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* If you would like to be added to our e-newsletter distribution.

To donate online, please visit www.stlouisaudubon.org.

Please return this completed form with your gift in the envelope provided for your convenience. Thank you!



December 2016

Dear Supporter,

For at least 15 years, St. Louis Audubon has supported an outreach exhibit, especially for families, as an integral part of the Eagles Days festival at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. The event has become a major collaborative between Great Rivers Greenway, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and others, including St. Louis Audubon.

Our touch table with dozens of species of common birds of the St. Louis region has become the centerpiece of the warming tent activities on the bridge. In peak years the festival has drawn over 10,000 people. While not all visitors make the half-mile walk to the tent, we estimate at least 30,000 people have visited our display over the years!

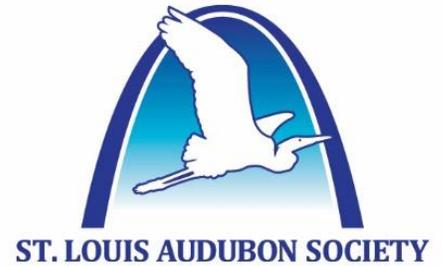
In January of 2015, St. Louis Audubon representatives met with volunteers from the Wild Ones–St. Louis chapter to begin

planning the first-ever regional garden tour specifically to showcase native plants in residential landscapes. The tour was a planned extension of our *Bring Conservation Home* habitat advice and certification program begun in 2011. After two successful years and over 400 participants, the committee is already working on an even larger tour for 2017.

Partnerships are key to both of these efforts, and as a small non-profit, they are essential to much of what we do. Our mission and programming are unique, but we share goals with other organizations and agencies. Combining efforts everywhere possible maximizes our limited resources, including your support which last year delivered over \$12,000 for chapter activities. We hope to count on that support again!

Collaborative installs Monarch butterfly and pollinator gardens

Over three years ago we began discussions with the US Fish & Wildlife Service on their Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative and readily identified St. Louis County's Creve Coeur Park as a logical place to



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

Visit www.stlouisaudubon.org to make your gift online

2015-2016 Highlights

Bring Conservation Home: 175 landscape consults completed, 30 of those certified; 13 bird gardening programs delivered to nearly 500 people.

Education Team: 180 programs presented to 3,700 children and 650 adults on birds and other topics.

Field Trips: 22 volunteers led 44 free birding field trips serving over 800 people.

Outreach: Engaged nearly 4,300 people at 25 events plus an estimated 2,400 more at Eagle Days.

Stewardship: 380 volunteers worked 8 projects that installed over 800 native trees and other plants and cleared invasive plants from 9 acres.

In Total: Over 500 volunteers assisted with Chapter activities, providing 7,800 hours of services.

collaborate. Since then we have helped create the Mallard Lake Prairie Project, with significant funding from the Missouri Department of Conservation, and support from six other agencies and organizations. This past fall the partners installed two 500 square foot pollinator demonstration gardens near the Creve Coeur Lakehouse intended to educate and inspire visitors to create native habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife in their own landscapes. A native prairie will be seeded adjacent to the gardens this winter, and interpretive signs for both will be installed next spring.

Partnerships critical to removal of problem plants

In 2010, St. Louis Audubon began coordinating seasonal projects to remove the non-native invasive Asian bush honeysuckle from key public natural areas in the region. Since then at least 24 acres have been cleared of the plant and over 3,000 native trees and shrubs have been installed in its place. Late last year, we expanded our restoration efforts to include removal of the invasive Bradford pear at



Creve Coeur Park. This beautiful, and very popular, ornamental tree hybridizes with other pear varieties and is spreading across our region, degrading a wide array of parks and open spaces. We urge you to avoid planting it and to replace it with natives wherever possible.

To date over 600 volunteers, representing schools, alumni groups, corporations and non-profits, have participated in our efforts to stop the spread of these problem plants. Of all our partners, the Missouri Master Naturalists have been critical in providing experienced "lead" volunteers to assist with each project's execution.

Your support is essential to continue our success

We are proud of our partnerships. They make us more efficient and more effective, maximizing the value of your support. We are so thankful to have generous supporters like you, and we hope to count on you again. Help us continue to expand our programs and partnerships serving the St. Louis community. Please send in your gift today!

Katy Fechter, President

Mitch Leachman, Executive Director

The St. Louis Audubon Society is an independent 501(c)(3) charity. Our EIN is 43-6052063. Your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.