### Calendar

**BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS**
Forest Park Visitor Center at 5595 Grand Drive
1st Saturday Most Months; 8:30 am to 10 am, Meet 8:15 am
For info contact Amy at birding@forestparkforever.org.

**BIRDATHON—PAGE 5**
Anywhere and any time
May 1 thru May 31

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP**
Location to be announced no later than Monday May 13
on our website and Facebook page.
Wednesday May 15th at 7 am

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**
Blue Grosbeak Trail & Lost Valley
Saturday May 18th at 630 am

**BEGINNER BIRD WALK—PAGE 3**
Carondelet Park
Saturday May 18th at 8 am

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**
Valley View Glades
Saturday May 25th at 430 pm

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**
Columbia Bottom and Riverlands
Saturday June 1st at 7 am

**URBAN GARDENING SYMPOSIUM**
Brightside St. Louis Demonstration Garden
Saturday June 1st from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
https://www.brightsidestl.org/blog/events/

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**
Blue Grosbeak Trail & Lost Valley
Saturday June 8th at 545 am

**LIFE OUTSIDE FESTIVAL**
Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park
Saturday June 8th from 10 am to 4 pm
https://greatriversgreenway.org/life-outside/

**BEGINNER BIRD WALK—PAGE 3**
St Vincent Park & Greenway
Saturday June 15th at 8 am

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### Lifetime Achievers

On April 16th, prior to our annual meeting, we gathered at the Audubon Center at Riverlands to recognize Paul Bauer with a trail dedication and all past recipients of the Robert J Terry Lifetime Achievement Award. Volunteers are essential to small non-profits like St. Louis Audubon, and those that give of themselves over decades deserve a special level of thanks and appreciation. Please join us in doing just that for all of our lifetime achievers! 

Fran Bauer and the Paul E. Bauer Family

Terry Award Recipients (R to L) Dave Tylka, Bill Salsgiver, Bill Rowe, Fran Bauer (for Paul Bauer), Gary Giessow Family (for Martin Schweig)
Mike Grant Photos
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.

Education Corner
By Rich Lesage

As the new Vice President of Education, I am committed to programs that teach about the many wonders of nature and creating opportunities for students to connect with the natural world. With that thought, I would like to highlight one of my favorite, and most popular, programs on ecosystems. It is a two-part program that is designed to describe the flow of energy in natural systems using engaging props and authentic materials. We discuss both biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors and demonstrate how communities and the plants and animals that depend on them are both unique and interconnected.

The second part of the program involves building an energy pyramid showing different levels related to a hierarchy of consumption and how energy is lost at each level. This activity includes a discussion about habitats and the basic needs offered to each organism within their habitat. Relating a pyramid of organisms to a complex ecosystem can show how fragile our natural areas are to human caused interferences. Our goal is to help students understand our human connection to the environment and how our actions can make a difference.

I intend this to be just the start of a regular column on our educational efforts and hope to highlight additional programs in future issues. I invite you to join me, or any other Education team member, for a closer look at our educational programs. You might even learn something new! Please contact me at any time to join our team, or just come along for a visit (see my phone and e-mail to your left).
President’s Message

It’s that time of year again when we give a heartfelt thanks and welcome to the volunteer leaders on your board of directors. This month we highlight the accomplishments and experience of the officers.

Herb Huebner began helping out with our conservation stewardship projects shortly after moving to the St. Louis area 10 years ago. He was experienced at bush honeysuckle removal from his time in the northern Kentucky area and has put that knowledge to use repeatedly, including as project leader. He has become a key figure in the Confluence Trash Bash and the Mallard Lake Prairie Partnership at Creve Coeur Park. He joined the board in 2015 and took over as VP of Conservation in 2016 where he served as our liaison to the Conservation Federation of Missouri, led our formal position advocacy efforts and co–led our involvement with National Audubon’s ClimateWatch initiative. Herb reached the 3–year service limit of that position.

Jean Favara succeeds Herb in the VP Conservation position, a role which she is perfectly suited for with her master’s degree in biology and years of experience conducting biological monitoring for the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Missouri Department of Conservation. She joined the board in 2012.

Rich Lesage began volunteering with the Education Team in 2009 not long after having retired from the Defense Mapping Agency as a cartographer and geodesist. At Shaw Nature Reserve in 2006, he saw the power of teaching children about nature and birds and met Lisa Nansteel. After Lisa’s retirement last spring and a short gap, Rich agreed to serve as leader of the Education Team and VP of Education. He is actively working with our staff and myself in developing a multi–year plan for the Team to include internships.

John Klos joined the board last summer and was voted into a full 2–year term at Treasurer at the Annual Meeting last month. He has an MBA from Lindenwood and a diverse background in financial management with various nonprofits including the Boys and Girls Club of Greater St. Louis and the Mirowitz Day School.

Per our recently approved strategic plan, we will continue to fill open slots and welcome inquiries especially from those with experience in communications, event management, marketing and social media.

Field Trips, Etc.

**May 18 at Blue Grosbeak & Lost Valley:** This half day trip includes moderate hiking over some rough terrain. Meet at 6:30 am. From Hwy 40, take Hwy 94 south ~ ¼ mile to the Lot on left.

**May 18 Beginner Bird Walk at Carondelet Park:** This 2–hour trip includes easy walking. Meet at 8 am at the Greenway trailhead in the Schnucks lot at I–55 and Loughborough. Bring your binoculars, if you have them; loaners are available.

**May 25 to Valley View Glades:** This trip includes moderate hiking over some rough terrain and meets at 4:30 pm. Take Hwy 21 23 miles south of Hwy 270 to Hwy B. Go west 4 miles to parking lot on right.

**June 1 to Columbia Bottom/Riverlands:** This all day trip begins at 7 am. From 270, exit Riverview Blvd and go north 3 miles. Entrance on right. Take first left to visitor center. Meet in lot.

**June 8 at Blue Grosbeak & Lost Valley:** This half day trip meets at 5:45 am. Same directions as May 18.

**June 15 Beginner Bird Walk at St Vincent Park:** This 2–hour trip includes easy walking. Meet at 8 am. 7335 St Charles Rock Road, Saint Louis, MO 63133. From park entrance, go north 0.5 mile to first right. Continue to parking lot at greenway and picnic shelter. Bring your binoculars, if you have them; loaners are available.

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

Saturday April 13th was a splendid day for all! The sky was overcast and the temperatures were chilly, yet the 37 of us, including very helpful expert birders, were huddled together in good spirits having the opportunity of spring birding in this beautiful little valley. The trip continued on, luckily, to Fallen Oak Trail and Lake 7 at Busch Wildlife Area, Weldon Spring.

The major highlights of this trip were seeing some rarely seen birds for this part of the country: a Black Vulture on Busch Greenway Trail, two Red-breasted Nuthatches at Fallen Oak Trail and a Red-necked Grebe at Lake 7 at Busch Wildlife.

We had visuals and singing from 5 warbler species: Yellow-throated, N. Parula, Yellow-rumped, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Pine (at Fallen Oak Trail). We also had good visuals of raptors: Barred Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, and Cooper’s Hawk; and four woodpecker species: Pileated, Yellow-bellied, Red-bellied, and Downy. Generally, we had a good variety of songbirds, and we were able to get a good look at Blue-gray Gnatcatchers protecting their nest from intruding Chickadees. All in all, there were very few interruptions from walkers, runners, cyclists, or dogs.

I would like to thank Mike Grant and Bernie Favara for bringing their scopes. Without them we would not have had such great looks at the Gnatcatcher nest, Barred Owl, and especially the Red-necked Grebe.

I would also like to thank the mystery birder (we didn’t catch his name) encountered at Fallen Oak Trail who divulged the likely whereabouts of the Red-necked Grebe.

Busch Greenway 7:30–8:00: https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S54927418
Busch Greenway official walk: https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S54900248
Busch CA: https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S54911677

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for coming and making this such a pleasurable trip!

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St. Louis Cats & Birds Coalition Needs Your Input

Are you a cat owner in the St. Louis area? Can you spare a few minutes to take a survey from the newly formed St. Louis Cats & Birds Coalition? The Coalition is a group of St. Louis metro area non-profit pet rescue and environmental conservation organizations whose shared goal is to maximize the health and happiness of the cats we love and protect the wildlife we value. Your honest responses to our survey will give us the foundation to do just that.

The survey has 32 questions and takes an average of 10–13 minutes to complete. Thank you for your valuable time! https://s.surveyplanet.com/0gb5Llivo
St. Louis Birdathon 2019
The entire month of May!

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

What is a Birdathon?

A Birdathon 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!

Join in the fun!

Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience. The whole month of May is available, and it's easy to participate. You have three options:

- Start a team, or join a team!
- Join a guided field trip with St. Louis Audubon Society, Webster Groves Nature Study Society, or The Audubon Center at Riverlands.
- Just grab your binoculars and go on your own!

For more information, or to register, visit: www.stlouisaudubon.org.

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

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

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE Audubon CENTER AT RIVERLANDS
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 $7.50 Cost of the Gift