

April 26, 2011

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## Fred Weber Becomes St. Louis Audubon Sponsor

ST. LOUIS – Fred Weber, Inc., a Maryland Heights-based civil construction firm, has made a significant financial contribution to the St. Louis Audubon Society, upon recommendation by its President and Chief Operating Officer, Douglas K. Weible. The two organizations found common ground with their interest in St. Louis County's Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. Fred Weber, with its headquarters adjacent to the Park, has provided material support to several large restoration projects there, and the Audubon Society is in the second year of hands-on conservation projects at the Park that utilize community volunteers.

Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park was designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2006 by the National Audubon Society for the essential breeding, wintering or migration habitat it provides to one or more bird species of conservation concern. Creve Coeur Park is one of only three areas so-designated within St. Louis County. In 2009, St. Louis Audubon received funding from the National Audubon TogetherGreen grant program to initiate habitat conservation projects that involve the community. Since then, over 650 volunteers have contributed more than 2,600 hours restoring the park's natural areas. The last project of the current season begins Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. (<http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/calendar/content/honeysuckle-flier.php>).

“We are so pleased to have the support of such an important and community-minded company like Fred Weber,” said Mitch Leachman, Executive Director of the St. Louis Audubon Society. “Their contribution will help insure our hands-on activities at Creve Coeur Park will continue into a third year. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with the Fred Weber family.”

“Supporting our local community has always been important to the Fred Weber family,” said Weible. “We were impressed by what St. Louis Audubon had accomplished with their all-volunteer projects on very little funding. Becoming an Audubon sponsor gives us a new role in the community, and it provides them with project resources to continue their work at Creve Coeur Park and grow other important efforts.”

One other such project that is expected to receive some of the Fred Weber support is an effort called Bring Conservation Home that will provide on-site assistance and certification to private landowners for improving their property as wildlife habitat. The program will send trained, volunteer habitat technicians to perform site assessments and provide written advice on native landscaping for wildlife habitat, the removal of exotic plant pests, stormwater runoff management and wildlife stewardship practices. Currently in a pilot phase, it is planned for an early 2012 regional roll-out.

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Fred Weber, Inc. is an industry leader in civil, heavy / highway construction and a major asphalt and aggregate supplier in the Midwest market. Fred Weber is one of the largest privately held companies located in the St. Louis area and employs 1,400 people in six states. For more information on the scope of services they provide, visit [www.fredweberinc.com](http://www.fredweberinc.com).

Founded in 1915, St. Louis Audubon, [www.stlouisaudubon.org](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org), became the first affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1944 and shares its vision to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation. With a focus on birds, St. Louis Audubon provides the general public with classroom education programs, field trips, and hands-on conservation projects. Representing over 3,000 members in the 10 county area of Greater St. Louis, it is the largest Audubon chapter in the state of Missouri.