



The Chat

Volume 53 Number 1 Columbia Audubon Society September 2010

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

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

FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

Howard Hinkel

At the June reorganization meeting I was nominated for and approved as President of CAS by the Board. Our Bylaws, Article V, Section 1, stipulate that a "vacancy in the position of any offices except President may be filled by the quorum vote of the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term." I understand this statement, in conjunction with Article III, Section 5a, to mean that the general membership should vote on the President; we will do so at the September 15 meeting. What follows is meant to suggest, although somewhat indirectly, why I would be willing to serve CAS in this capacity.

Richard Louv, recipient of the 2008 Audubon Medal, in his "Last Child in the Woods" writes of what he calls "a nature-deficit disorder," the effect of which is the steady separation of children from the natural world. Convinced that "the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable," Louv nonetheless sees reasons to be hopeful: Conservation and environmental groups as well as some "traditional Scouting groups" are helping gradually to bring the child back to the natural world. Adults must take the lead.

The Audubon Society in general and this Chapter in particular are helping to restore the bonds between human beings and the natural world. The purpose of CAS, according to our Bylaws, is to "promote an understanding and appreciation of the unique and important natural habitats of Missouri, especially mid-Missouri, the birds and other wildlife they support, and their benefits to humans." Our various committees arrange activities and programs that afford both adults and children opportunities to promote this understanding and appreciation.

One example of effective programs helping to fulfill our purpose is the work done and being done under the leadership of the Outreach and Education Committee. If you are not aware of this committee's past achievements, you may read them in past editions of "The Chat." There you will find many other examples of CANS working effectively to bring us all closer to the wonders of nature. I trust that we will continue this good work and in fact will intensify our efforts to help restore the human - nature bonds and to allow the community to enjoy and perhaps learn from what we have to offer. In my view the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary affords us a wonderful opportunity to continue our

From the President, ctd.

own and the community's nature education. The centrality of this property, the proximity of several schools and neighborhoods, and especially the Sanctuary's natural habitat make it an ideal place for counteracting anyone's "nature-deficit disorder."

Rachel Carson suggested that adults and children need to be partners in exploring the wonders of nature. In "The Sense of Wonder" she wrote: "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder . . . he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." When I consider the noble purpose of this Chapter, its achievements under excellent leadership in the past, and look ahead to what we can achieve in the future, I believe Columbia Audubon Society meets the challenges Louv and Carson have issued.

CAS MEETING: THE GROWING CRISIS IN MISSOURI'S STATE PARKS

- Wednesday, September 15, 7:30 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd
- Dr. Susan Flader, Professor Emerita, University of Missouri and President of the Missouri Parks Association (MPA)

The Missouri system of State Parks and Historic Sites is a model for the nation and has regularly been listed among the top four state park systems nationwide. But it is now in serious financial crisis. The Missouri system is supported almost entirely by half of a one-tenth-of-one-cent state dedicated sales tax support that has been re-affirmed by a two-to-one voter margin each time it comes up for renewal. But diversions from the Park Sales Tax Fund and inadequate funding for capital improvements have resulted in severe staff cuts and a \$200 million backlog in vitally needed rehabilitation of facilities and infrastructure. The MPA encourages citizens to bring these issues to the attention of their

state senators and representatives. On May 19, 2010, the National Trust for Historic Preservation released its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Missouri was featured as a state whose parks are at for destruction or irreparable damage.

For more information see the MPA's web site: parks.missouri.org

Dr. Flader received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a Ph.D. from Stanford. At MU, she taught courses in U.S. Western and environmental history, world environmental history, and the history of Missouri. In addition to numerous articles she has authored or edited six books, including: *Thinking Like a Mountain: Aldo Leopold and the Evolution of an Ecological Attitude Towards Deer, Wolves, and Forests* (1974; 1994); *The Great Lakes Forest: An Environmental and Social History* (1983); *The River of the Mother of God and Other Essays by Aldo Leopold with J.B. Callicott* (1991); and *Exploring Missouri's Legacy: State Parks and Historic Sites* (1992).

Flader is past president of the American Society for Environmental History and has served on many other professional and environmental boards and committees, including the boards of the National Audubon Society, Audubon Missouri, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and the L-A-D Foundation. She has lectured in countries around the world on environmental history and forestry.

HOLD THIS DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2010!!!

There will be an Audubon Picnic to celebrate the new trail at the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary. It will be a late afternoon/evening event and Audubon families and friends are invited. The nearby Fairview Park Shelter has been reserved for our use. Details will be announced at next meeting and in the next CHAT.

FALL FIELD TRIPS

At press time, CAS Field Trip Coordinator Edge Wade is working to schedule a variety of fall trips, during the week and on weekends. Additional September and October field trips will be announced via the email list to CAS members and on Mobirds-L, the statewide birding listserv, as they are scheduled. All trips are probably "a go" even in light rain. If in doubt, contact a trip leader the evening before, or one hour before the scheduled meeting time.

What to bring: Binoculars, field guide, water, snack, layered clothing, sunscreen.

September 11, Saturday all day: TOWER GROVE PARK, St. Louis.

Leader: Edge Wade

RSVP: edgew@mchsi.com or 445-6697 so we know how many cars/drivers will be needed.

Meet: 6:30 a.m. at Patricia's Supermarket parking lot on I-70 Drive SE and Keene St.

Bring a picnic/brown bag lunch, water, folding stool/chair (optional).

This is a trip to look for fall warblers and other migrants. We'll walk around Tower Grove Park, especially near the bubbler, and to Gurney Ct. off Magnolia, and will sit at or near the bubbler to enjoy the birds coming to drink and bathe, and perhaps drive to another portion of the park.

We'll leave Tower Grove about 2:30 p.m. to be back in Columbia well before 5 p.m.

September 16, Thursday morning: COLUMBIA AUDUBON NATURE SANCTUARY

Leaders: Bill Mees, Howard Hinkel & Edge Wade 445-6697

Meet: 8:00 a.m. at the CANS entrance at the stub of Cunningham Dr., off Bray. Bray goes west from Fairview Rd. between Rollins and Chapel Hill.

We will walk the new trail, learn about the nature sanctuary, and identify and count the birds seen as the beginning of the CANS checklist. Beginners are especially welcome. Experienced birders will help with i.d., binocular use, and offer birding tips.

We anticipate finishing the walk between 9:30 and 10:00.

September 21, Tuesday morning: COLUMBIA TWIN LAKES

Leader: Edge Wade, edgew@mchsi.com

Meet: 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot off Chapel Hill.

We will walk from the lot promptly at 8:00, circling the area. Beginners are especially welcome.

Experienced birders will help with i.d., binocular use, and offer birding tips.

September 30, Thursday morning: EAGLE BLUFFS, CONSERVATION AREA, Boone Co.

Leaders: Kathleen Anderson andersonka@centurytel.net, and Sandy Elbert

Meet: 8:30 a.m. at the McBaine Katy Trail parking lot

This will be a drive through Eagle Bluffs with stops to view birds.

Participants will be encouraged to share rides to reduce the number of vehicles. Bring a scope if you have one (leaders will also have scopes). Bring an FRS radio, if you have one, to keep everyone informed of what is being seen. Additional radios will be available.

The group will have the option of eating lunch together after the trip.

October 5, Tuesday morning: LITTLE DIXIE LAKE CONSERVATION AREA, Callaway Co.

Leader: Edge Wade 445-6697

Meet: 8:00 at the 63/AC commuter lot (SE corner of US 63 and AC/New Haven Rd. intersection). Or join us at the main Little Dixie lot on the SW corner of the lake between 8:20 and 8:30.

We will drive to the 5 parking lots, walk some on trails (including the asphalt trail on the SE corner), and learn about the diverse habitats of this area. Bring a scope if you have one.

Field trips, ctd.

Trips being planned include some short walks designed to familiarize beginning birders and those new to Columbia with some favorite places. The emphasis will be on how to bird the site and what to expect in what season. Additional trips "in the works" include a LeConte's Sparrow walk at Bradford Farm, a Hawk Watch, a jaunt to Howard County to visit Peters and D.C. Rogers lakes (and PossumHaw bookstore), and November excursions to the University of Missouri Horticultural Farm in New Franklin, and to Thomas Hill Reservoir.



CFM PLANS ARTFUL 75th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Conservation Foundation of Missouri. An exhibit to celebrate the anniversary will feature the original artwork of the late Charles W. Schwartz, longtime biologist, artist, and photographer with the Conservation Department. The exhibit will open at the Columbia Bass Pro Shop with a wine-and-cheese reception on Sept. 10, 3-8 p.m. (tickets, \$30 at the door), and will stay at the Bass Pro Shop through Sept. 12. The exhibit will then move to the Historical Society at 1020 Lowry St., Columbia, where it will remain from Sept. 14 – February, 2011.

COLUMBIA AUDUBON NATURE SANCTUARY

By Bill Mees

Consider this your official engraved invitation: Come one; come all to experience YOUR Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary! The trail is now being mowed regularly courtesy of Dean Ravenscraft, so it is easily accessible. Also, for your comfort and enjoyment, 4 park benches are located along the trail. Sit and enjoy. Dare I suggest, watch the birds? The benches are courtesy of Life Scout Alex Doan of Troop 533, who is working to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

This fall will see the installation of 2 foot bridges over the property's small streams. These courtesy of Jordan Asher, another Boy Scout seeking to be an Eagle. These bridges will make the trail more accessible but it is still traversable for the intrepid birder.

Speaking of birding, after all, we are Audubon. Let's start compiling our bird sightings at our nature sanctuary. The goal for the future is to display a list of species that have been sighted, month by month. This will be helpful for the novice birders visiting the property for the first time. So when you visit please record the date, your sightings, and the number of each species seen. Forward your results to Bill Mees (jandbmees@MCHSI.com).

You can enter the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary at the north end of Cunningham. The on street parking in this cul-de-sac is conveniently located at the entrance to the property.

This isn't a field of dreams, but we have built it, we hope you will come. You'll be glad you did.

N.B: See under FIELD TRIPS for an opportunity to visit the Sanctuary with other birders, 8:00AM on Thursday, September 16th.



LOOKING FOR A SIGN MAKER

Now that the Spring Valley Nature Trail is open and the entry gate is back in place, it would be helpful to have signs to welcome and guide visitors who come to Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary. We anticipate an Eagle Scout will likely make "permanent" signs next year. If you or someone you know could make inexpensive, temporary signs, please contact me: Cleo Kottwitz; cdk13@socket.net or 573-446-0799.

**CAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE
CHAIRS**

* indicates a voting member

*President : Howard Hinkel
(Acting) hinkelh@missouri.edu

*Vice-President: Alice Reese
aareese@howlinghill.com

*Secretary: Bonnie Heidy
bheidy@earthlink.net

*Treasurer: Eric Seaman
groovedr@peoplepc.com

Directors: *Jean Graebner
graebner@centurylink.net

*Laura Hillman
HillmanL@health.missouri.edu

*Bill Mees
jandbmees@mchsi.com

Membership: *Eric Seaman (see above)

Communication: *Allison Vaughn
allisonjv@yahoo.com

Chat Editor: David Schenker
schenkerd@missouri.edu

Website: Douglas Miller
the@bigthe.com

E-mail List: Jim Gast
jgast@centurytel.net

Outreach & Education Lisa Schenker
lschenke@columbia.k12.mo.us

Conservation: *Dave Bedan
dbedan@mchsi.com

Field Trips: *Edge Wade
edgew@mchsi.com

Natural Areas: *John Besser (Wild Haven)
jbesser1@gmail.com

Harold Anderson (Albert Area)
andersonk@centurytel.net

Cleo Kottwitz (CANS)
cdk13@socket.net

Hospitality: Dolores Clark
474-4510

Bird Counts: Laura Hillman (see above)
Allison Vaughn (see above)

Past President: *Vanessa Melton
vanndawn@hotmail.com

**Deadline for submission of articles
to The Chat is the
Monday following the monthly
general meeting.**

Submit articles to
schenkerd@missouri.edu or to 107
Westwood Ave. Columbia, MO 65203.
To receive *The Chat* and updates on
CAS events between newsletters by e-
mail, send your e-mail address to
jgast@centurytel.net.

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Columbia Audubon Society Membership and Dues Form

Local annual 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 category below:

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