

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.

Reservations not required, but for further info contact Chris at birding@forestparkforever.org.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

TWO RIVERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH AT 8A

ALL DAY TRIP IN SEARCH OF WATERFOWL AND OTHER BIRDS.

OCTOBER PROGRAM—PAGE 5

DANIEL BOONE LIBRARY AT 300 CLARKSON ROAD

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20TH AT 7 P.M.

Costa Rican Adventure.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

CLARENCE CANNON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21ST AT 8A

ALL DAY TRIP

TREE PLANTING WORK DAY—PAGE 5

CREVE COEUR LAKE MEMORIAL PARK

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31ST FROM 9A TO 1P

STLAUDUBON@CHARTER.NET TO REGISTER

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

HORSESHOE LAKE STATE PARK

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7TH AT 8A

HALF DAY TRIP LOOKING FOR WATERFOWL AND WINTER BIRDS.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM—PAGE 6

NICHOLS COMMUNITY CENTER IN BELLEVILLE, IL

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19TH AT 7 P.M.

Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People, a presentation and discussion by the author Dave Tylka.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

BUSCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21ST AT 8A

HALF DAY TRIP LOOKING FOR WINTERING BIRDS.

WETLAND RESTORATION WORK DAY—SEE OUR WEBSITE

CREVE COEUR LAKE MEMORIAL PARK

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21ST FROM 9A TO 1P

STLAUDUBON@CHARTER.NET TO REGISTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Carlyle Lake Trip Recap	2
President's Message	3
Field Trip Details	3
Creve Coeur Park Project Update	5
Monthly Program Announcements	5/6
Conservation Issue Update	7
Audubon Inventory Clearance	7

Eye on Forest Park

By Chris Ferree

St. Louis' Forest Park is well known to local birders as a great spring migrant trap along the Mississippi flyway. However, over the past 10 years, a major transformation has occurred throughout the park. Over 50 acres of natural habitats have been added to the original 100 acres of forest. These new areas include tall and short grass prairies, savannas, wetlands, and woodlands. The river system has also been reconstructed following the old River Des Peres channel that once flowed through the park. The additional habitats mean the park has become much more than a stopover point for spring and fall migrants.

During the summer months it is easy to spot Eastern Kingbirds hawking in the prairies at Deer Lake. Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, Green and Great Blue Herons and the occasional Little Blue Heron fish along the river system and lakes. In the winter, good concentrations of winter sparrows may be found in the brown grasses of Steinberg Prairie. Finally, Wood Ducks are reliably seen year-round.

If you walked the park recently you may have noticed some new features in the natural areas—nest boxes. 16 Peterson-type Bluebird boxes are scattered around the park; there were 10 in 2008. These boxes are the first to

See Forest Park on Page 4

Board Meetings

Open to All. 1st 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.

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Newsletter

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



www.earthsharemo.org for more info.

Carlyle Lake Trip Recap

By Joe Eades

The Carlyle Pelagic trip began with an explosion of migrant warblers at Hazlet State Park. Birds were everywhere, often dozens at a time. Black-throated Greens, Magnolias and Tennessees were the most abundant, but MANY Chestnut-sided and American Restarts were also seen. Quite a few Bay-breasted Warblers were seen as was a single Wilson's. Rare warblers included a male Black-throated Blue, found by Bob Pitzer and seen by a few others, a Blackpoll and a couple Cape Mays. Seventeen species of warblers were seen by the main group and four others were added by Bill Rowe and his class, which also participated in the trip but did their morning migrant birding at the Hawn Access. Pine and Canada Warblers were highlights of their morning. TWENTY-ONE species of warblers is definitely something to write home about in the fall. We also tallied five species of vireos, including Philadelphia. Some of the vireos were still vocalizing.

The pelagic portion of the trip was exciting. Before disembarking, we received word that the Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS) had found both Red and Red-Necked Phalaropes! Two of our boats worked our way up to the portion of the lake where these birds were seen. Soon, we found a "seam" where surface currents brought together a line of foam upon the lake. Not long after, we saw our first phalarope, which turned out to be a Red! We approached the bird within twenty feet or so for excellent, once-in-a-lifetime looks. DELICIOUS is the best way I can describe it! We motored slowly down the seam and soon found a Red-Necked Phalarope which allowed similar close approach for excellent comparison/contrast observations. One of our boats was unfortunately plagued by engine

See Carlyle Lake on Page 6

Red Phalarope

Tom Bormann Photo



President's Message

By Dave Rogles

Occasionally I am stumped by a simple question. What is the purpose or goal of St. Louis Audubon? Though we have an official planning document, the Strategic Plan, the question usually comes from someone who is asking, "What are you going to do for me, and why should I help?"

In the St. Louis area we are fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources—water, farmland, recreational land— that we have protected over the years. Advocates for use of these lands line up behind "bullets," issues, if you will. Whether more trails, better amenities, better access, lobbyists exist for all of these issues. Audubon stands at the next level of abstraction—we lobby for the creation of sustainable core areas, restored to a natural state. We argue for these areas not on the basis of man's needs (e.g. better planning for strip malls and highways), but on the basis of nature's needs. We advocate for nature on the basis of science, on a prediction of the future that is based on the science of the past. We expand this vision, when we can, beyond our local circle, into other areas of critical concern.

St. Louis Audubon, in cooperation with the National Audubon Society, inputs science into regional long-term planning. We have contributed to the master plan for the restoration of the Mississippi River; we helped with the Mississippi River birding trail; beyond our borders, we have even helped with the protection of wintering habitat in Honduras—habitat critical to our nesting birds.

I have been re-reading E.O. Wilson's *The Diversity of Life* and I paraphrase one of his dominant themes: human beings are without restraint, and without restraint, human beings cannot survive. People threaten biological diversity, and our stewardship is necessary for the survival of all species. This theme is the root of our education programs: nature is good, and is worthy of being preserved merely for that goodness, without any sense of utility. If **we** do not care about the marshes, the birds, the clean water, the preservation of local farmland, we can be sure our children and grandchildren will **not need** to care about them—they will be gone. Help us make a difference for the future. ♦

Field Trips, Etc.

Oct 17th to Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge:

Mike Thelen will lead this all day trip. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Gilbert Lake parking lot just north of the entrance to Brussels Ferry outside Grafton, IL. Carpools will leave from Riverlands Teal Pond lot by 7 a.m.

Oct 21st to Clarence Cannon National Wildlife

Refuge: Pat Lueders will lead this all day trip. Meet at 8 a.m. in the Dierberg's lot described in the Oct 3rd trip.

Nov 7th to Horseshoe Lake State Park: Paul Bauer will lead this half day trip starting at 8 a.m. From St. Louis, take I-70 east to Hwy 111 (exit 6) and turn

left. Go ~2 miles to Park entrance and meet in first parking lot on right inside Park.

Nov 21st to Busch Memorial Conservation Area: Mike Thelen will lead this half day trip starting at 8 a.m. Take Hwy 94 south from Hwy 40 about 1.3 miles and turn right at the light for Hwy D. Continue 2 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot on the right.

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.

Forest Park

Continued from Page 1

be installed in the natural areas of the park in recent memory and have had phenomenal success in their second year. In 2008, the first year of installation and monitoring by Forest Park Forever Staff and volunteers, the boxes yielded successful Tree Swallow fledglings. This current year's breeding season saw an increase of species to include House Wrens and attempts by Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Bluebirds. The Bluebirds were of particular interest since they were the target species for the nest box program. Sadly, the attempt was unsuccessful, yet it is a clear sign we are on the right track.

Erecting the boxes throughout the park is actually the easy part. The difficult and time consuming part is the required weekly monitoring. Fortunately for Forest Park Forever Staff, we have had a dedicated group of volunteers which include: Ann Earley and Bob Siemer, Lynne and Jerry Breakstone, Linda and Jim Yust. These volunteers really make the ongoing success possible.

In addition to providing much needed cavity nesting habitat the boxes have become a great educational tool. The volunteers have received many questions during their monitoring visits, and Forest Park Forever Staff have integrated them into their Environmental Education programs. Plans are to increase the number of nest boxes again for next year. Next time you are in Forest Park, take a look around, find our nest boxes and see if you can observe which cavity nesters have chosen to call the Park "home!" ♦

Eastern Bluebird
Mike Grant Photo



Volunteers Wanted 11th Annual Honeysuckle Removal Project Saturday, November 7th, 2009 from 9 am to 1 pm

This *Park Project Day* is appropriate for individuals, volunteer groups and families. Children under the age of 18 must have parental / adult supervision at all times. For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Anne Grossmann at volunteer@forestparkforever.org or call (314) 367-7275, Ext. 14.

Arrival Instructions:

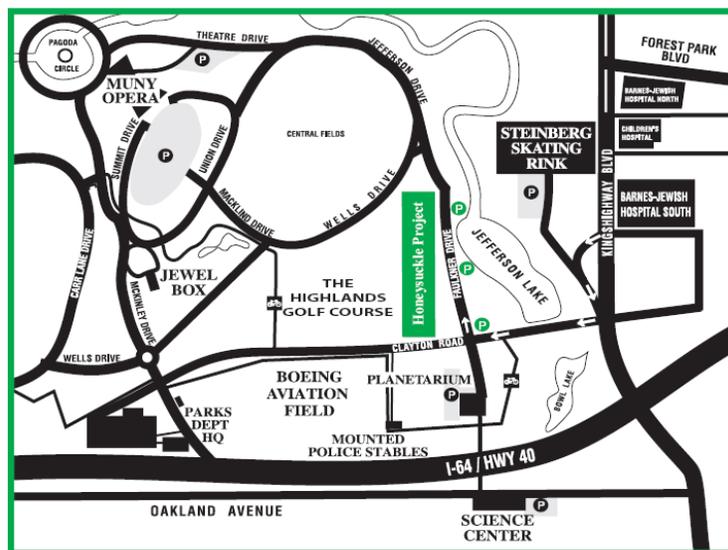
Enter Forest Park at Kingshighway Blvd. & Hospital Way. Turn RIGHT on Clayton Road and RIGHT again on Faulkner Drive.

Street parking available on the East-side of Faulkner Drive.

 = Parking



Eagle Golf



Costa Rican Adventure

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

This past July, local birders Susan Eaton, Mike Grant and Bob Pitzer embarked on a tropical birding adventure to Costa Rica. The itinerary, arranged by Costa Rica Gateway, took the group to Tarcoles near the Pacific Ocean (Villa Lapas), south through Dominical then inland to the region around San Isidro do la General (Talari Mountain Lodge), northward over the summit of Cerro de la Muerte (Savegre Mountain Lodge), and finally to the Caribbean slope of the Talamanca Mountains (Rancho Naturalista). The group observed over 300 species of birds, including tiger-herons and lapwings, parrots and parakeets, trogons



and toucans, woodpeckers and woodcreepers, hummers and tanagers, and the gem of Costa Rica, the Resplendent Quetzal! Mike and Susan will share stories and photos from this exciting trip.

Please join us at the Daniel Boone Branch of the St. Louis County Library for this exciting program. The Library is at 300 Clarkson Road, just 0.6 miles north from Manchester on the left.

Registration not required and the program is free. Questions, please call Mitch Leachman at 314.599.7390. ◆

Park Project Kickoff

On Saturday, September 26th, over 50 people volunteered to collect trash at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. The first of our six scheduled habitat restoration volunteer workdays was cut short by rain, but still managed to remove over 6 yards of trash from within and around Creve Coeur and Mallard Lakes. The diverse volunteers represented the Cub Scouts, Missouri Stream Teams, Parkway North High School, St. Louis County Park Trail Watchers, the MDC Master Naturalists, the St. Louis Rowing Club and of course St. Louis Audubon. Thanks to all those who gave of their Saturday to help and special mention of our volunteer leaders: Susan Florek, Karen Meyer, Sanford Brickman, Paul Newett and Bryan Prather.

If that sounds exciting, you will just love our next project on Saturday, October 31st, starting at 9 a.m. We will be planting nearly 500 trees along the west boundary of the Park, just south of Hwy 364. The trees will provide bird and wildlife habitat and form a screen to noise and light pollution expected from planned commercial development adjacent to the Park. To register, e-mail stlaudubon@charter.net or call Mitch at 314.599.7390. ◆



Carlyle Lake

Continued from Page 2

trouble which delayed their journey out onto the lake. They got very good looks at two Red-Necked Phalaropes, but missed the Red. They were, however, rewarded by being the only boat on the entire lake (Audubon and IOS) to see the beautiful and graceful Sabine's Gull! Less rare, but beautiful to watch in flight were an immature and three or four adult Bonaparte's Gulls, three Black Terns and one Common Tern. All of these birds coursed by very close to the boat.

After a late lunch break, some of the group continued on to Parking lot #3 to look through the shorebirds that were using the newly formed mudflat there. A staked out Red Knot was found after some searching. Other shorebirds of interest were Semipalmated and American Golden Plovers, a Short-billed Dowitcher, accurately indentified by Mike Thelen, numerous Stilt Sandpipers and a few Wilson's Snipe.

Lighting conditions were quite poor as we ended the day with a "lakewatch" from the Olympic Pavilion at Hazlet State Park. A phalarope species was seen as it flew across the lake and eventually landed in the water, but little else of interest was detected. The core Audubon list broke 100 for those who stayed all day, though no one saw all species. For example, I saw or heard 96. Ten additional species seen by Bill Rowe's class brought the Audubon total to 115. The IOS group listed additional species as well. Thanks to those who skippered the boats—Jim Malone and Mike Thelen, and to Dan Kassebaum, Mark Seiffert, Keith McMullen, and Travis Mahon of IOS for their help reporting finds and where to look for them. ♦



Bonaparte's Gull

Mike Thelen Photo

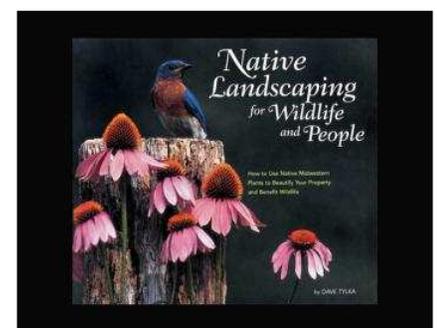
Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People

Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

This summer, the Missouri Conservation Department published the second edition of the book, *Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People—How to Use Native Midwestern Plants to Beautify Your Property and Benefit Wildlife*. Dave Tylka, the book's author and long-time Audubon member, will lead a presentation and discussion on the topic.

Dave Tylka is a widely recognized nature writer, photographer and educator who brings a wealth of ideas that can inspire any home gardener. Dave will share pointers on how to attract songbirds, butterflies, and hummingbirds to your yard. Retired from full-time teaching at St. Louis Community College at Meramec, Dave still instructs a few landscaping and ecology courses.

Start your planning for next spring or consider a Christmas gift. Copies of this new edition will be on sale before and after the presentation for \$18, and Dave will be happy to sign them. Registration is not required and the program is free. Questions, contact Mitch at 314.599.7390.



LOCATION DIRECTIONS

The presentation is at the Nichols Community Center in Belleville, IL at 515 E. "D" Street. From I-64, take Hwy 159 south 5 miles to N. Douglas. Turn left and go 0.5 mile to N. Oak. Turn right and another quick right to "D" Street. The Center is on the right.

St. Louis Audubon Inventory Clearance

By Sue Gustafson

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 24! St. Louis Audubon Society has had numerous items in a storage facility for many years, and it's time to make these items available to interested folks. Come peruse the contents of our storage facility. We have over 60 boxes of nice quality bird books, field guides, natural history topics, travel guides, and nature-related fiction and non-fiction books. Other items include bird feeders, bird houses, wood book shelves, metal shelves, filing cabinets, folding chairs, kitchen table, wooden desk with rolling drawer cart, desk chair, office & kitchen supplies, tools, refrigerator and more.

Items are available for a donation in lieu of a set price—no credit cards, please. Some larger items will have a suggested donation amount. Donations will go to our General Fund which supports our day-to-day operations including member communications, new program development, recruitment, orientation and training of new board members, etc.

Our unit at Haskins Storage will be open for viewing on Saturday, October 24 from 8 AM to 3 PM. Haskins is located at 2751 Little Antire Road in High Ridge, Missouri 63049. Take I-44 west from I-270 and exit at the Antire Rd-Beaumont exit (probably exit 269). Go back over I-44, start your mileage count and turn right to go down the hill. At the bottom of the hill (0.7 mile mark) take the left fork, Beaumont-Antire Rd. At the 2.7 mile mark the road name changes to Little Antire. At about 3.6 miles you will see a lot of RVs stored on the right. At 3.7 miles is the entrance to Antire 44 Haskins Storage on the right. You might have seen a gate earlier, nearer the RVs, but the latter gate is the one that you want. Enter the lot and go through the gate which will be open for us. You will see a row of green-doored storage units in front of you. Our unit is in the first building and our doors are numbers 129 on the near side and 152 on the far side.

Questions contact Sue Gustafson at smgustafson@juno.com or John Solodar at solodar@sbcglobal.net. ◆

Conservation Issue Update

Climate Change

The Senate just introduced their version of clean energy legislation this week. Let your Senators know that you support action on clean energy and climate legislation. You can easily send an email to them through the following link: <http://act.repoweramerica.org/page/s/senate>.

National Issue Connection

As a reminder, we recommend the Audubon Advisory to keep on top of national environmental issues. Sign up at <http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html> for a very low key, non-intrusive service via e-mail. Also, consider checking out Missouri Votes Conservation, Missouri's arm of the League of Conservation Voters, at www.movotesconservation.org.

Riverview CasiNO

Now is a crucial time to voice your opinion about the Riverview Casino proposal. Visit the Spanish Lake Community Association's website, www.spanishlakemo.org for an overview of the many issues with this development. Let your St. Louis County Council member hear that constructing in the floodplain and adjacent to Columbia Bottom Conservation Area and the Great Rivers Confluence Important Bird Area is not acceptable.

For other questions or to help us with issues such as these, contact Karen Meyer at 314.469.8742. ◆

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 \$25 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!

**Memberships are Tax Deductible
Less the \$25 Value of the Book**

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

If already a local member, you need do nothing but accept our thanks!

St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
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