

The Chat

Volume 56 Number 8

Columbia Audubon Society

May 2014

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

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

The mission of Columbia Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world and its ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and the earth's biological diversity, through education, environmental study, and habitat restoration and protection.

MAY MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
May 21, 2014**

**Annual Picnic at
Wild Haven**

**Pre-picnic walk at
4:00 p.m.**

Picnic at 6:00 p.m.

(Details on page 2)

BOARD'S EYE VIEW

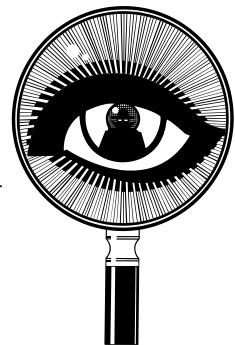
I can't believe it has been two years since I wrote my first Board's Eye View column. Yet here I am writing the last one of my term as President of Columbia Audubon Society. Time really does fly when I'm having fun!

Starting on June 1st, CAS will have a new President, Kristofer Hagglund. Congratulations to Kris on his election and thank you for your interest and willingness to volunteer your time to lead us toward the fulfillment of CAS's mission.

I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors these past two years for all their support. Several new initiatives were implemented over the past two years not the least of which was the establishment of a Partner Friend relationship with Columbia Public Schools AND the Band With Nature 2nd grade field trip to Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary. New programs always cause some anxiety but the CAS board and the membership handled everything with aplomb.

Yet, as Kris assumes his responsibilities, events march on. The MoBCI grant proposal to restore prairie at Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary and Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary where fescue fields currently exist moves forward. The Nature School Committee (see page 5) has been formed but has vacancies to be filled by member volunteers who will present ideas to the Board and eventually to the CAS membership.

Thank you everyone for your support. There is an exciting and changing future in store for CAS. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president.



Bill Mees



CAS ANNUAL PICNIC

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 6:00 p.m.

Wild Haven Nature Area

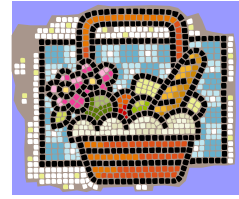
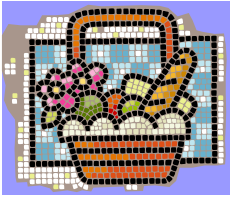
Come early for a 4:00 p.m.—Nature Hike led by
Allison Vaughn

Please bring a covered dish or dessert and your lawn chairs.

Drinks, paper goods and utensils will be provided.

Come enjoy food and fellowship with fellow Audubon members.

Contact Vice President Lottie Bushmann with questions—Bushmann5@mchsi.com



FIELD TRIPS

by Kevin Wehner, Field Trip Chair

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Destination: Gans Creek Recreation Area, Columbia, MO

Departure Point: Songbird Station, 2010 Chapel Plaza Court #C, Columbia, MO

Leader: Louise Flenner

Contact Phone/Email: (573) 268-7468 or lflenner@hotmail.com

Meet at Songbird Station's parking lot at 8 a.m. We'll carpool to Gans Creek Recreation Area where we'll go on a 3/4-mile walk to see two Great Blue Heron rookeries. There's lots of other land we can ramble on, or we may walk down Gans Creek Road that borders the recreation area where there are lots of birds in the trees along the road. The trip will be 3-4 hours long and will return to Songbird Station's parking lot.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Destination: Ozark Caverns, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, 823 Ozark Caverns Road, Linn Creek, MO

Departure Point: AC Commuter Parking Lot

Leader: Allison Vaughn

Contact Phone: (573) 703-6448

In August 2013, the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative awarded Ozark Caverns a grant for small brush removal in an upland flatwoods in the park. CAS partnered with MoDNR on the grant, and in October 2013 visited Ozark Caverns before the thinning work was slated to begin to make a list of all of the birds seen or heard in the area. On that visit, we hiked through an area that had been restored in the mid-1990s to compare to the new restoration area. The thinning work will be completed at Ozark Caverns in April. CAS will revisit the site to document bird use in the area following the thinning project.

We'll carpool from the AC Commuter Parking Lot at 7:30 a.m. The lot is located just south-east of Highway 63 at the AC/Grindstone Parkway/New Haven Road exit. If you're not joining the carpool, meet at the Ozark Caverns Visitor's Center off of "A Road" at 9:30 a.m. After the trip we'll have lunch at the Seven Springs Winery in Linn Creek.



SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Field trip to private land in northern Boone County. The owners of an 80-acre tract of undeveloped land near Silver Fork Creek and the Pinnacles Park have invited Columbia Audubon and other natural history groups to visit their property, investigate its birds and plant life, and offer suggestions about management strategies. The area includes woodlands, meadows, a pond, and frontage on Kelly Branch Creek. If time permits, we may also visit another private tract in the area that is under a fire management regime.

8 AM to noon; meeting place to be announced.

For details, check the CAS website www.columbia-audubon.org or Facebook page.

Contact: John Besser (jbesser1@gmail.com)

why i feed the birds

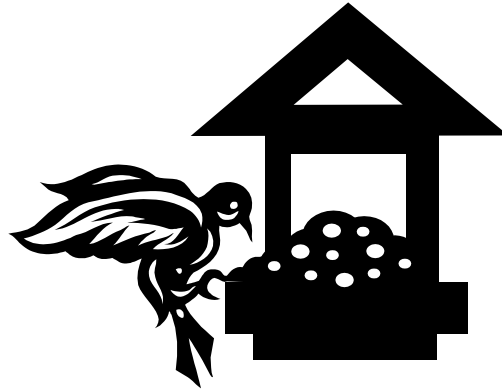
By Richard Vargas

once
i saw my grandmother hold out
her hand cupping a small offering
of seed to one of the wild sparrows
that frequented the bird bath she
filled with fresh water every day

she stood still
maybe stopped breathing
while the sparrow looked
at her, then the seed
then back as if he was
judging her character

he jumped into her hand
began to eat
she smiled

a woman holding
a small god



"why i feed the birds" by Richard Vargas from *Guernica, Revisited*. © Press 53, 2014. Reprinted with permission

Poem submitted by Lori Hagglund

2014 Natural Events Calendar—Missouri Department of Conservation



Internet image from wallpaper.biz

- ◆ Meadowlarks begin nesting
- ◆ Goldfinches eat dandelion seeds
- ◆ Bobolinks migrate from Argentina and some nest in northern Missouri
- ◆ Cuckoos begin nesting
- ◆ Young bald eagles begin to fledge
- ◆ Eastern bluebirds begin second nesting
- ◆ Shorebirds are plentiful at wetland mudflats
- ◆ Chigger season begins and continues through September

EASTERN BLUEBIRD GOING, GOING, GONE?

by Mary Williamson

The Eastern Bluebird was going, going, almost gone in the late 1960's. Loss of habitat to development and competition with house sparrows contributed to its decline. Nest box trails were established and have contributed to a now healthy population in Missouri. Now what's going, going, but hopefully not gone, are opportunities to have your "own" trail in a Columbia park.



Internet image from hughvandervoort.com

The City of Columbia has bluebird nest box trails at 3M Flat Branch-Hinkson Creek Wetlands, Garth Nature Area, Forum Nature Area, Albert-Oakland Park, Cosmopolitan Recreation Area, and Stephens Lake Park. Mike Snyder of Columbia Parks and Recreation (CPR) asked CAS for a volunteer "bluebird coordinator" to assess the condition of the existing trails, lead a maintenance team, and consider development of trails at other sites. Jane Fore and I now share the illustrious position of Columbia Bluebird Coordinator. (I wanted a contest for a new title and Jane thought about holding out for a truck, but neither of those ideas was met with much enthusiasm)

Bill Mees, Jane Fore, and I met with Mike Snyder at Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary to discuss the new collaboration. While we were there, we began installation of boxes for the City's newest nest box trail. We also asked two people using the park if they'd be interested in monitoring. Both said yes. So....

Please call me—Mary Williamson— at 449-7534 to get your own trail before they are all spoken for. Jane and I are happy to show you how we monitor. It's a ton of fun.

Thanks again to Kathleen and Harold Anderson for getting us started.

WILD HAVEN WORKDAY

by John Besser

On Saturday, May 17, from 1—4 p.m., John Besser will direct a work day at Wild Haven. The to-do list includes clean up the picnic shelter, mow the area, and clear trails before the annual picnic.

Gear such as rakes, leaf blower, weed whacker or chain saw would be useful. Wear work gloves, boots and bug spray.

To get to Wild Haven, take Route B north of US 63. After crossing RR tracks (about 1 mile), turn right at stop light onto Brown Station Road. Stay on this road through stop sign, then take the next right turn onto O'Rear Road. Follow O'Rear until it turns to gravel and then look for the Wild Haven sign, gate and picnic shelter on the right (about a mile from Brown Station).

Contact: John Besser jbesser1@gamil.com



A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT THE E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

from Jim Gast

Only items approved by a voting board member can be sent via e-mail to CAS members. If you want something sent to the group, please send it to the CAS president for approval.

Keep your email files below 750 KB. We still have members on dial up. This means your 1.0 MB or higher photo won't be sent.

If you see a rare or unusual bird, don't send it to Jim Gast, send it to the Mo-birds listserv at:

<http://www.mobirds.org/ASM/Listserv.aspx>

NATURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

by Bill Mees

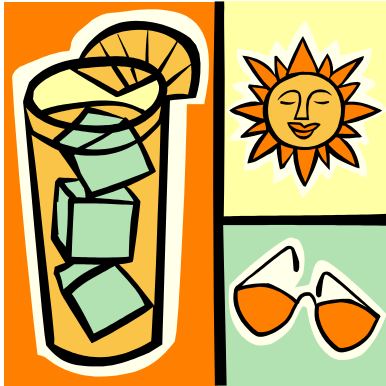
Columbia Public Schools, in partnership with Missouri's Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, is deep in to the process of establishing a "Nature School" at the park. This will be the first of its kind in this state and maybe even the nation: a public school built in a state park with a nature based curriculum. Talk about an outdoor classroom! How does 2,272 acres sound to you?

As a "Partner Friend" with the Science Department of Columbia Public Schools, this project offers an opportunity for CAS to contribute to the establishment of this new concept school. The question becomes, what should CAS's involvement be?

To answer that question, the CAS Board has established a committee to brainstorm ideas. CAS has funds specifically earmarked for education. Can you think of a better opportunity to invest in our future than to support the education of budding naturalists? CAS support might be in the form of resource materials for the library, bird friendly landscaping designs and planting, bird feeding stations, nest boxes or anything else that a committee of interested members will imagine, all within the mission of CAS.

If you are interested in joining the committee please call me. If you have ideas and suggestions for the committee to consider, call me. This is an opportunity to further the mission of CAS for years to come. My phone is 573-445-7781 or email jandbmees@mchsi.com





Columbia Audubon Society wants to
thank our corporate sponsor:

Songbird Station

2010 Chapel Plaza Court, Suite C
Columbia MO 65203.

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