as board president and led the development of the chapter's first strategic plan. As an instructor in the biology department at St. Louis Community College, he helped create the Master Naturalist Certificate program as a partnership with the chapter. While officially retired, he still teaches a limited schedule at the Meramec Campus, often inspiring current or future Audubon members and volunteers.

Lastly, please help us thank our silent auction donors, including Peg Abbott, Torrey Berger, Danny Brown, Jerry Castillon, Charlie Deutsch, Brad Jacobs, Sheryl Jacobs, Anne Horton, Debby & Larry Martin, Karen Meyer, REI, Richard Spener Photography, Bill Rowe, Spiro's Restaurant, Trader Joe's and Wild Bird Rehabilitation. Where appropriate, your patronage would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all who assisted with or attended the Dinner, and we hope to see **you** at our 2012 event! ♦



**6th Annual
Wings of Spring Confluence Birding Festival**

Saturday, May 7, 2011, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Audubon Center at Riverlands
Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary
On the Mississippi River near Alton, Illinois

For all the details, visit www.wingsofspring.org.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

E-Mail or Phone (if desired):

Make checks payable to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

Mail Checks to:
St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, MO 63122-0227

4/11

St. Louis Audubon Society Chapter-Supporting Membership Form

Mission: *to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation.*

Your Chapter-Supporting membership runs concurrently with your National Audubon membership, if you choose to maintain the latter. To continue to receive the *Audubon* magazine, you must maintain your National membership.

\$20 \$30 \$50** \$100 Other _____

** Memberships of \$50, or above, will receive a copy of Dr. Stephen Kress' *North American Birdfeeder Guide*, a \$15 value, as our gift. This 220 page book covers feeding and observing tips and includes common species profiles.

100% of your dues stay in St. Louis supporting our local efforts. All our programs are free. Thank you very much!

If already a Chapter-Supporting member, you need do nothing but accept our thanks!

**Memberships are Tax Deductible
Less the \$15 Cost of the Book**

St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, MO 63122-0227



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