

TALE FEATHERS

St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, St. Louis, MO 63122-0227
www.stlouisaudubon.org director@stlouisaudubon.org (314) 599-7390

Calendar

BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS

FOREST PARK VISITOR CENTER AT 5595 GRAND DRIVE
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, EXCEPT SEPTEMBER
WALK FROM 830 AM TO 10 AM, MEET AT 815 AM
For info contact Chris at birding@forestparkforever.org.

MISSOURI BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ANNUAL MTG

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
FRIDAY & SATURDAY AUG 19TH/20TH
VISIT [HTTP://WWW.MOBCI.ORG/](http://www.mobci.org/) FOR DETAILS

GREEN FIRE MOVIE, ST. LOUIS PREMIERE

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
FRIDAY AUG 26TH AT 630 PM
[HTTP://WWW.AUDUBONACTION.ORG/SITE/CALENDAR?ID=100541
&VIEW=DETAIL](http://www.audubonaction.org/site/calendar?id=100541&view=detail) TO PURCHASE TICKETS.

OPERATION CLEAN STREAM

THE MERAMEC RIVER
SATURDAY AUG 27TH FROM 9A TO 4P
[HTTP://OPENSPEACESTL.ORG/PROGRAMS/OPERATION-CLEAN-
STREAM](http://openspacestl.org/programs/operation-clean-stream)

RACE FOR THE RIVERS

THE MISSOURI RIVER & THE ST. CHARLES WATERFRONT
SATURDAY & SUNDAY AUG 27TH/28TH
[HTTP://WWW.RACEFORTHERIVERS.ORG/INDEX.PHP](http://www.racefortherivers.org/index.php)

GREEN FIRE MOVIE & PROGRAM—PG 3

POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER
FRIDAY SEP 16TH AT 700 PM

MISSISSIPPI EARTHTONES FESTIVAL

ALTON RIVERFRONT AMPHITHEATER
SATURDAY SEP 17TH FROM NOON TO 10P
[HTTP://WWW.RIVERFRONTAMPHITHEATER.COM/EARTHTONES/](http://www.riverfrontamphitheater.com/earthtones/)

BIRDING FIELD TRIP

CARLYLE LAKE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH & 18TH AT 7A
TWO ALL DAY TRIPS IN SEARCH OF WATERBIRDS AND FALL
MIGRANTS. SUNDAY TRIP REQUIRES REGISTRATION.
DETAILS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE WHEN AVAILABLE.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

RIVERLANDS BIRD SANCTUARY AND OTHER SITES IN MO & IL
SATURDAY SEP 24TH
VISIT [HTTP://WWW.PUBLICLANDSDAY.ORG/](http://www.publiclandsday.org/) FOR DETAILS

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Thanks to ALL of you!

As we prepare for fall migration, the new school year, and a new season of habitat workdays, it's only natural to consider the accomplishments of the previous year. In doing so, we are reminded of all the volunteers that make it possible. In just this past year, nearly 500 different people contributed over 4,000 hours! Those hours, according to one valuation method, were worth over \$88,000—a very precious resource!

Lisa Nansteel and Pat Lueders have provided recaps of their teams' activities in this issue. Please see pages 4 and 8 for complete details of the Education Team and Field Trip Committee activities.

It would be difficult to thank everyone by name, but please know how much your efforts are appreciated. The Education Team, field trip leaders, membership and outreach supporters, all those from tall to small that helped with our habitat restoration workdays, and of course our volunteer leaders on the Board of Directors. St. Louis Audubon would not work without all of you, and we hope you enjoy your work with us!

As always, there is much more work to be done. If you have yet to join one of these activities, drop us a note or just drop in on us. If you have friends or relatives that just don't "get" volunteering, drag them along. You know they'll thank you for it!

Again, THANK YOU! ◆

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

Dave Rogles, President

(636) 541-1069

president@stlouisaudubon.org

Lisa Nansteel, VP Education

(636) 391-4898

Conservation Issues

(314) 599-7390

conservation@stlouisaudubon.org

Jim Wilson, VP Finance

(314) 367-7275, ext 20

wilsonjh@umsl.edu

John Solodar, Treasurer

(314) 862-5294

Solodar@sbcglobal.net

Sharon Nickl, Secretary

(636) 391-8751

nicklone@swbell.net

Mitch Leachman, Executive Director

(314) 599-7390

director@stlouisaudubon.org

Newsletter

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

President's Message

By Dave Rogles

Always I struggle to fill this space. This month, with the passing of Torrey Berger, our immediate past president, the task is particularly hard. One birder friend, hearing of Torrey's death and knowing of my recurring health problems ended the conversation with, "Take care Dave." I have the topic.

In the 1940's we regularly had crowds of 1500 people to movie and speaker events. Those days are dead, killed by cable, Twitter, the internet. This year we end the monthly programs. This month we end the annual paper newsletter and calendar printing.

In the 1980s and 90s, the dynamic leadership of Dave Tylka and Bill Salsgiver reshaped how the organization is run. We have committees, an endowment, and a strategic plan. We have been running this model for nearly 30 years. The ship sailed smoothly.

Education Vice President Lisa Nansteel has built a solid, fun, creative and active group of volunteers. Education is one thing St. Louis Audubon does well, and it is Lisa and her group who show the way.

Recent Conservation Vice Presidents have built a strong legacy of activism, fundraising and grant administration. Sue Gustafson, Linda Tossing and Karen Meyer showed particular strength in these activities.

The bird walks were widely and successfully revived under the leadership of Paul Bauer and especially, Jim Malone. John Solodar and Pat Lueders have followed the early successes with additional walks and an expansion of leaders.

For all our recent successes (executive director, grants, corporate sponsor), I feel we are becalmed in an era of shifting winds. I can feel the winds off starboard, shifting around to a strong headwind. We need a coup.

We need to rewrite the strategic plan to embrace a changing "big picture." We need a couple of dynamic educators, conservation hobbyists, or scientists, to move us into the next era. We left the flickering images on a movie screen behind; we need to be just as bold now.

We need to find a unique voice for the next 20 years that will serve the needs of the community. I will ask the board to jumpstart this process with a new strategic plan. I ask you to send me your ideas (contact info at left). I hope someone will come to me, put an arm around my shoulder and say "I've got the helm old man." Our generation is passing; let the new generation fly their flag. ◆

From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

We received very good news since the last issue of *TaleFeathers*—twice, actually. National Audubon informed us we would be receiving a third year of TogetherGreen Volunteer Days funding—\$9,000. This will allow us to continue our habitat restoration efforts at Creve Coeur Park and to partner with Cuivre River State Park on savanna and prairie restoration efforts. Then, we received word from Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) that we had been awarded \$5,000 from their REI Gives effort. These funds will allow us to greatly expand the Creve Coeur Park Bioblitz and our support to the Confluence Trash Bash. Many thanks to the REI team at the Brentwood store, especially Mari Erb, for nominating St. Louis Audubon for the REI Gives program.

While both of these awards deserve celebrating, they are just a portion of our fundraising efforts. They are program-specific grants—critical to existing projects like our habitat restoration program. In addition, we must have funds to support general operations of the organization. From insurance to outreach to this newsletter, we have many functions that must be funded in other ways. The earnings from our financial investments have historically filled that gap. However, since the Board's decision in 2008 to expand the organization's reach and capacity with a staff position, our expenses have increased. Over the same period, the recession reduced our return from those investments. Now, the political wrangling in Washington over the debt ceiling threatens to take another swipe at any income from securities.

This is why events like our Trivia Night (see flyer page 9) are critical. Earnings from these events are not restricted by a program-specific grant, but support our General Fund. If you like trivia, we hope to see you on November 4th. If your interests are elsewhere, please pass along the details to friends, relatives or associates. Also, watch future *TaleFeathers* for information about our first-ever Birdathon—a family-friendly and competitive bird watching fundraiser we are developing for next spring. Successful events like these, coupled with our Year-end Appeal, have the potential to cover much of our General Fund expenses.

As always, thanks for your support and interest in the birds! ◆

Green Fire, Film Screening & Guest Speakers Friday, September 16th at 7 pm

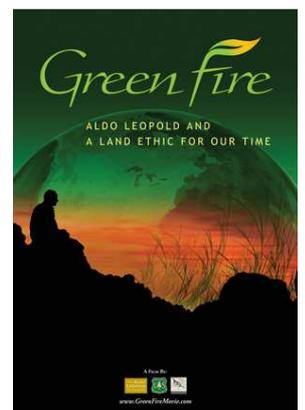
The Powder Valley Nature Center hosts an inspiring evening offering hope for the future.

Aldo Leopold is considered one of the most important conservationists of the twentieth century. He is the father of the national wilderness system, wildlife management and ecological restoration. His classic book *A Sand County Almanac* inspires us to see the natural world as a community to which we belong.

Green Fire explores Leopold's personal journey of observation and understanding and reveals how his ideas resonate today with people across the entire American landscape, from inner cities to the remotest wildlands. The film challenges viewers to contemplate their own relationship with the land community.

The evening begins with information about the Missouri Natural Areas Program by Mike Leahy, Natural Areas Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation and author of *Discover Missouri Natural Areas—A Guide to 50 Great Places*. Then Doug Ladd, Director of Conservation Science for the Nature Conservancy in Missouri will be talking about their land stewardship program. The film screening will follow.

The program is free, but registration is required by calling (314) 301-1500. Powder Valley Nature Center is at 11715 Cragwold Road in Kirkwood. From I-44, take Lindbergh to Watson Road west. Turn right on Geyer, over the highway and then left on Cragwold Road. Entrance is a mile on your right. ◆



Audubon Education Team Report

By Lisa Nansteel

From September 2010 through June 2011, the St. Louis Audubon Education Team presented 156 programs reaching 3,187 children and 333 adults. The Team also provided educational activities at numerous public events, such as Eagle Days, Wetlands for Kids and Wings of Spring, where combined attendance was estimated at nearly 2,000 children and over 4,000 adults.

A key goal for last year was to initiate programming for the St. Louis City School District. By year's end, we had delivered instruction at five elementary schools, including Ames Visual and Performing Arts, Mallinckrodt, Patrick Henry Downtown Academy, Woerner and Woodward. A second goal for the year was to expand grade levels into middle school—having done very few such programs in the past. The Team eventually served four new middle schools with programming.

We have 13 dedicated and hard working volunteers on the Education Team. Our two top presenters were Lisa Nansteel with 59 presentations and Rich Lesage with 47 presentations.

We had an excellent year, and we hope to continue to expand and improve next year. ◆



*Children learning about how birds fly at Wetlands for Kids at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area on April 2nd
St. Louis Audubon Society Photo*

A Native Plant Awakening

By Mitch Leachman

One way to escape another sweltering St. Louis summer is to start making plans for fall gardening and landscaping around the house. I was recently visited by volunteers with the chapter's Bring Conservation Home pilot project, <http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/BCH/index.php>. They surveyed my landscape and provided site-specific recommendations on simple ways to improve its value as wildlife habitat. While I was initially anxious about such a close inspection of my home, their advice has instead left me excited about the possibilities of major changes this fall.

For someone like me, this is new. I came to native landscaping (naturescaping) almost by accident. I did not grow up with a family vegetable garden. The annuals my Mom insisted on planting every spring were a hassle to me and my siblings, always arguing over who would have to help. Also, 15-plus years of renting helped keep any sense of a green thumb dormant. Finally, I bought my first house around the same time I was introduced to naturescaping through Dave Tylka and Meramec Community College. More inspired than I was, a friend encouraged me to attend the spring native plant sale at Shaw Nature Reserve, and I returned home with a half-dozen varieties of native Missouri perennials. The same friend spent a couple weekends helping me turn a swath of daylilies and irises into a sun-loving native wildflower garden.

I've dabbled with a few more small plantings since, but nothing on that scale. Even more so, nothing else has been as successful as that first experience. Also, and very importantly, I was adamant about keeping the usual ornamentals in my landscape—daffodils, irises, tulips and of course the lilies. In addition, the entire back side of my house is occupied with Four O-Clock Flowers—the longest-flowering plant in my yard, seemingly all summer long. A few natives and lots of ornamentals, my landscape was comfortable.

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That was until my passion for life-long learning crossed paths again with Dave Tylka and he introduced me to a guy named Doug Tallamy. Dave teaches a “retiree’s schedule” at Meramec these days, but offers a Native Landscaping course each spring. The class is included in the Master Naturalist Certificate program at Meramec that I have been casually pursuing for years. On the very first session, with a list of recommended resources, I learned of a book called *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Tallamy. I figure it must be something special since to rank so strong a recommendation.

I was not disappointed. A few sessions later, Dave showed a chart from Tallamy’s book and related research that listed the number of types of butterfly and moth caterpillars that feed on various plants—native and exotic. While 518 species of caterpillar have been found eating Oak trees, none were found eating Day lilies, Hostas or Tulips. Over 200 species were identified feeding on Asters and Goldenrods, yet just 6 were found on Boxwood, Forsythia and Peonies. Intuitively, I think we all know this. After all, most ornamentals were originally introduced because they are unpalatable to native insects—retaining their non-natural, but now expected, show-room look all season long. However, this is a problem.

I already knew that adult butterflies and moths are critical to pollinating many of our plants, but Dave explained how essential their caterpillars are to the food web. For example, all songbirds, even finches and hummingbirds, feed insects and spiders to their young—an essential protein source for their growth. Many other organisms feed on insects, and are in-turn eaten, efficiently transferring the solar energy of plants into animal energy.

Without food for insects (native plants) our birds will have nothing to feed their babies. With suburban lawns being the fastest growing landcover in America, we can no longer count on parks and other natural areas to do all the work. Our personal landscapes have become essential to the food web. That was my “Ah Hah” moment! My non-native ornamentals would have to go, in favor of native host plants for songbird food.

The same Bring Conservation Home volunteers that gave me landscape ideas also taught me that fall is a great time to plant native perennials. It gives them a chance to set their roots before the heat of a Missouri summer. Even better, I was informed Shaw Nature Reserve has a fall wildflower sale—September 9th this year (<http://www.shawnature.org/nativeland/FallWildflowerSale.aspx>), and I’ve already got friends lined up.

While I have decided to eliminate all ornamentals from my landscape, your choices may be different. My yard is very small, and I want to retain some significant grassy areas. Your landscape may be large enough for both natives and non-, or you may prefer a lot less open turf. Either way, I encourage you to consider the food web in your landscape. Are you giving the birds a place to hunt food for their young, or a “closed for lunch” sign, hoping they will be able to find food elsewhere?

For info about Doug Tallamy and his book visit <http://bringingnaturehome.net/>. ◆

Bird-Safe Tip

By Lynne Breakstone

I am a volunteer at Wild Bird Rehabilitation, and we often get calls reporting a hummingbird trapped in a garage. They can be attracted by the red plastic pull handle connected to automatic garage doors, and sometimes are unable to figure out how to exit. Here is a website offering a solution:

<http://www.hummingbirds.net/about.html#garage>. It is important to act fast, because the bird is very stressed and can exhaust itself quickly. Please, if you have a door opener, mask or alter the red of the handle. It’s simple, effective, and the birds will thank you!

St. Louis Audubon Society Fall Volunteer Workdays

Saturday, October 1st at Cuivre River State Park. Savanna Restoration.

All ages welcome. Help us celebrate a belated National Public Lands Day. The Park is outside Troy, MO. From I-70, take Hwy 61 north for 15 miles to Hwy 47, turn right. At 3 miles, turn left onto Rt 147. The park office is 2 miles ahead on your left. We may meet elsewhere, so please register as noted below.

Saturday, October 22nd at Creve Coeur Park. Tree Planting.

All ages welcome. Bring a shovel if you have one. Meet in the upper park—west of I-270 and north of Dorsett. Take I-270 Exit 17 for Dorsett Rd and go west about 1.5 miles. Enter Park on right, just before light at Marine and take Streetcar Drive north. Continue past park office, ball field and tennis court to gravel parking lot on right. Parking is somewhat limited, so please carpool if possible. Rain date Oct 23.

Saturday, October 29th at Cuivre River State Park. Savanna Restoration.

All ages welcome. Follow directions for October 1st project.

Saturday, November 12th at Creve Coeur Park. Honeysuckle Removal.

All ages welcome, but those under 18 must have parental/adult supervision at all times. Bring your favorite lopper or saw. Follow directions for October 22nd project. Rain date Nov 19.

These projects continue efforts begun by Audubon in 2009 to improve critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. In just two years, over 700 volunteers contributed nearly 3,000 hours to plant 900 trees, remove over 20 tons of trash and restore several acres of wetland and forest. We hope you can join us!

Volunteers are requested to register for all projects by providing their name, contact information and number attending at director@stlouisaudubon.org or (314) 599-7390.

All projects begin at 9 am, are half-day and include lunch. Gloves and other supplies/materials are provided. For general Audubon info, visit www.stlouisaudubon.org.



These projects made possible by support from a National Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen grant. For more info, visit www.togethergreen.org.



Conservation Corner

The Conservation Committee

In July **The National Audubon Society** released a notice about the importance of the **Ozark National Scenic Riverways**. The Current and Jacks Fork Rivers are included in this National Parkland in southern Missouri, and are known for their spring-fed waters and wildlife diversity. Designated an Important Bird Area, most visitors to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways understand how special it is. Yet, stresses from park users are taking their toll, including ATV's, horses, and a growing number of unauthorized campsites, and roads. All combine to add more sediment and pollutants to the rivers and encourage inappropriate river crossings. **The National Park Service** is preparing a final version of the area management plan. A petition from the **Friends of Ozark Riverways** asks the National Park Service to use its highest level of management to protect this very unique, high quality natural resource. You can add your name to the petition at <http://www.change.org/petitions/save-the-current-river>.

Another gem just southwest of St. Louis in Jefferson County is the **LaBarque Creek Watershed**. It has been designated a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) by the Missouri Department of Conservation. St. Louis Audubon has been performing bird surveys to help document the species diversity in the COA. Recently, the Friends of LaBarque Creek Watershed, <http://labarquewatershed.org/index.html>, requested our support with their petition to have the Missouri DNR designate the area an Outstanding State Resource Water. For details about LaBarque Creek visit <http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/Documents/17990.pdf>.

The American Bird Conservancy's recommendations for regulations to the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** regarding **wind turbines** have been gutted from the version poised to become final in September. Visit the recommendations at http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/wind_farms.html, and review the proposed policy at http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/docs/WEG_July_12_%202011.pdf. You can help by urging the USF&WS to at least make the recommendations and bird conscious measures in the plan **mandatory**. Also urge them to extend the deadline for comments and considerations. All comments can be sent to windenergy@fws.gov until Aug. 4.

Maryland Pointe is the latest commercial development proposal for the **Howard Bend Levee District** just west of Creve Coeur Lake. In May and June, the Maryland Heights Planning and Zoning Commission public hearings drew mostly opponents to the proposal. St. Louis Audubon submitted a statement regarding concerns about proximity of development to the Important Bird Area within Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. If you are a resident of Maryland Heights, please contact your Mayor, City Council member or the Planning & Zoning Commission. The **Maryland Heights Residents for Responsible Growth** website, <http://www.marylandheightsresidents.com/>, is a good source of information about the plan and the process. The next public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for August 23, 2011.

Lastly, the National Park Service is preparing an **Environmental Assessment** on the alternatives for the **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial at the Arch**. Public comment is encouraged through August 31, 2011. View the newsletter and make comments at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/jeff_ea_newsletter, or mail or hand deliver a letter to:

11 North 4th Street, St. Louis, MO 63102

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for aggressive conservation measures to preserve and protect our precious **public** natural resources! ◆

Field Trip Recap & Spring Highlights

By Pat Lueders

Since last September, St. Louis Audubon offered nearly 50 free birding trips in the St. Louis area led by 18 different leaders that served approximately 500 participants. Another 130 participated in the first Saturday beginner walks at Forest Park—a joint venture between the chapter and Forest Park Forever. Our leaders also provided bird surveys and led trips for the following: the Missouri Botanical Garden's Backyard Bird Festival, Missouri Dept of Conservation's Master Naturalist Program, Missouri Dept of Natural Resources, St. Charles County Parks, St. Louis County Parks and the Wings of Spring Festival. All of the Important Bird Areas in the greater St. Louis area, including Illinois, were visited at least once.

Many thanks to all our field trip leaders during the year, especially those that led multiple trips during the busy spring season: Bob Bailey, Mike Grant and Josh Uffman. Also, a special thank you to Bernie Favara, Chrissy McClarren and Andy Reago for their assistance at many of the same trips, especially the Tower Grove Park visits. Below are some highlights from just a few of the spring birding trips.

From Mike Grant at Busch & Weldon Spring CA on May 28th: At Lost Valley a loud Red-eyed Vireo was trying to drown out all other birds, but we managed to hear and see a Cerulean at the entrance. While in the Cathedral section a large bird was spotted flying in and landing near the top of a large tree. It was a Wild Turkey. Within seconds the turkey flew and a second large bird also flew. It was a Red-shouldered Hawk. Upon our return a Red-shouldered nest was spotted with three young nearly ready to fledge.

From Pat Lueders at Tower Grove Park on May 11th: We found a female Bay Breasted near the picnic benches and a present for Chrissy—a close fly-over by a Mississippi Kite, spotted by John Solodar. Other finds during the hike to the stables included an American Kestrel fly over, 3 juvenile Great Horned Owls and one parent spotted by Cathy Spann after she found the remains of a rabbit at the base of a tree, an Olive-sided Flycatcher spotted by John, 2 Blackpoll Warblers found by Bryan Prather, and a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers.

From Connie Alwood at Shaw Nature Reserve on May 21st: Besides the Red-shouldered Hawk, Henslow's Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak that Andy posted, I think it's worth mentioning that we saw three Red-shouldered Hawk nestlings (thanks Bernie Favara), several Summer Tanagers (even one on the nest), and more Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers than I could keep count of! ◆



Clockwise from top-right: Red-shouldered Hawk nestlings, Golden-winged Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler

Al Smith Photos



St. Louis Audubon Society Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Friday, November 4th



Sponsors: St. Louis Audubon Society and the Maryland Heights Residents for Responsible Growth

Date: Friday, November 4th

Location: Kirkwood Community Center's East Gym, 111 S. Geyer, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Time: Doors open at 6 p.m. and the Trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m.

Cost: \$25/person or \$160 for a table of 8

Registration includes soda, popcorn and snacks while they last. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverages (including alcohol). Get a table of friends together and test your knowledge!

The evening is a fundraiser and will include a silent auction, raffle and other games. Mulligans will be sold, and prizes will be given for the first, second and last place teams.

All proceeds support the operations of the St. Louis Audubon Society. The organization serves the greater St. Louis region with environmental education and conservation programs. In just the past year, over 5,000 school children and 600 adults participated in free education programs. Another 600 attended free field trips, and nearly 450 volunteers helped restore habitat for birds and other wildlife at area parks and natural areas.

For more information about Audubon visit www.stlouisaudubon.org. For questions about the event, contact Mitch at (314) 599-7390 or e-mail via director@stlouisaudubon.org.

The Community Center is on Geyer, just south of Adams and four blocks west of S. Kirkwood Road.

Seating is limited, so register early.
This is a smoke-free event.

2011 AUDUBON TRIVIA NIGHT REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Street: _____ E-mail: _____
 City/St/Zip: _____ No. of Tables/Persons: _____
 Total Amt. Enclosed: _____

Payment due with registration. Detach this form and send with payment via check or money order payable to St. Louis Audubon at P.O. Box 220227, St. Louis, MO 63122. To pay with credit card, visit www.stlouisaudubon.org.

Please print clearly the names of those attending on the back of this form.

Update from the Field—the Bluebird Trail

By Karen Meyer

We are in our second year of bird nest box monitoring on the Bluebird Trail (or Bird Box Trail?) in the western part Creve Coeur Park. Thanks go out to our volunteers Anne Horton, Trina King, and Glenn Meyer for helping with this study. We are hoping to attract Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Both are cavity nesters and their numbers are in decline nationwide because of loss of habitat from the cutting of dead trees and draining of swamps. By installing bird nest boxes, we can help ensure their continued increase in our area. We benefit from these species not only because they are beautiful and interesting to watch, but because they keep our insect populations in check and help disperse plant species since they eat berries as well.

One of my first experiences with bird identification was seeing a young Eastern Bluebird at Lake of the Ozarks. The bird sat very

calmly on a wooden fence, allowing me a good look at the eye ring and spotted breast. I'd never seen a juvenile Bluebird before, but my task was made easy as the field guide included the juvenile Bluebird picture. On another occasion I was treated to a lengthy look at a family of Eastern Bluebirds at feeding time in Klondike Park. The fledglings waited on the fence while the parents continually hunted, returning quickly with welcomed meals of insects.

However, to date, the only nesting species in our bird boxes has been House Wrens. They are on their second nesting this season in Box 1. Other surprise residents were two Gray Treefrogs in Box 1, remaining even while the house wrens were nesting! It seems those feisty, territorial wrens don't mind sharing their space with these small amphibians. Who would have guessed? Further down the trail a beautiful Green Treefrog frequents Box 5.

In both spring and summer there have been a good number of Tree Swallows in the area. It was also quite encouraging to spot a pair of Eastern Bluebirds investigating the site in May. Hopefully that pair found a suitable home somewhere in the park. The species has also been seen in multiple areas on the south end of Creve Coeur Lake. In early July while monitoring I happily reported the sweet song of an Eastern Bluebird. Some of the other wildlife enjoyed while on the trail has included Northern Bobwhite, Indigo Bunting, Common Yellow Throat, lots of Red-Winged Blackbirds, turkey, skunk, deer and a turtle.

We look forward to future evidence of Bluebirds or Tree Swallows nesting in our boxes, but know it could take several years for the boxes to attract our targeted species. We'll enjoy whatever experiences the Bird Box Trail brings until then. Stay tuned for next year's report. ◆



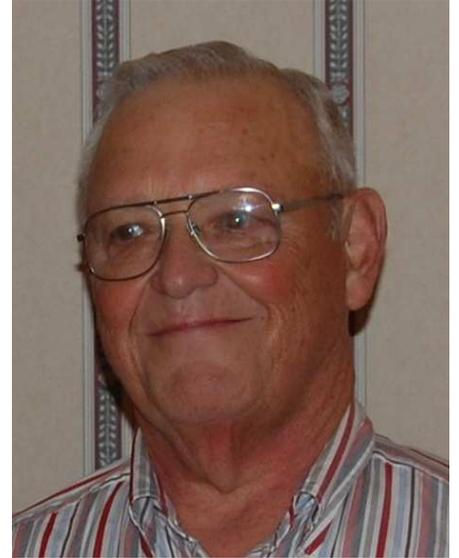
*Gray Treefrog (top) and House Wren Nest
Karen Meyer Photos*

Torrey Berger—In Memoriam

J. Torrey Berger, Jr. left this world on Saturday, July 16th. He is survived by his wife Lee, children John and Helen, grandchildren Maria and Davide, sisters Betty Jo Lowery and Marilyn Engman and countless other friends and loved ones.

Torrey was a long-time member of the National Audubon Society. He joined the St. Louis Audubon Society Board of Directors in 2002. He served three years as Vice President of Finance and another three years as Board President. Although he retired from the Board in 2008, Torrey continued to serve on the Finance Committee, lead field trips, and support numerous events and activities.

After discussion with his family, we felt it best to remember Torrey by printing one of the poems he wrote—just one of the facets of a very remarkable individual. He will be missed! ♦



THE HARD and THE HUMBLE

I am a Rock.

I was born when I left the mountain.

I traveled all the way from the mountain
to the sea.

I am rounded and smooth.

I glisten and shine in the light.

I am a gem among the pebbles and the sand.



Torrey among birding friends at Riverlands' Heron Pond in West Alton

i am a rock

The Water was frozen by the Wind and separated
me from the Mountain, of which i am made.

The Water carried me to the sea, which
returned me to the Land.

The Water tossed and tumbled me, and my
contact with the other rocks has removed
my sharp edges and polished my roughness.

The Sunlight can dance and reflect Its
brilliance in my sides.

i am as you, but without the Water
i would still be part of the Mountain.

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

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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**

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