

# 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

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](mailto:birding@forestparkforever.org).

### NATURE WALK FOR KIDS—PAGE 2

SHAW NATURE RESERVE IN GRAY SUMMIT

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 10A

### BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

TWO RIVERS NWR & RIVERLANDS BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 730A

### OCTOBER PROGRAM—PAGE 5

ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY—GRAND GLAIZE BRANCH

TUESDAY OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 7P

### HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 4

CREVE COEUR LAKE MEMORIAL PARK CLEANUP

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup> FROM 9A TO 1P

### BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

ST. STANISLAUS CONSERVATION AREA

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 9A

### BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

BUSCH & WELDON SPRING CONSERVATION AREAS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 8A

### HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 4

CREVE COEUR PARK HONEYSUCKLE KILL

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9A TO 1P

### BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

DAY TRIP TO CENTRAL MISSOURI, INCLUDING EAGLE BLUFFS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

### NATURE WALK FOR KIDS—PAGE 2

CREVE COEUR LAKE MEMORIAL PARK

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 10A

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 7P

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## *A Journey Taken*

Craig Lanham

It was not that long ago that a friend since childhood and I decided to put our kayaks into the Missouri River at Jefferson City and paddle our way downstream to the “Confluence,” the place where the Missouri River forces its might into the Mississippi River. We were amazed by the vastness of the river and captivated by all things that called this river home—Bald Eagles, Herons, deer, and huge fish that would break the surface in a vertical leap. The fish would smack down with a loud clap that would break the quiet only known to those who have plied this incredible river. The clap would echo as it bounced off of the bluffs.

Our quick little journey soon came to an end. While paddling, then drifting, in the late summer heat, along the Northern boundary of the Columbia Bottoms Conservation area, we were soon overtaken by a small fishing boat.

The boat was burdened by all it was outfitted with; a tall homemade covering to block out the intense sun, two blue dry barrels both with a capacity of 55 gallons that could hold weeks full of food, clothing or anything one needed on a long journey. On board were a large man and a dog with personality. After sharing our greetings he inquired as to how far away was he from the Mississippi River. He then informed us he was from

See *Journey* on page 4

## Board Meetings

Open to All. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:president@stlouisaudubon.org)

### Lisa Nansteel, VP Education

(636) 391-4898

### Craig Lanham, VP Conservation

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### John Solodar, Treasurer

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### Sharon Nickl, Secretary

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### Mitch Leachman, Executive Director

(314) 599-7390

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

## Newsletter

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

## Wanted!

By Lisa Nansteel

Do you have a passion for birds, other wildlife and their habitat? Do you want to share that passion with kids and adults in the St. Louis area? If so, read on. (If you know someone who might, please pass this along.)

We need a few energized folks for our Education Team that provides outreach on birds and other wildlife subjects across the St. Louis Metro region. The Team provides in-class programs to school children, primarily during the day, and evening and weekend programs to civic groups, scouts, libraries, churches, garden clubs and others. No experience necessary--training will be provided, including "partner" teaching until you are comfortable. Further, "solo instruction" is not required, even after the training period.

### Preferred Skills

Teaching or Coaching: Comfortable in front of crowds and/or public speaking. Experience in teaching, coaching or mentoring very helpful.

Biology or Natural History Experience: Not required, but helpful. All materials and support will be provided, but a general background in the subjects will make it easier to learn.

### Other Requirements

No minimum hours per week required, but due to the training involved, we do request a long-term commitment to the Team. Your own mode of personal transportation, or aggressive use of transit, is necessary.

If interested, please contact Lisa at (636) 391-4898. ♦

## Audubon Nature Walks for Kids

Consider 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. The walks are level, easy and begin at 10 am.

Sunday, Oct 10 at Shaw Nature Reserve. Take I-44 west to Hwy 100 (Gray Summit exit). Turn left over 44 and then right at light. Entrance is first left. Meet in parking lot.

Sunday, Nov 14 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.

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](mailto:nikiastro@att.net). ♦

## From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

It's that time again—election season. Yes, they are the “mid-terms,” and historically many fewer people find the time to vote. Unfortunate! Every election at every level is an opportunity to improve our society and put folks in office that will work for a healthy environment. I thought I would share with you most of a plea I made in this same space two years ago.

*In this election year, I beg you to consider your priorities well in advance of November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Certainly, we are surrounded by serious issues that require government support—unemployment, national security, energy and more. The environment in total should be at the very center of every debate! The water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the peace we seek, the inspiration we need are all provided by or found through a healthy environment and protected, treasured places. Sadly, a huge majority of candidates at all levels seem to take these things for granted. I urge you to do your own homework. Seek out the candidates' environmental positions on their websites. Ask them or their representatives about their values and plans to protect our natural heritage. Use resources like the election guides from the League of Women Voters or the League of Conservation Voters. I urge you to use the next four weeks to insure when you cast your vote on Election Day, you choose candidates that respect and will fight to protect the miracle that is the natural world, our Planet, our only Home!*

The League of Women Voters of St. Louis, at <http://www.lwvstl.org/elections.html>, has an online election guide that will be available after October 10<sup>th</sup>. The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has a legislative scorecard for incumbents at <http://www.lcv.org/scorecard/> and endorsements of candidates for the U.S. Senate and House. Finally, Missouri Votes Conservation, <http://movotesconservation.org/elections.aspx> is the state affiliate of the LCV and includes endorsement of candidates for state office.

These resources are not meant to replace other methods and means to inform your voting choices, but to supplement and give perspective. All other passions aside, how well we, and our elected officials, steward our natural heritage may be the only legacy that matters to future generations. ◆

## Field Trips, Etc.

### **Oct 16<sup>th</sup> to Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge:**

Mike Thelen will lead this all day trip. Meet at 7:30 am at the Gilbert Lake parking lot just north of the entrance to Brussels Ferry outside Grafton, IL. From Alton, take Hwy 100, the River Road, thru Grafton.

**Oct 27<sup>th</sup> to St. Stanislaus Conservation Area:** John Solodar will lead this half day trip. Meet at 9:00 am. From I-270 take McDonnell Blvd north 1.3 mile to Teson Rd. Turn left and follow to a “T” at Aubuchon. Turn right and follow to conservation area. Meet in first lot on left.

### **Nov 6<sup>th</sup> to Busch & Weldon Spring Conservation**

**Areas:** Mike Thelen will lead this all day trip. Meet

at 8:00 am. Take Hwy 94 south from Hwy 40 1.3 miles and turn right at light for Hwy D. Continue 2 miles to entrance on right. Turn left at the “T” and meet in lot on right for Hampton Lake.

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Day Trip to Central Missouri:** Pat Lueders will lead this all day trip to the Columbia area, including Eagle Bluffs. Watch our website, the MoBirds list serve and the next issue of TaleFeathers for more info.

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.

## A Journey Taken

*continued from page 1*

Bozeman, Montana and traveled to this spot from his home. The “Confluence” was the ending place to his lifelong dream—the dream of traveling the Missouri River by boat, just like Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery. He stated that he and his dog had been on this journey for months.

We held on to his boat for a while listening to his adventure. When the “Confluence” was in sight we said our goodbyes and good lucks. He told us he had been waiting all his life to be at this place and he traveled too far to not see it! The engine roared to life and off he sped into the Mississippi, returning to meet his wife at the boat ramp the Missouri Department of Conservation provides for all on the Missouri. He ended his journey at the Columbia Bottom Conservation area.

My friend and I soon ended our Journey along the Mississippi River, just south of the same conservation area, close to where a casino complex is being proposed.

The “Confluence” may have been an end to both journeys, but it remains a vitally important area to many—a place where many journeys begin or end. A place where journeys have taken place long before a man from the beginning of the Missouri River in Montana met two from Missouri at the end. Long before the Clovis, Mississippian and Illini peoples. Long before names like Jolliet, Marquette, Lewis, Clark, and Chouteau.

These are the bi-annual journeys of millions of migratory birds. Their journey is being threatened by the proposed casino complex.

The migratory travelers headed this year to the Gulf of Mexico face an uncertain future. Let's save their future at the “Confluence” by writing the Missouri Gaming Commission and elected officials to oppose the casino in a place where journeys begin, continue, or end. Visit [www.savetheconfluence.org](http://www.savetheconfluence.org) or contact myself or Karen Meyer for additional details. The “Confluence” means so much to millions of living things. Don't sacrifice their journey. Save the Confluence! ◆

### Global Work Party

350.org is once again building a global environmental movement for October, 10/10/10. Bill McKibben, educator, author, and 350.org organizer, appeared on David Letterman a few weeks ago with his latest book “eearth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet,” and a call for action to solve climate change. Make plans to join one of the work parties here in St. Louis to be part of this important worldwide movement to address climate change, [www.350.org](http://www.350.org).

### Creve Coeur Park Habitat Restoration Workdays

**Sat Oct 23–9am to 1pm (All ages)** Park clean-up. Rain date Oct 24.

**Sat Nov 13–9am to 1pm (Ages 18+)** Honeysuckle kill. Bring your favorite lopper / saw. Lunch provided. Rain date Nov 14.

Registration required: call Mitch at (314) 599-7390 or e-mail [stlaudubon@charter.net](mailto:stlaudubon@charter.net).



*Viceroy Butterfly at Creve Coeur Park—its not just birds that benefit from our work!*

*Photo by Mitch Leachman*



Yellow-rumped Warbler by Margy Terpstra

## Our Garden is for the Birds

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.  
St. Louis County Library—Grand Glaize Branch

Margy Terpstra, Audubon and Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographer member, will discuss the creation of a wildlife sanctuary at her home in Kirkwood. Over 14 years, Margy and Dan have restored their 2/3 acre property into a thriving woodland of native plants, with a bubbler and pond, that has attracted over 140 species of birds. She will share her unique perspective on the crucial need for “stopover habitats” for migrating birds, responsible bird photography, and will touch on multiple ways to bring moving water into your landscape.

Margy has professional experience in horticulture and served on the board of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. She also served on Kirkwood’s America In Bloom steering committee as photography coordinator and editor of the book, *Kirkwood, Missouri ~ Where Community and Spirit Meet*. The book was presented to the AIB Judges for Kirkwood’s winning entry in the 2007 America In Bloom Competition.

We hope you can join us for this informative and visually stunning program. The Library is at 1010 Meramec Station Rd in Manchester, just east of Hwy 141 and north of Big Bend, past the Shop N Save plaza.

Questions, call Mitch at (314) 599-7390. ◆



## Trees Get Helping Hand

25 volunteers, including 10 students from the Loyola Academy in St. Louis City, came out to Creve Coeur Park on September 25<sup>th</sup> to assist the trees planted during last year’s TogetherGreen workdays.

While four adults worked with Dennis Hogan, STL County Parks, to weed around the trees in one area, the students, their chaperones and five others worked in the hot sun to install multiple deer protection measures in another area. The weeding will reduce the competitive pressure on the trees for sunlight, water and nutrients. The protection measures are to deter deer browsing and rubbing (via sight, sound and scent cues) which damaged a significant portion of the initial planting in November, 2009.

Many thanks to Senoret Chemical Company in Kirkwood for providing us Sweeney’s Deer Repellant at a large discount and to Kim Cuddeback of Extra Thyme Catering in Maryland Heights for the tasty, and discounted, lunch. ◆

## Trip Report from Carlyle Lake

By Joe Eades

The annual St. Louis Audubon Carlyle Lake Trip was among the most successful ever, despite relatively low land bird numbers and persistent rain that threatened to cancel the “pelagic” portion on Sunday morning. We had to delay our departure but finally enjoyed a great and productive afternoon on the water. The trip was held over the weekend of September 18 and 19. About 40 birders, some of them far from their central and western Missouri homes, gathered to make this annual pilgrimage.

In terms of pelagic birds, we hit the trifecta! We saw the stakeout Parasitic Jaeger, Sabine's Gull and Red Phalarope! I don't recall ever getting them all on one trip. Only one lucky boat got the Red Phalarope, but they got photos. All this is pretty incredible for an inland location, or should I say inland sea? We even had a bonus pod of 5 Red-necked Phalaropes. Most of the pelagic birds allowed relatively close approach for excellent views. The Jaeger was quite “spooky” and would not allow close approach when resting on the water, but often passed close by the boats in flight. Several participants got excellent photos of the Sabine's and the Jaeger. Another great find was a perched Merlin, which gave the group nice looks during the last round of rain on Sunday.

Migrant land birds included: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, both tanagers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Philadelphia, Red-eyed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Wood Thrush, Nashville, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Black and White, Magnolia, and Blackburnian Warblers, Common Yellowthroat and American Redstart. Other birds of interest included Loggerhead Shrike, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Caspian Tern, Osprey and White Pelican.

Remember, this is an annual event and all birders from all over Missouri and the St. Louis area (including Illinois) are welcome. Next year's trip will be held the weekend of September 17 & 18. As always, it is a great time to connect with old friends and make new ones.

In addition to the sample of photos on the next page, several birders' photos can be viewed online.

Jane Allen at:

[http://jcallen.smugmug.com/Other/Pelagic-birding-trip-Carlyle/13842163\\_8AbaV#1014486599\\_omcS4](http://jcallen.smugmug.com/Other/Pelagic-birding-trip-Carlyle/13842163_8AbaV#1014486599_omcS4)

Jim Malone at:

[http://picasaweb.google.com/jpmalo2003/2010IllinoisBirds?authkey=Gv1sRgCMu\\_i-bq5prXqgE#](http://picasaweb.google.com/jpmalo2003/2010IllinoisBirds?authkey=Gv1sRgCMu_i-bq5prXqgE#)

Al Smith at:

<http://www.photosbyat.com/Birds/Birding-2010-September>

As always, enjoy them but please respect the photographers' “ownership” of their photos and do not use or distribute them without their permission. Thanks to all of them for sharing!

Hope to see you next year at Carlyle Lake! ◆

### Mexico Trip Canceled

We regret that due to the very unstable situation in certain parts of Mexico, we are forced to cancel the previously announced trip planned for February. We are working on alternatives, possibly to include Costa Rica in February or March. So, please watch our website and future issues of *TaleFeathers* for details of a replacement trip.



*Clockwise from middle left  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Juvenile Parasitic Jaeger  
Juvenile Sabine's Gull  
Nashville Warbler  
Birders on Patrol  
All photos by Al Smith*

## Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week October 10–16

Come celebrate with us and tickle your sense of wonder as you experience the beautiful fall colors beginning to appear while discovering the many different migratory birds and other wildlife of Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. Join us at the Refuge Headquarters on Hagen Road near Brussels, IL for our Open House 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Saturday, October 16.

Two Rivers NWR belongs to a nationwide network of federal lands – the National Wildlife Refuge System – dedicated to the protection of wildlife habitat and wildlife species. The nation’s 552 national wildlife refuges and 37 Wetland Management Districts not only protect the nation’s natural resources, but also offer a range of wildlife-dependent recreation.

Two Rivers NWR is one of more than 20 National Wildlife Refuges situated along the Mississippi River from the river’s headwaters in Minnesota to the mouth of the river in the Gulf of Mexico. Over 250 species of songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors rely on these river refuges to provide food and sanctuary during their semiannual migration. Two Rivers NWR manages 8,500 acres of land and waters near the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Much of the Refuge is managed wetlands where water levels can be manipulated to provide high quality habitat for wildlife.

Here’s what we have planned to help you celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week with us:

1. Live bird demonstration with Treehouse Wildlife Center
2. Live turtles on display. Learn about local reptiles and amphibians.
3. Kids can build a birdhouse
4. Guided bird walk and auto tour

Americans have a proud tradition of working to protect and preserve our natural resources, restoring the cultural and historic sites that tell America’s story, and participating in outdoor recreation brings a sense of personal renewal. You can be part of all that, right here at Two Rivers NWR. Consider volunteering at the Refuge, you can ask staff for more details during the Open House.

National Wildlife Refuges across the country will be holding events for National Wildlife Refuge Week. National Wildlife Refuges offer a variety of outdoor activities: fishing, hunting, environmental education, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and interpretive activities. Many wildlife refuges also offer nature hikes, bird watching tours, wildlife drives and trails, and other adventures. Each year, about 42 million Americans discover the wonders of nature by visiting a wildlife refuge. There is at least one wildlife refuge in every state and one within an hour’s drive of most major cities. For more information about National Wildlife Refuges, to go: [www.fws.gov/refuges](http://www.fws.gov/refuges).

### **Press Release for Immediate Release**

Contact: Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Curt McMurl

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, HC 82, Box 107, Brussels, IL 62013. (618) 883-2524  
<http://midwest.fws.gov/TwoRivers/index.html>



# Trivia Night & Silent Auction

## Saturday, October 16th



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

**Date:** Saturday, October 16th

**Location:** Bridgeton Community Center, 4201 Fee Fee Rd, Bridgeton, MO 63074

**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 and raffle of an attractive, framed cross-stitch work. For details about the raffle, pictures of the prize and to purchase tickets without attending the Trivia Night, visit <http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/giving/raffle.php>.

Mulligans will be sold. Games will be held between rounds, and prizes will be given for the first and last place teams.

*Proceeds benefit the conservation and education programs of St. Louis Audubon and the community awareness efforts of the Maryland Heights Residents for Responsible Growth.*

For more information about the event sponsors, visit [www.marylandheightsresidents.com](http://www.marylandheightsresidents.com) or [www.stlouisaudubon.org](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org). For questions about the event, contact Mitch Leachman at (314) 599-7390 or e-mail via [stlaudubon@charter.net](mailto:stlaudubon@charter.net).

The Community Center is on Fee Fee Rd between Natural Bridge and St. Charles Rock Rd, one block north of the I-70 overpass.

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

Hurry! Just a FEW tables left!

Hurry! Just a FEW tables left!

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Tables/Person: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org).

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

## St. Louis Audubon Society Donation Form

Name:

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Address:

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City, State, Zip:

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E-Mail or Phone (if desired):

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Make checks payable to:

St. Louis Audubon Society

Mail Checks to:

St. Louis Audubon Society

P.O. Box 220227

St. Louis, MO 63122-0227

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

Your support will allow us to maintain and expand our efforts in the St. Louis Metro Area. All our programs are free to the public. Thank you very much for your past support!

- Education Only
- Conservation Only
- General Fund--Unrestricted

Contributions are Tax Deductible

If you prefer credit card, visit our online donation page at <http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/giving/giving.php>.

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



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