The Nature of Learning

By Amy Weeks

When we think of education we often envision structured lessons, infinite information, the stress of performing, and loads of tests and exams. However, with this traditional form of education, the idea of going out in our surroundings and truly experiencing the world around us rarely comes to mind.

Research conducted over the past decade consistently indicates positive outcomes when students are immersed in nature and environmental education. Environmental education is the study of the relationships and interactions between dynamic natural and human systems. In the widely acclaimed book, Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder, author Richard Louv describes children’s disconnect with nature as “Nature-Deficit Disorder.” Although not intended to be a medical diagnosis, nature-deficit disorder is a symptom of increasing separation from nature.

Few would argue that the world is facing a number of serious environmental problems. Now more than ever, the role of environmental education must accelerate to influence a greater and more widespread audience that can make knowledgeable decisions about conservation
TALE FEATHERS

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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issues that have wide-ranging impacts on plants, wildlife, habitats, and people.

Four decades ago, the first international conference on environmental education was organized by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. From this conference, the Tbilisi Report (1977) was generated which formulated three comprehensive goals for environmental education:

(1) to foster clear awareness of, and concern about, economic, social, political and ecological interdependence in urban and rural areas;

(2) to provide every person with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment, and skills needed to protect and improve the environment;

(3) to create new patterns of behavior of individuals, groups, and society as a whole toward the environment.

These goals still hold true for environmental educators today and highlight the importance of creating new patterns of behavior for every person, young and old.

The National Environmental Education Foundation embraces the idea that environmental issues can only be solved if all Americans understand how they play a role in addressing these 21st century problems and experience the benefits from doing so first-hand.

By inspiring both young and old, St. Louis Audubon’s education and outreach programs are designed to foster a greater connection between people and nature. Looking ahead, we expect that the experiences and lessons learned through successful implementation of our efforts will stay with participants throughout their lifetimes, preparing them to take active roles and engage with their communities to address the complex challenges facing our world.

St. Louis Audubon Planning Update

As noted in this space in the February issue of TaleFeathers, the chapter leadership has been working on a new five-year strategic plan that will guide our work thru 2023. Much of the hard work is done and the core group has now compiled a draft report for the Board to review. With their revisions, a new draft will be made available on our website by March 18 for YOUR comment/input. Please stop by and give it a look; we value your input. www.stlouisaudubon.org/5yearplan

And thanks!
From the Director

By Amy Weeks

In the February Tale Feathers Board Member Dennis Martin shared insight into the development of a new five-year strategic plan. As a member of the core group spearheading these efforts, I sincerely hope you take the opportunity to review the plan when available and share your thoughts on this important project.

One of the goals you will read about in the strategic plan is to improve our communication, both internally and externally. This includes a targeted effort to establish and strengthen the St. Louis Audubon Society brand. What do I mean by our “brand”? A brand represents people’s perceptions and experiences with our organization including, but not limited to: our customer service, reputation, messaging, and logo. This initiative is driven by our desire to create a more engaging experience for our friends, members and supporters, and to improve how we identify and communicate who we are as an organization.

One of the most exciting ways we are working to achieve this goal is to develop a new website and email communication platform. This will take some time to create and develop but, we are hopeful that by May or early June you will see and experience the updated versions.

Here’s what you can expect from our new website:

- A responsive design—content that is structured for mobile devices, making it easier to read and more aesthetically pleasing
- A new, updated look and feel
- Eye-catching photographs and clear, concise content
- Easier navigation

I hope you are as excited about the changes as I am! St. Louis Audubon has so much to be proud of, and our communication efforts need to highlight that in the most effective and impactful way.

These changes will take a lot of hard work, and I’d like to recognize two volunteers who have committed to this project—Chuck Kirkpatrick and Dawn Weber. Thank you, Chuck and Dawn, for your creativity, dedication and time to make this a reality!

Field Trips, Etc.

**March 9th at Busch Memorial Conservation Area:** Meet at 5 p.m. (note the time) for this evening Woodcock and Owl Prowl. 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.

**March 16th to Horseshoe Lake State Park:** This all day trip starts at 8 am and is good for beginners with some light walking. 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.

**March 16th Beginner Walk at Cliff Cave Park:** This easy walk starts at 8 am from the parking lot on the lower level at 806 Cliff Cave Road, St. Louis, 63129. Meet near the rest room. Bring your binoculars, if you have them; loaners are available. We should finish about 10. This is our first 2019 walk of our Birding the Greenways series with Great Rivers Greenway.

**April 6th at Castlewood State Park:** This half day trip starts at 7:30 am. From 270 or 141, take Big Bend west to Ries Rd south to left on Kiefer Creek Rd. Meet at lot on right, just after park office.

**April 13th at Busch Greenway:** This half day trip starts at 7:30 am from the Duckett Creek Trailhead of the Busch Greenway. Exit 11 on I–64 at Research Park Dr. Cross over highway. Left at T and left again to lot. Excellent for beginners.

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

**Saturday March 16th at Creve Coeur Park. Honeysuckle removal.**
Bring your favorite lopper or saw. We return to the “upper park” to continue clearing the plant from the upland forest. Use this address in your device: 13219 Streetcar Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043. It’s the address for Go Ape, but continue into the Park past a ball field and tennis court to the large gravel lot on your right.

**Saturday March 23rd—Confluence Trash Bash**
For details and to register please see the [Greenway Network’s event page](http://greenwaynetwork.org).

**Wednesday April 3rd at Creve Coeur Park. Honeysuckle removal.**
We will join forces with students from Chesterfield Montessori. Follow directions for March 16.

**Saturday April 6, 13 and 20 at St Vincent Park. Honeysuckle removal.**
Great Rivers Greenway is leading efforts along the St. Vincent Greenway in St. Vincent Park to restore the woodland. Help us show them how much we care. [Please register on their website](http://greatriversgreenway.org).

**Saturday April 27th at Creve Coeur Park. Pollinator garden clean-up.**
The native plant pollinator gardens are looking great, but they need a little TLC, including some fill-in plantings. Help us get them ready for the growing season. Meet in the south parking lot of the Creve Coeur Lakehouse at 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Road, 63146.

**Honeysuckle Sweep for Healthy Habitat—the Month of March**
BiodiverseCity St. Louis helps promote additional honeysuckle opportunities around St. Louis.

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, except as noted, but those under 18 must have parental/adult supervision at all times.

Please register for all projects at [http://stlouisaudubon.eventbrite.com](http://stlouisaudubon.eventbrite.com). For questions, contact Mitch at (314) 599-7390 or stlaurudubon@charter.net.
Sharing a Passion for Missouri Birds & Moths
Thursday March 28th at 6:30 p.m. at Forest Park Visitor Center

Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren were called to return to the wild in 2009 when their love affair with birds first began. For the last five years, they have been bird-loving by day while mothing by night, and as of last year, they had photographically documented over 1,000 moth species in Missouri. They delight in sharing their photos and stories of the birds and moths and what it's like to share these joys as a couple. They will also share how the birds led them back to loving their own species in a time when it is so easy to be disparaging of, and saddened by, human activities.

Andy & Chrissy share a mutual passion for the wild that surpasses all other callings in their lives. In the presence of moths, birds, trees, the land, clouds, a sunset or crescent moon, they experience awe and wonder they never thought possible. They strive to give back by sharing their love in creative ways through writing, drawing, photography, video and a continuous stream of gushing with whoever they encounter.

This is our annual joint program with the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club. The Visitor Center is at 5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, 63112. For questions, call (314) 599–7390 or mitch@stlouisaudubon.org.

Technology and Tracking Bird Migration
What We Are Learning and How We Can Help
Tuesday, April 16th at 7 p.m.
Audubon Center at Riverlands

Tracking birds during migration is a burgeoning field of ornithological study due to advanced technologies that improve each year. Tracking devices small enough to be placed on songbirds, bats, and even large insects are transforming what we know about where birds are migrating, the paths they take to get there, and how we target areas that birds use along the way for conservation efforts. Come learn more about these technologies, bird migration, and how you can help in this effort and be part of this exciting field of study.

Sarah Kendrick works for the Missouri Department of Conservation as State Ornithologist. She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Missouri. Sarah studied the Eastern Wood-Pewee breeding demography in the Missouri Ozarks for her master’s thesis. She has worked for MDC since 2013.

A short business meeting, our Annual Meeting, will precede the program and will include the election of the board of directors. All are welcome to attend, but only members may vote. The Center is at 301 Riverlands Way, West Alton, MO 63386. For questions about this event, call (314) 599–7390 or mitch@stlouisaudubon.org.
THE PARTNERS FOR NATIVE LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP

featuring LARRY WEANER, author of Garden Revolution
at Danforth Plant Science Center

FRI MAR 29 | 5:30 - 9pm | $25
Lecture by Larry Weaner, Reception, and Book Signing
Refreshments included.

SAT MAR 30 | 9am - 4pm | $30
Homeowner’s Workshop w/ Keynote address by Larry Weaner
Workshops about Gardening for Wildlife, Designing with Natives, Landscape Maintenance, and more.
Resources, native plant sale, self guided tours, and book signing. Boxed lunch included.

Advanced registration is required. Registration open through Mar 25th.
www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL2019

Presented by The Partners for Native Landscaping:
Birdbathon 2019

Join us for a fun and interactive bird-watching event!

What is a Birdbathon?

A Birdbathon is similar to a walk-a-thon, but instead of counting miles, you count birds! You’ll have the opportunity to go on one-of-a-kind field trips and learn about local birds while raising money that helps connect people with nature and conserve habitats for birds and other wildlife!

Birders of all skill levels are welcome—expert birders, casual birdwatchers, beginners, kids, families and teams.

Registration opens in March. Information will be posted on www.stlouisaudubon.org as soon as it becomes available.

Together we can make a difference for St. Louis’s native birds and wildlife. Start forming a team now!

Our mission is to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation.

Nurturing Backyard Habitat

an evening with Nancy Lawson and native plant professionals

Friday, March 8, 2019
Powder Valley Nature Center
11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122

5:00 pm: Doors open with social and mingle with Grow Native! plant professionals, light appetizers and soft drinks, and book sale and signing.

6:30 pm: Nancy Lawson presentation

An attendance raffle will be held at the end of the program

$10 registration fee to support St. Louis Audubon and Grow Native! programs.

Nancy is the author of “The Humane Gardener” and will discuss why do we call some insects “beneficial” while others are “pests.” Why are some plants considered “desirable” while others are “weeds?” In this myth-busting talk, learn how common growing methods divide the natural world into false dichotomies and perpetuate misconceptions about the wild species living among us. Discover practical ways to put humane gardening philosophies into action by protecting wildlife nurseries, eliminating unintended hazards, and nurturing plants that provide food and shelter.

Advance registration required at: www.stlouisaudubon.org/2019mingle
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.

** Memberships of $50 or more may choose from these gifts:
- *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy
- *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

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St. Louis Audubon Society
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St. Louis, MO 63122–0227

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