

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 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.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

TWO RIVERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH AT 730 AM

BEGINNER BIRD WALK

MALLARD LAKE AT CREVE COEUR PARK

2160 CREVE COEUR MILL RD, SOUTH PARKING LOT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH AT 8 AM

WWW.STLOUISAUDUBON.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 6

MCKELVEY WOODS NATURE PARK

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH FROM 9A TO 12P

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

KLONDIKE PARK

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19TH AT 8 AM

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 6

CREVE COEUR PARK

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22ND FROM 9A TO 12P

SUSTAINABLE INVESTING PROGRAM—PAGE 2

ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY CLAYTON BRANCH

TUESDAY OCTOBER 25TH AT 7 PM

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

BUSCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA/WELDON SPRING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31ST AT 8A

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 6

CREVE COEUR PARK

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4TH FROM 9A TO 12P

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH AT 8A

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19TH AT 8A

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON'S FALL GAGGLE—PAGE 5

CREVE COEUR LAKEHOUSE BAR & GRILL

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20TH FROM 2P TO 5P

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Nurturing and a Little Luck

By Karen Meyer

The last of our Purple Martins had recently fledged from the three houses in Creve Coeur Park when I received a phone call from Tracy Durrell, Executive Director of Wild Bird Rehabilitation (WBR) in Overland. She had spoken to John Miller, our local martin expert, and he suggested that our martin housing at Mallard Lake might be an ideal spot to release a martin who was ready to return to the wild. Judy and Larry Kronemeyer, experienced martin landlords, had brought the distressed martin into WBR for treatment. Unfortunately, their site was not presently suitable to release the bird; a Coopers Hawk had recently been frequenting the yard and had driven away all the other martins. Being diligent caretakers, they thought it best to find another site where the male martin would have a better chance of surviving, and where he might more easily find a group of other martins preparing for migration.

The date was set. It was a pleasant morning in August just before sunrise when I met Judy and Larry and Joan, a volunteer from WBR, at the purple martin houses at Mallard Lake. We lowered the house that had fledged the last brood of martins, put the young

Continued on page 4

Board Meetings

Open to All. 2nd 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.

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Newsletter

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

The Will to Give

Tuesday October 25 at 7 p.m.

St. Louis County Library, Clayton Branch



As the world around us rapidly changes, increasingly the issues of sustainability and responsibility are becoming topics of conversation in non-traditional areas of our lives, including our investments. These conversations have implications not only for our moral values in terms of what companies we support with our investments, but also for financial return as we look to invest in the successful companies of the future. Jake Barnett of Morgan Stanley focuses on this conversation through his work with

individuals, endowments, and foundations and will join us on Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00 pm for a brief educational presentation on sustainable investing followed by a substantive Q and A session.

Jake Barnett grew up primarily in the Chicagoland area, spending the three years of middle school in England and Ireland. Jake's professional focus has consistently been on the intersection of social/environmental causes and the realm of economics. He went to college at Ohio Wesleyan University where he triple-majored in International Studies, Economics and Political Science. After graduation he spent time working with a microfinance group in Chicago and fundraising for a local orphanage in Ghana. He came to St. Louis as a FOCUS St. Louis Coro Fellow where he worked with Maplewood's sustainability commission and Enterprise's Corporate Sustainability department. He is a proud St. Louis transplant and is excited to come speak with you about sustainable investing. You can find out more about Jake's perspective in his monthly newsletters.

<http://www.morganstanleyfa.com/jakebarnett/viewpoint.htm>

The event begins at 7 pm at the Mid County Branch of the St. Louis County Library at 7821 Maryland Ave, St. Louis, MO 63105. For questions, call (314) 599-7390. ◆

Proud Member of the



From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

Editor's Note: this is a reprint from our October 2012 issue. Our thoughts are the same today.

It's election season and time for me to remind all of you to keep the birds, butterflies, clean water, clean air and the rest of the environment in mind when you go to the polls.

I have strong opinions about nearly all the issues being presented by the various candidates for office and/or their political parties, as I'm sure you do. Any one of those issues may warrant sufficient reaction for a decision to support or oppose that candidate. After all, poverty, income inequality, unemployment, crime, and foreign wars are all worthy of serious thought. Still, I ask that you consider the environment on equal footing when making your choices.

I recently came across a quote—although it has apparently been around for quite some time. “The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment.” Just think about it—so true. Every single thing we do is dependent upon the environment: trees for paper and lumber; fish for food; water for drinking; fossil fuels for power and raw materials like plastics; and so on.

Then there's the “function” so often not discussed: disposal. From heat to toxic chemicals to simply trash, everything we do requires a “sink” for the by-product of its operation or its eventual end-of-life. That sink is our biosphere. While providing services and raw materials for 7 billion-plus people, our single, self-contained globe of all life we know is expected to accept all of our waste products, too.

For such a critical topic—our life support system—it is astounding that it rates so few of the talking points for any candidate or party. So, you have to do some homework. Seek out candidate's positions on the environment; hint: it may be buried under the “Energy” heading. If you're fortunate enough to speak with a candidate directly, ask about their “environmental ethic.” Consider research by third parties like the League of Conservation Voters and others.

Also, encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to do the same thing. Help them bring our Planet into their voting process, too. Collectively, we can make a difference. Our future depends on it! ◆

Field Trips, Etc.

Oct 8th 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 19th at Klondike Park in St Charles: This half day trip begins at 8 am in the conference center parking lot in the Park. To carpool/caravan, meet at 7:15 am at the commuter lot on Research Park DR at the SE corner of I-64 & Hwy 94.

Oct 29th at Busch Memorial Conservation Area: This trip starts at 8 am. Take Hwy 94 south from Hwy 40. At 1.3 miles, turn right at light for Hwy D. Go 2

miles to entrance on right. Turn left at T to Hampton Lake and meet in lot.

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

All field trips are FREE. Reservations not required, unless noted—consult our website for details. For questions, contact Mike Grant at mikecurlew@att.net.

Continued from page 1

Nurturing and a Little Luck

bird in the unit, and secured the opening until the house was raised back up. When the opening was cleared, it took only a few seconds for the fledgling to take flight. We had noticed a group of Chimney Swifts, swallows and a few Purple Martins circling together over the lake. Our fledgling immediately flew towards the mixed flock, joining them high above the lake. We lost sight of him as the flock worked its way north towards the big lake in the gathering morning light.

What a joy to see this bird soar so freely and naturally into his new world. We were elated, relieved and reasonably confident that the young martin had been released into a suitable environment for survival. It was a great pleasure to meet the dedicated volunteers who had been instrumental in giving this bird a second

chance. His human caretakers had gone above and beyond their duty, and now it was up to nature and the avian world to help bridge him into adulthood.

This season's bird box monitoring was again a fun and eventful adventure. Assistance was provided by Mary Dueren, Anne Kirkpatrick, Glenn Meyer, Mary Mierkowski and Anne Rankin Horton. Though several hot spells threatened the martins, and ants aggravated the bluebirds before we got them under control, our records show the following number of birds fledging this season:

Purple Martins-76

Eastern Bluebirds-31

Tree Swallows-5

Many thanks to our faithful volunteers, and much luck to the fledglings of the season! ◆



Anne Kirkpatrick (left) and Mary Mierkowski

Vote YES for Our State Parks and Clean Water

The successful renewal of the Missouri Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is critical to the funding of the parks, soil and water conservation programs it supports. It will be on the November 8, 2016, ballot as Constitutional Amendment #1, and we need your support!

Why does it matter?

Missouri's parks, soils and clean water are important to our quality of life, our health and our economy. More than 19 million people visit our state parks and historic sites annually, providing more than \$1 billion a year in economic impact and supporting 14,000 jobs.

What does it do?

The sales tax works to maintain our state park system and keep it free, to maintain and improve our water quality and to combat soil erosion.

How does it work?

Constitutional Amendment #1 is a smart investment. It simply renews an existing program that has successfully protected our parks, soils and water for more than 30 years — with no increase in taxes.

Tell everyone you know to vote for Missouri's state parks and clean water and vote YES on Constitutional Amendment #1! For additional information about the amendment or the tax, visit www.soilwaterparks.com.



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

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





St. Louis Audubon Society Community Stewardship Projects

October 15th at McKelvey Woods Nature Park. Honeysuckle hack.

We continue our partnership with the City of Maryland Heights removing honeysuckle within the new Nature Park. Meet at Dogport, just north of Aquaport at 2344 McKelvey Road, Maryland Heights, 63043. Lunch will be provided but please RSVP to the Parks Dept at (314) 738-2599. Event in collaboration with the [Greenway Network River Ring Honeysuckle Bash](#).

October 22nd at Creve Coeur Park. Tree planting.

Bring a shovel if you have one. Project site is just south of Page/364 and north of Mallard Lake. Access is via Creve Coeur Mill Rd, north of the Creve Coeur Lakehouse and right at the Forest ReLeaf Nursery, just before the overpass. Continue along the trail, through the roundabout (carefully) and park on the side of the trail. RAIN DATE OCTOBER 29TH.

FRIDAY November 4th at Creve Coeur Park. Honeysuckle removal.

Bring your favorite lopper or saw. We will meet in the south lot at the Lakehouse, 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Road, St. Louis, MO 63146.

All projects begin at 9:00 am with registration starting at 8:30 am. All are half-day, ending by noon. Gloves and other supplies/materials are provided. All ages welcome, but those under 18 must have parental/adult supervision at all times.

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



Mallard Lake Prairie Project Partnership



Since 2014, a diverse group of partners have been working to restore prairie, woodland and the lakeshore at the Mallard Lake area of Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park in NW STL County. The project includes several native plant pollinator demonstration gardens to help inspire visitors to create habitat in their own landscapes. On October 1st, over 400 native plants were used to create two of those gardens nearly adjacent to the Creve Coeur Lakehouse at 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Road.

Partners include Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Missouri Master Naturalists, St. Louis Audubon Society, St. Louis County Parks, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wild Ones–St. Louis Chapter. The initial efforts, under a grant from MDC will be completed in 2017, but the partnership work will continue indefinitely. ◆

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

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

10/16

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

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 more may choose from four gifts:

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy
Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People by Dave Tylka
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!

Memberships are Tax Deductible
Less the \$15 Cost of the Gift