

# The Chat

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Columbia Audubon Society

April 2010

<http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/>

Serving Audrain, Boone, Cooper, Howard, Monroe and Randolph Counties

## President's Column Vanessa Melton

Spring has sprung and I know everyone is excited including birds, mammals, and almost every other critter. Spring begins the nesting season for many bird species and for those who use nest boxes, the boxes must be cleaned out from last year's use before they are used this year.

This last month at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area a group of brave souls attempted to clean out the nearly 400 Wood Duck boxes on the area. I wore chest waders which meant that I was placed in a group that could handle deeper water which in my group's case meant anywhere from a puddle to waist-high water. Wading through the distribution channel for several hours, most of the time in waist-high water can wear you down faster than you know it. My legs were still hurting 4 days later, but it was well worth it. We found several boxes that had been used last year either with successful nests (contained broken shells) or unsuccessful nests (still contained whole eggs).

I participated in this project last year as well and plan to help out next year. If you want to participate next March in this workday, contact Shauna Marquardt at 573-445-3882 or [shauna.marquardt@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:shauna.marquardt@mdc.mo.gov).

If food is a motivator for you, I can tell you that this year and last year there was a fish fry with all the fixins for lunch after the workday. Also, you don't have to wade through waist-high water all morning to participate. There are other areas containing Wood Duck boxes that are not holding water in March.

So, I hope to see you out there next Spring!



Vanessa Melton and Chris Egbert tugging the supply boat. See page 3 for another photo. (photo courtesy of Vanessa Melton)

## Mike Kruse April Speaker

Mike Kruse, chief of the Department of Conservation's resource science building, will update members on issues affecting MDC now and in the future. The talk is at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on April 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7:30 P.M.

## Nominating Committee Formed

The 2010 Nominating Committee has been chosen and those serving on the committee are Greg Leonard and David Silvey. Positions available are Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member, and Vice President so there is something for everyone. The watered-down, main duties of the offices are listed below:

Secretary – take minutes at the board and general meetings to be presented at every board meeting.

Treasurer – keep track of the organization's finances and present a report every month at the board meeting.

Board Member – attend board meetings and vote on board issues.

Vice President – schedule speakers for the general meetings, keep track of the projector and computer, and be ready to stand in when the president is not able to attend a meeting.

Remember if we don't have a Vice President, then we won't have speakers for meetings, and if we don't have speakers for meetings, then the meetings will be mighty boring! Many folks are terrified of this position because they don't want to be responsible for finding presenters, but it isn't as bad as you think. Other board members and members of the Society also have suggestions for speakers or topics they want to hear about, so you will have plenty of help finding speakers – all you will have to do is contact the speakers, set up a schedule and write a blurb for *The Chat*.

So, don't be shy – just contact Greg at [egreg2@yahoo.com](mailto:egreg2@yahoo.com) or David at [silveyd@umsystem.edu](mailto:silveyd@umsystem.edu) if you are interested in serving in any of these positions . . . or they will contact you!

## May 8<sup>th</sup> is Migratory Bird Count Day Volunteers Needed

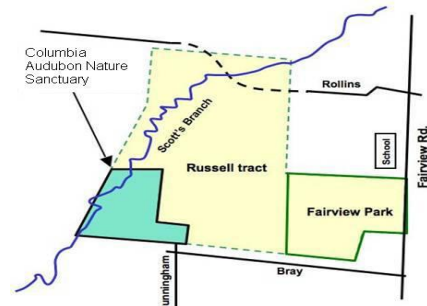
Birders, drivers, recorders, and observers are needed for the Columbia Audubon-sponsored North American Migration Bird Count (NAMC) being held all day on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our count area is all of Boone County. In the past, participants have driven, walked, canoed and bicycled in order to count birds.

Susan Hazelwood is the organizer of the event. There are sections that need leaders as well as observers. If you are interested in participating contact Susan at 573-445-4925 or by e-mail at [hazelwoods@mchsi.com](mailto:hazelwoods@mchsi.com).

Jim Gast will once again serve as the compiler for the county. Unlike the Christmas Bird Count, there is no dinner and compiling session, so after the count section leaders turn in their results to him. Most section leaders submit the results electronically instead of by mail. If you have questions concerning the compiling, contact Jim at 573-442-1481 or [jgast@centurytel.net](mailto:jgast@centurytel.net).

## Members Approve New Name for the Russell Property

At the March meeting, members approved the name Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary. The two other suggestions were: Scott's Branch Audubon Nature Area and Columbia Audubon Nature Preserve.



Map showing location of Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary



Columbia Audubon Society President Vanessa Melton prepares to record data during the Wood Duck nest box workday on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area. The high for the day was 44° and the average wind speed was 9.4 mph. (photo courtesy of Vanessa Melton)

### Field Trip Chair

The club is still seeking a new Field Trip Chair. If you have an inkling to lead a fearless group out in the field to destinations of your choice, this is your chance to step up and fill the empty slot. Until we have someone to lead trips, there won't be any sponsored by Columbia Audubon. Contact Vanessa Melton at [vanndawn@yahoo.com](mailto:vanndawn@yahoo.com) or 864-3905.

### Get The Chat Via E-mail

So far almost 90 members have elected to receive The Chat via e-mail instead of by mail saving the club on printing and postage costs. Other benefits to members include quicker delivery—the day it goes to the printer is the day e-mail subscribers receive it; color photos, maps and graphs; hyperlinks that allow you to click on an e-mail address or website URL and updates on events occurring between issues. To receive *The Chat* and updates on CAS events between newsletters by e-mail, send your e-mail address to [jgast@centurytel.net](mailto:jgast@centurytel.net).

#### 2009-2010 Columbia Audubon Society Officers

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Hospitality	Dolores Clark, 474-4510

**Deadline for submission of articles to The Chat is the Tuesday following the monthly general meeting.** Submit articles to [jgast@centurytel.net](mailto:jgast@centurytel.net) or to 3009 Lynnwood Dr., Columbia, MO 65203.

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Local dues are voluntary. Dues support Columbia Audubon Society functions such as *The Chat* and Christmas Bird Count. The membership is for 12 months. Make checks payable to the Columbia Audubon Society and mail this form to P. O. Box 1331, Columbia, MO 65205. Check the correct category below:

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