

# TALE FEATHERS

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

## Calendar

### **BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS**

FOREST PARK VISITOR CENTER AT 5595 GRAND DRIVE

FIRST SATURDAY OF MOST MONTHS

WALK FROM 830 AM TO 10 AM, MEET AT 815 AM

For info contact Amy at [birding@forestparkforever.org](mailto:birding@forestparkforever.org).

### **HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 6**

CREVE COEUR PARK

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9A TO 12P

### **BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 8A

### **CONSERVATION FORUM**

THE LIVING WORLD, ST LOUIS ZOO

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 530 PM

[HTTP://WWW.UMSL.EDU/~HWEC/](http://www.umsl.edu/~hwec/)

### **DRAWING BACKYARD BIRDS**

AUDUBON CENTER AT RIVERLANDS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9A TO 12P

[HTTP://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS/DRAWING-BACKYARD-BIRDS-ANGIE-JUNGBLUTH](http://riverlands.audubon.org/events/drawing-backyard-birds-angie-jungbluth)

### **BEGINNER BIRD WALK—PAGE 3**

MALLARD LAKE AT CREVE COEUR PARK

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 8 AM

### **BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 8A

### **ST. LOUIS AUDUBON'S FALL GAGGLE—PAGE 5**

CREVE COEUR LAKEHOUSE BAR & GRILL

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> FROM 2P TO 5P

### **BLACK FRIDAY OPT OUTSIDE**

ANYWHERE OUTSIDE YOU WANT TO PLAY!

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, ALL DAY LONG

[WWW.REI.COM/OPT-OUTSIDE](http://www.rei.com/opt-outside)

### **BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 8A

### **BEGINNER BIRD WALK—PAGE 3**

MALLARD LAKE AT CREVE COEUR PARK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 8 AM

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Workday Recap	1
Fall Events	2
From the Director	3
St. Louis Audubon Fall Gaggle Event	4
Field Trip Report	5

## With a Little Help...

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 20 volunteers and staff with Forest ReLeaf, Missouri Master Naturalists, St. Louis Audubon, St. Louis County Parks, and Wild Ones – St. Louis Chapter installed over 300 native Missouri shrubs and trees at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. This is just the latest effort in the multi-year collaboration that is restoring habitat around the Mallard Lake section of the park. Forest ReLeaf provided the plants and significant in-kind support. The Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have provided nearly all the funding required for the effort. Many thanks to everyone who helped out! ♦



Eric Feltz and Karen Meyer

STL Audubon Photo

## Board Meetings

Open to All. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Even Months at 7 pm at the Sunset Hills Community Center at 3915 S. Lindbergh Boulevard.

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

## Officers

**Katy Fechter, President**

(618) 339-7356

[stlaudubonpresident@gmail.com](mailto:stlaudubonpresident@gmail.com)

**Lisa Nansteel, VP Education**

(636) 391-4898

**Herb Huebner, VP Conservation**

(314) 873-6633

[conservation@stlouisaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@stlouisaudubon.org)

**Chris Ferree, Secretary**

(314) 412-2208

[oaksavanna2000@yahoo.com](mailto:oaksavanna2000@yahoo.com)

**Karen Meyer, Treasurer**

(314) 602-7318

[kb2bird@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kb2bird@sbcglobal.net)

**Mitch Leachman, Executive Director**

(314) 599-7390

[mitch@stlouisaudubon.org](mailto:mitch@stlouisaudubon.org)

## Newsletter

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

## Fall Events Were Great!

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, approximately 100 people stopped by the U City Bird Garden at Centennial Commons for our Breakfast in the Garden native landscaping open house. This was our second collaboration with U City in Bloom on this free event highlighted by “experts” stationed within the garden to guide visitors through it and answer their questions. We hope to add a few seminars next year.

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, we held our third annual Native Plant Expo at the Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood, and we estimate over 200 people attended. Forrest Keeling and Missouri Wildflowers Nursery provided native plants for sale (and donated 10% of their sales back to our Bring Conservation Home program), several other retailers sold habitat-related items and a variety of organizations staffed information tables. Finally, Audubon volunteers staffed our plant and seed giveaway and swap tables, a very popular place!

We hope you can join us for one of these events next year! ◆



Proud Member of the



## From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

You may have noticed the flyer for our *Fall Gaggle at the Lakehouse* on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us for this new event at the Creve Coeur Lakehouse at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. From 2 pm to 5 pm, we will have heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, live music and just a little bit of fundraising thrown in (we are a small non-profit, after all). If you've not been to the Lakehouse or perhaps even to that part of the park, you will enjoy the setting!

Hang out with us the entire time or stop by for a quick visit. It will be very casual, but we will need your advance registration. [www.stlouisaudubon.org/fall-gaggle](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/fall-gaggle)

On a related note, I wonder how many of you realize the breadth of the St. Louis County Parks System. It includes 69 separate properties that encompass nearly 13,000 acres which together draw some 12 million visitors a year (Creve Coeur Park alone reports over 2 million of those). I bring this up because for all that size and opportunity, it has been nearly 40 years since the County has considered a comprehensive plan for the entire system! Fortunately, that is about to change.

The St. Louis County Parks Master Plan is under way <http://www.stcountyparksmasterplan.com/> and they need your input! Whether you live or work in the County or simply stop by once in a while to play at one of the parks, your voice is essential. In their own words:

*The purpose of the Master Plan is to better understand the needs that exist within the many parks, programs and facilities in the system, and make recommendations for a community supported implementation plan to align improvements with public priorities.*

*The Plan will act as a guide to developing and maintaining parks and parks facilities for the next 20 years, including a specific action plan for implementation over the next five to ten years.*

Please, visit the Plan's website and share your ideas, priorities, concerns or other thoughts about the Park System. They will be taking comments for months to come. While the initial open houses have passed, there will be more such opportunities in 2017 to engage directly with County officials and the contractor assisting with the process. For now, I do hope you will take a few minutes for the future of St. Louis County Parks! ◆

## Field Trips, Etc.

**Nov 5<sup>th</sup> to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:** This half day trip will start at 8:00 am. Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. Turn right on the last road before the Alton Bridge (at the gas station). Turn right on the next road to the Teal Pond lot.

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Beginner Walk at Mallard Lake:** This easy walk starts at 8:00 am from the south parking lot at the Creve Coeur Lakehouse, 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Rd. Bring your binoculars, if you have them; loaners are available. We should finish about 10. Check our Facebook page for any last-minute updates.

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:** This half day trip will start at 8:00 am. Follow the directions for the Nov 5<sup>th</sup> trip.

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup> to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:** This half day trip will start at 8:00 am. Follow the directions for the Nov 5<sup>th</sup> trip.

All field trips are FREE. Reservations not required, unless noted—consult our website for details. For questions, contact Mike Grant at [mikecurlw@att.net](mailto:mikecurlw@att.net).





ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

**St. Louis Audubon's  
Fall Gaggle at the Lakehouse  
*A Fundraiser and Social***

**Sunday November 20th, 2 pm - 5 pm**

Mingle, enjoy the Creve Coeur Park setting and bid on our silent auction.

Tickets - \$35, includes finger food buffet, one bar drink ticket and \$10 tax-deductible donation.

Music by members of Red-Headed Strangers

Register by Nov 14th at [www.stlouisaudubon.org](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org)

Creve Coeur Lakehouse, 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Road, St. Louis, MO 63146



## Two Rivers NWR Field Trip Report

By Mike Thelen

Nine of us started our visit to Jersey and Calhoun Counties, Illinois, on a crisp 47F October 8<sup>th</sup> morning at the downriver end of Gilbert Lake. While the Illinois River was pretty high up the levee there was still habitat and birding was very good from the parking lot onward. It was birdy enough with such a nice diversity of species that it was hard to break away from that spot. Highlights included YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, CEDAR WAXWING, YELLOW-RUMPED and BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS. And we also had nice looks at YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS, a pair of PILEATED WOODPECKERS and yellow-orange SUMMER TANAGERS. As in past years this area seems to appeal to migrant BLUE JAYS.

We had a great study of 19 FRANKLIN'S GULL at the Pere Marquette marina with side-by-side comparisons to RING-BILLED GULLS. The causeway at the end of Dabbs Rd was also birdy with good sparrow habitat although we found only SONG, SWAMP and WHITE-THROATED. Compared to previous years sparrows were sparse for the whole day. A vocal MARSH WREN was teasing but never showed itself. A PEREGRINE FALCON kicked up a flock of BLUE-WINGED TEAL over lower Stump Lake.

Two Rivers staff had not yet pumped water into lower Swan Lake yet so the lake bed was mostly thick with vegetation. There was a very large flock of ducks concentrated in the remnant of the lake although they were too distant and there was too much heat distortion to ID them, even from three different vantage points.

With the HAIRY WOODPECKER at Gilbert Lake we swept the woodpeckers for the day. And it was a pretty good raptor day with TURKEY VULTURE, OSPREY, BALD EAGLE, NORTHERN HARRIER, COOPER'S HAWK, BROAD-WINGED HAWK and PEREGRINE FALCON.

The air around Two Rivers HQ was thick with the silk of ballooning spiders. One thread attached to the flag pole was 60 feet long and waving in the breeze. A Turkey Vulture passed over with one streaming behind its left wing. We were picking the silk off ourselves: I brushed one silk, with spider attached, off myself after getting out of my truck. We watched one come down to the ground with a fingernail-sized spider riding it.

Thanks to all for making it a fun day and to Pat Lueders for helping and spotting, especially the Osprey which was soaring with an immature Bald Eagle over Gilbert Lake.

We ended the day with an aggregate list of 62 species + 3. Here's the complete list:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31959427>



*Yellow-billed Cuckoo*



*Al Smith Photos Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*

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

## ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER-SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
E-Mail or Phone (if desired): _____
Make checks payable to: <b>St. Louis Audubon Society</b> Mail Checks to: <b>St. Louis Audubon Society</b> <b>P.O. Box 220227</b> <b>St. Louis, MO 63122-0227</b>

11/16

***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 more may choose from three gifts:

*Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy  
*North American Birdfeeder Guide* by Stephen Kress  
*Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern & Central North America*  
Please indicate your choice.

100% of your dues stay in St. Louis supporting our local efforts. 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 Gift*