Beginner Bird Walk Field Trips

Forest Park Visitor Center
First Saturday of Every Month at 8:15 AM
Special walk just for the new and/or casual watchers.
Reservations not required, but for further info contact Chris at birding@forestparkforever.org.

Birding Field Trip—page 3

BK Leach Conservation Area & Hwy 79
Saturday April 10th at 8A
All day trip in search of waterfowl and early spring

Volunteer Work Day at Creve Coeur Park

Tree Planting
Saturday April 17th from 9A to 1P
To register, see the Trash Article on Page 4 or simply call Mitch at (314) 599-7390.

Birding Field Trip—page 3

Mallard Lake Trail at Creve Coeur Park
Saturday April 17th at 8A
Good trip for beginners to see early spring migration.

April Monthly Program—page 5

The Birds of Forest Park Presentation
Tuesday April 20th at 700P
Learning Lab at Forest Park Visitor Center

Birding Field Trip—page 3

Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit
Saturday April 24th at 730A
All day trip near the peak of migration

Birding Field Trip—page 3

Columbia Bottom and Riverlands Bird Sanctuary
Saturday May 1st at 730A
All day trip in search of migrating warblers

Birding Field Trip—page 3

Forest Park
Saturday May 8th at 730A
Half day trip very suitable for beginners

May Monthly Program—page 5

Tongues, Toes and Tales of Missouri Woodpeckers
Monday May 17th at 700P
St. Louis County Library Headquarters Auditorium

The Conservation Corner

By Karen Meyer

On March 19th, 20 leading environmental and climate groups, including the League of Conservation Voters, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, National Audubon Society, Conservation International, and The Wilderness Society, issued the following statement after a meeting with Senator John Kerry to discuss his bipartisan comprehensive climate and energy proposal:

“We are encouraged by the progress being made by Senators John Kerry, Lindsey Graham and Joe Lieberman to craft comprehensive climate and energy legislation to bring to the Senate floor later this year.

“Our stated goal and commitment to a 17% reduction in carbon pollution by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050 represents the leadership needed by the US Senate to create jobs, increase energy security, reduce carbon pollution and protect public health. Legislative details are important, and are not settled yet, and we will be working closely with the senators, their staffs and others to make sure these details achieve the goals.”

Your voice can help insure the Senate stays focused on this legislation and these targets are retained in the final bill. The Senate is in recess until early April, and let them return to a cascade of demands for a strong clean energy and climate bill that will create green jobs. You can sign
The barges are back in the water at the U.S. Army Corps’ Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. You may recall reading about our inaugural 2009 season providing artificial nesting habitat for the federally endangered Interior Least Tern. Over 20 birds fledged from at least 12 nesting pairs.

While the overall effort will be similar to last year, the Sanctuary’s biologists have made a few modifications that will assist in learning more about the birds during the 2010 breeding season. For example, portions of the barges have been overlaid with a raised rope lattice. While there were no reports of predation in 2009, this structure has been used with similar projects to deter large, avian predators from landing or getting close to nests. Vincent Giammaria, intern with the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, will be assisting again with the monitoring of the tern colony throughout the summer. If you see Vincent during his daily monitoring, please feel free to ask him about the status of the birds.

We would again like to ask the local birding community to assist by reporting Tern observations and other happenings at the barges. Should you see any Least terns using the barge at the beginning of the season, please let us know so that we can increase our monitoring. We would also like to know about use by other bird species, predator interactions around the barge or recreational users getting too close or on the barges. If you observe any of these activities please stop by the office or call us at (636) 899–2600.

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From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

Just three weeks ago Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released the report *The State of the Birds: 2010 Report on Climate Change*. The report is the second of a series generated by a collaborative of conservation organizations and Federal agencies. The first was released last March and showed that nearly a third of the nation’s 800 bird species are at-risk or in significant decline. This 2010 report directly supports the National Audubon *Birds and Climate* report, also released in early 2009, that showed a majority of birds have shifted their winter ranges in direct correlation with warmer temperatures.

The 2010 *State of the Birds* attempts to predict the future impact of climate change on birds. Each species is assigned a “vulnerability score,” based on the species sensitivity to change (e.g. low reproductivity) and its exposure to climate change (i.e. wetlands, coastal, etc.). The score will be used to prioritize response efforts to maximize the potential return. Further, it emphasizes work should focus on habitat protection, adaptation funding, and reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency.

The report offers solutions that illustrate how, by working together, organizations and individuals can have a demonstrable positive impact on birds in the U.S. Specifically, the report indicates that the way lands are managed can BOTH mitigate climate change AND help birds adapt to changing conditions. For example, conserving carbon-rich forests and wetlands, and creating incentives to avoid deforestation can reduce emissions and provide invaluable wildlife habitat.

Glenn Olson, National Audubon Chair for Bird Conservation, points out the direct relationship between bird health and human welfare. “The dangers to these birds reflect risks to everything we value: our health, our finances, our quality of life and the stability of our natural world,” Olson said. “But if we can help the birds weather a changing climate, we can help ourselves.”

That is the real point behind effective climate legislation at all levels of our Government—it will benefit us! Karen Meyer, our conservation director, provides an update on both Federal and state lawmaker efforts in her column on pages 1 and 4. She also offers easy ways for your voice to be heard. Finally, take a few minutes and familiarize yourself with the report—it is worth your time. Visit www.stateofthebirds.org for the report itself and www.audubon.org and scroll down to the report for complete Audubon comments.◆

Field Trips, Etc.

**Apr 10th to BK Leach Conservation Area:** John Solodar will lead this all day trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Meet in the southeast corner of the Dierberg’s parking lot at the southwest side of I–70 and Hwy 79. Birding will be along Hwy 79 toward BK Leach.

**April 17th at Mallard Lake Trail at Creve Coeur Park:** Mary Dueren will lead this half day trip. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Creve Coeur Lakehouse parking lot at 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Rd, just south of Hwy 364.

**April 24th at Shaw Nature Reserve:** Connie Alwood will lead this all day trip with moderate hiking, but good for beginners. Take I–44 west to the Hwy 100 exit (Gray Summit). Cross left over the highway and turn right. Reserve entrance is immediately on your left. The Reserve charges non-members $3.

**May 1st at Columbia Bottom and Riverlands:** Bill Rowe leads this all day trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Columbia Bottom Visitor Center parking lot—just 2.5 miles north of I–270 on Riverview Drive.

**May 8th at Forest Park:** Bob Bailey will lead this half day trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Kennedy Forest parking lot. From the Wells Dr park entrance in the SW corner, the lot is on your left just after Govt. Dr.

All field trips are FREE. Reservations not required, unless noted—consult our website for details. Contact Pat Lueders with general questions at (314) 359–9364.
The Conservation Corner

continued from page 1

a petition on Repower America’s website, http://cpaf.repoweramerica.org/page/s/repetition, or call your
Senator through their toll-free number 1-877-9-REPOWER (1-877-9-737-6937). You’ll hear useful
information prior to being connected to your Senator’s office.

Closer to home there is promise in a new omnibus bill in the Missouri House, HB 1871, which incorporates
several energy–related bills that were unanimously passed by the House Energy and Environment
Committee. The bill includes PACE – Property Assessed Clean Energy – which allows municipalities to help
homeowners finance energy retrofits and pay them off slowly in their property taxes. HB 1871 also includes
a green building measure, requiring LEED Silver Certification for new large state buildings.

Sadly, the Missouri House recently passed an ill–advised resolution that would undermine federal climate
legislation. We need to prevent the Missouri Senate from passing a similar resolution, SCR 46. You can help
by telling your state legislators to vote green this session. Ask your State Representative to vote YES on HB
1871, and your State Senator to vote NO on SCR 46. Visit Missouri Votes Conservation’s website for more

Please make note that “CasiNO” is now “Save the Confluence” to better identify what this group of
organizations is working to protect. Save the Confluence has formed a Steering Committee and is moving
forward with research and action to keep the land just south of Columbia Bottom Conservation Area from
being developed. If you are interested in this issue and want to help, we welcome your time, ideas and/or
donations. Visit https://www.savetheconfluence.org or www.moenviron.org and go to Open Space.

Over 3 Tons of Trash Put in its Place

The latest volunteer workday at Creve Coeur Park, under
our TogetherGreen grant from National Audubon, was a
cleanup on March 27th that involved over 120 volunteers
and County Park staff. The weather was cool and overcast,
but the volunteers were fired up, removing 6,600 pounds
of trash and nearly 2,000 pounds of scrap metal from the
Creve Coeur Creek watershed and nearby drainage areas!
The workday was part of the Confluence Trash Bash and
received supplies and support from its partners, including Trailnet, Missouri American Water, MSD, Coca–
Cola, ConocoPhillips, and the Open Space Council to name just a few. Also, special thanks to Balducci’s
Winefest restaurant for donating gift certificates for volunteer recognition.

Many thanks to our Team Leaders of Stacy Arnold, Bob Bauman, Michael Meredith, Karen Meyer, and
Bryan Prather. Registration was made possible by two folks from Missouri American Water—Cindy
Hebenstreit and Staci Olsen. Also, Mark Jordan and the St. Louis Rowing Club assisted with two boats.
Finally, thanks to Jay Buck and the Lafayette High School Key Club in Wildwood, Stephanie Young and
students from the New Day school in Hillsboro, and employees with JM Family Enterprises in Earth City!

Come on out to the Park on April 17th for this season’s last volunteer workday. From 9a to 1p, we will be
planting trees to extend a wildlife corridor that was begun last November. Lunch will be provided.
Registration is required. Simply provide your name, number, e–mail and number participating via e–mail
or phone to stlaudubon@charter.net or (314) 599–7390.

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The Birds of Forest Park
Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

If you’re new to birding, an experienced birder, or simply wondered what those people with binoculars were gawking at, please join Randy Korotev on Tuesday, April 20th for a great talk and picture show about the birds of, and birding in, Forest Park. With over 220 bird species documented, Forest Park rivals some of the largest state parks and conservation areas in the region for bird diversity.

Randy has been birding in Forest Park since 1979. He has completed surveys of migrant and breeding birds in the Park for the Missouri Department of Conservation and to establish a baseline prior to implementation of the habitat improvements of the Forest Park Master Plan. The program will include lots of photos, many of which Randy took himself.

Randy Korotev is a research professor at Washington University, having earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin. He has studied lunar samples and their chemical compositions since 1969. He studied the first lunar meteorite to be recognized, and has studied most of the subsequently found lunar meteorites. In his spare time, Randy is an avid birder who likes to do Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird Counts.

The program will be held in the Learning Lab of the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor Center at Forest Park. At 5595 Grand Drive, the Center is just east of the Missouri History Museum at Lindell and DeBaliviere and easily accessed via the Forest Park MetroLink stop. Questions, call Mitch Leachman at (314) 599–7390.

Tongues, Toes and Tales of Missouri Woodpeckers
Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Imagine for a moment slamming your face into a brick wall at 16 miles per hour. This self-destructive (and foolish) act would require about 1,200 g of force, almost certainly resulting in your death. Yet, a Pileated Woodpecker exerts the same force up to 20 times per second, and as many as 12,000 times per day, pounding its head into trees! The woodpecker anatomy is perfectly suited for its climbing and excavating lifestyle. Some woodpecker species also possess adaptations for aerial acrobatics, for drilling sap wells, or for extracting ants from underground burrows. And, woodpecker adaptation goes well beyond the anatomy. Cavity excavation, drumming, and food storage are just a few examples of their amazing specialization.

Join Oregon naturalist and North American woodpecker specialist Steve Shunk as he discusses the lives and times of Missouri’s woodpeckers. From the omnivorous lifestyle of the Red-headed Woodpecker to the impressive carpentry of the Pileated, Steve will explain the broad variation in each species’ anatomy and how it helps define their behavior and ecological niches in our local woodlands.

Stephen Shunk started birding in 1989 and for over 10 years has led birding tours and classes throughout the West with his company, Paradise Birding. Steve’s 12 years of woodpecker study throughout North America has led to his recent completion of the Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America.

The program will be held in the auditorium of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters at 1640 S. Lindbergh. Heading south from Hwy 40/64, it is located just across from Plaza Frontenac. Questions, call Mitch at (314) 599–7390.
Come join us to learn about and celebrate spring migration and International Migratory Bird Day with the Wings of Spring Migratory Bird Festival! The Festival has taken a new form this year, with two public days—May 1 and May 8. For a complete, detailed schedule and maps to the activity sites visit www.wingsofspring.org.

May 1, 2010: Forest Park—St. Louis, Missouri. Activities from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Forest Park Birding Tour by trolley, sponsored by Forest Park Forever, will depart at 8:30 am from the Forest Park Visitor Center, 5595 Grand Drive, (registration details below). The trolley will take you to four separate stops within the Park—the Fish Hatchery, Deer Lake, Post-Dispatch Lake, and Kennedy Woods. At each stop, birding experts will be available to point out birds, natural habitat attributes, and to share their birding scopes for excellent viewing opportunities. If you would like to do your own Tour on foot, bike, or in your own car, simply pick up a map at the Visitor Center, the Kennedy Woods shelter, or from the trolley.

At the shelter in Kennedy Woods, you can get up-close with several live birds on display with the staff from Treehouse Wildlife Center. Also, Audubon, the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, the Corps of Engineers, and other bird-friendly organizations will have displays and experts on hand to answer your questions about birds or spring migration. The Treehouse birds and the open house displays are free, open to the public, and will be available from 8:30 am to 1 pm.

The cost for the Forest Park Birding Tour by trolley is $10.00 per person. Advance registration is required. Call Chris at (314) 367-7275, x27, or email birding@forestparkforever.org to reserve your spot today. Many thanks to the City of St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for their support of this event.

May 8, 2010: (International Migratory Bird Day)

Multiple Locations: All events during the day on May 8th will be held at the National Great Rivers Museum (NGRM) in Alton Illinois, and the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (RMBS) in West Alton, Missouri. An evening “Owl Prowl” will be held at Pere Marquette State Park. The museum and the bird sanctuary are within a short drive of each other. The museum will have activities for kids and their families, and the Sanctuary will have nature walks and a bird release conducted by Treehouse Wildlife Center.

9:00 a.m.: National Great Rivers Museum Opens (NGRM)

Wings of Spring Crafts and Activities for Kids begins. Crafts and activities will last until 1:00 p.m. Wings of Spring partner organizations will have displays and information available as well. Partner organizations include: National Great Rivers Research and Education Center; Audubon; Corps of Engineers; Sierra Club; St. Louis Confluence Riverkeeper; Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; Lewis and Clark College; Missouri Department of Conservation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Treehouse Wildlife Center; and Illinois DNR.

10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.: “Get the Scoop Pelican Show,” with Mudflap, the Pelican (NGRMS)

Experience a live American White Pelican up close with naturalists from the World Bird Sanctuary.

Family Hikes at RMBS begin at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with a Geocaching Walk at 11:30 a.m.

Live Bird Display by Treehouse Wildlife Center at RMBS from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

See owls and other birds on display from the Treehouse Wildlife Center in Brighton, Illinois. Center staff will be on-hand to answer questions and will release a rehabilitated bird to the wild at 9:30 a.m.

8:00 p.m.: Owl Prowl - Pere Marquette State Park

We hope you can join us for one or more of these activities on a great spring Saturday in May. Remember, for details and registration information, visit www.wingsofspring.org! ♦
About 22 hardy birders started our semi-annual survey of Horseshoe Lake State Park, and the surrounding areas. Our quest in Spring usually turns up many species of waterfowl, a few good hawks, and fair odds to see good grebes or loons. This spring trip was far better than average with large numbers of waterfowl, and most were at modest range to allow good study with our many scopes.

Our total list of 64 species of birds included 19 species of waterfowl; 16 species of ducks and three species of geese. We had several thousand Ruddy Ducks; Lesser Scaup were also numerous. For this date, ducks found in low numbers that should be common included: only one Red-breasted Merganser; American Wigeon; Redhead; Canvasback; and Common Goldeneye. As a bonus for us to enjoy, Mike Thelen found a nice group of rare Greater Scaup.

The main lake at the trip starting point, and the south pool viewed from the boat ramp were the most productive. Only one possible Horned Grebe was spotted far off from the North Shore Rd. After several stops east and south of the lake, and a visit to the barrow pits, we stopped to search for sparrows in the extensive grass fields near Big Bend Road, at the west end of the main lake.

Much to our surprise and joy, we "discovered" Bill Rudden in the act of searching for unusual birds to photograph, and to inform and share with others. We praise Bill for his dedicated efforts, and service to all birders that use MOBIRDS. (Look at Bill Rudden’s e-mail on MOBIRDS for 3.20.2010 for his photo’s). At the end of Layton Rd we finished our quest when the rain started at 1:40 PM. Always have fun; go birding! ✿

Clockwise from upper right: Common Goldeneye, Savannah Sparrow, Northern Shovelers

Paul Bauer (right) and Birders
Bill Rudden Photo

Al Smith Photos
Do Robins Still Seek Lunch in St. Louis?

According to Brewer’s Book of Myth and Legend, robins gained their red breasts when singed by the flames of Hell as they braved eternal fires, bringing drops of water to suffering souls. Christ’s own blood colors their bright vests, says another tale. A drop of His blood stained a robin that plucked a thorn from the crown borne by Jesus. This happened, so goes the story, as the Savior trudged toward Calvary, and thus a bird was imprinted with both joy and sorrow. Robin redbreast, our cheerful harbinger of spring, how poignant that you remind us of dying as well as living. In yet another legend, American Indians tell us the raven created the robin just for the pleasure of its song, a counterpoint to the croak, an antidote to raspy caws of all who feel pain or hunger now, when pear blossoms open, when a crown of thorns becomes a wreath of petals the color of May. I used to watch a robin on a green lawn in Missouri, his head cocked as he listened to the earth (robin and wren are God’s cock and hen, so goes another legend duly noted in Brewer), confidently hearing lunch burrowing below, a life cycle, there for his pleasure. Watching a robin at work tells us all’s right in the world— all’s right in the world in the city of shoes and brewers, my St. Louis. A place, a sacred space, a small patch, a bright green lawn where turdus migratorius may yet nest in shrubs and under eaves of little, old houses built by immigrants who brought to the Midwest stories and fairy tales to link to robins yodeling so cheerfully at dusk on Harney Avenue.

—Mary Kennan Herbert

Belleville High Student Receives Chapter Award

The St. Louis Audubon High School Young Environmentalist award was created to encourage an exemplary high school student who plans further study in ecology, biology or related fields. The cash award is meant to help defray college costs and to reward young people who share the St. Louis Audubon Society goals.

We are proud to announce the 2010 recipient of this award is Ben Kreitner from Swansea, Illinois and Belleville East High. Ben plans to study Environmental Science at the University of Missouri. He hopes to then serve with a federal government agency, such as the EPA, Interior Department, or Department of Energy. Ben wants to serve where he will be "most effective in developing environmental policy". Please join us in congratulating Ben Kreitner and wishing him well!

For a description of all Chapter awards, visit http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/education/education.php.

Submitted by Lynne Breakstone.

Editor’s Note: Mary Kennan Herbert was born in St. Louis and spent her childhood years in the Walnut Park neighborhood. She attended local schools and saw many a robin on her way to and from school. Now a resident of Brooklyn, NY, she teaches literature and writing courses at Long Island University in Brooklyn. Her poems have appeared in many literary journals and other periodicals including Review for Religious and Fugue at St. Louis University, the Mid-America Poetry Review, and Missouri Life. Several collections of her poems have been published by Ginninderra Press in Australia. This poem was previously published in the Vanderbilt Review.
Chemistry is for the Birds

Monday, April 12\textsuperscript{th} at 6:20 pm (students) and 7:15 pm (public lecture)

To better understand bird life and behavior, and using the tools chemists have used for years, avian biologists and chemists have recently begun to examine more closely the chemistry associated with birds. In this fascinating look at the \textit{Chemistry of Birds}, Dr. Dwight Chasar, research scientist and field ornithologist, talks about the chemical pigments that give birds color, the chemicals birds use for survival in the wild, chemicals that nearly extirpated raptors, and the use of stable isotopes to understand bird migration. From the simplicity of bird poop to the complexity of bird DNA analysis, chemistry is playing a big role in our understanding of bird dynamics. \textit{Chemistry is for the Birds} covers enough chemistry to satisfy general interest chemists and is simple enough for non-chemists and students to understand and appreciate the beauty and complexity of the chemistry of birds.

\textbf{REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by April 7.} To RSVP for \textit{Chemistry is for the Birds}-- private reception, hands-on chemistry, and/or public lecture call (314) 533--8586 or email events@academyofsciencesstl.org. (Please provide first and last names of guests.)

\textit{Hands-on Chemistry limited to the first 25 students to RSVP. RSVP also required for public lecture. Space is limited.} Hands-on chemistry is for students only; parents, family members, and guests are welcome to observe.

This is a public science seminar in partnership with the Academy of Science of St. Louis, Sigma–Aldrich, and the American Chemical Society. The program will be held at Sigma–Aldrich headquarters at 3050 Spruce Street in St. Louis, just south of Hwy 40/64 and east of Compton. Parking is free in the Sigma–Aldrich lot.

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Salmon in the Trees
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A Multi–Media Program Exploring the Tongass National Forest
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\textbf{Salmon in the Trees} tells the story of the Tongass, a rare rain forest spread among thousands of islands in the panhandle of Alaska. It’s a place where everything grows everything. Young saplings grow on top of fallen, centuries–old trees. Bears, eagles, and Native cultures grow strong on wild salmon. Trees grow salmon, and salmon grow trees.

At almost 17 million acres, the Tongass is America’s largest national forest, and comprises nearly a third of the world’s rare old–growth temperate rain forest. With some of the highest densities of grizzly bears, black bears, and bald eagles in the world, it’s a place that time hasn’t quite caught up to -- yet. Can the great forest’s biological treasures withstand the modern pressures of a globalized world? The Tongass is public land entrusted to all Americans. The decisions we make today will determine if the Tongass will continue to be a place where everything grows everything, and salmon grow in trees.

During the past two years, wildlife photographer Amy Gulick, has documented the grizzly bears, wolves, bald eagles, humpback whales and wild salmon of the Tongass National Forest. Gulick is an award–winning photographer and writer specializing in natural history, wildlife and conservation issues.
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.

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

**Memberships are Tax Deductible**

*Less the $10 Cost of the Book*

** Memberships of $50, or above, will receive a copy of Dr. Stephen Kress’ *North American Birdfeeder Guide*, a $15 value, as our gift. This 220 page book covers feeding and observing tips and includes common species profiles. 100% of your dues stay in St. Louis supporting our local efforts. All our programs are free. Thank you very much!