

Burroughs Audubon promotes the appreciation of birds, enjoyment of nature, natural history, education & conservation of habitat.



# Burroughs Audubon

*Harris Sparrow courtesy of  
Linda Williams*

**Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society**

## WingBeat

Volume 62, No. 1  
Spring 2010

*WingBeat* is a publication of the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City, a non-profit membership organization in the Kansas City area whose members share an interest in birding and preserving our natural heritage for future generations. Its members promote this interest through a variety of activities that are open to the public. Your participation makes Burroughs Audubon an effective, dynamic voice and center for birding and conservation in the Kansas City region.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!** Burroughs Audubon programs are now the first TUESDAY of each month.

### **Burroughs Audubon Spring Programs 2010**

#### **TUESDAY, March 2, 2010 ~ Hunting Behavior of Raptors**

Bob Payne, Master Falconer, will bring his birds to help describe how the detailed knowledge of each species' behavior influences the training of birds for falconry from a falconer's perspective.

#### **SATURDAY, April 10, 2010 ~ 90th Annual Gala and Silent Auction**

See insert for registration and details.

#### **TUESDAY, May 4, 2010 ~ Life and Times of Bobwhites in Missouri**

Audubon's 2008 State of the Birds report showed quail to be one of our most threatened grassland species. Elsa Gallagher, Regional Biologist with Quail Forever, will share her insights on the natural history of bobwhites, their habitat requirements and the restoration of suitable habitat in Missouri, and recent population trends. (Elsa was originally scheduled in January and graciously agreed to reschedule us.)

#### **TUESDAY, June 1, 2010 ~ Birding on the Eco-Route in Ecuador**

Priscilla Wilson, Burroughs Audubon Member, will discuss the current conservation activities northwest of the city of Quito in this South American country, which is a winter home to many North American species.



*If you have a speaker or topic you would like to suggest for a future General Meeting, please call or email Elizabeth Stoakes, Program Coordinator (816) 554-1956, [lizkvet@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkvet@yahoo.com).*

### **General Meetings ~ Tuesdays**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month  
September through June (except in April)

6:30 PM ~ Coffee and Conversation  
7 PM ~ Meeting and Special Events

Anita Gorman Conservation Discovery Center  
4750 Troost Avenue ~ Kansas City, Missouri

**BOARD MEETINGS**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM**OFFICERS****Elizabeth Stoakes, President**

Lees Summit, MO ~ (816) 554-1956

[lzkvet@yahoo.com](mailto:lzkvet@yahoo.com)**Paul Habiger, Vice President**

Kansas City, MO ~ (816) 942-3431

[paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.com](mailto:paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.com)**Lori Lind, Treasurer**

Excelsior Springs, Mo ~ (816) 630-3556

[lalind25@hotmail.com](mailto:lalind25@hotmail.com)**Christine Kline, Secretary**

Pleasant Hill, Mo ~ (816) 540-3515

[birdsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:birdsecretary@comcast.net)**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Nic Allen [tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.net)Michael O'Keefe [mokeefe@ucmo.edu](mailto:mokeefe@ucmo.edu)Shari Harden [kestrel277@comcast.net](mailto:kestrel277@comcast.net)Karen Smith [krnds@aol.com](mailto:krnds@aol.com)Sherry Leonardo [home172@aol.com](mailto:home172@aol.com)Heidi Retherford [purplemoose@swbell.net](mailto:purplemoose@swbell.net)Joe Alburty [joe.alburty@gmail.com](mailto:joe.alburty@gmail.com)**COMMITTEE CHAIRS****Audubon Adventures, Education**

Jan &amp; Lyle Alderson (co-chairs)

[standupscience@sbcglobal.net](mailto:standupscience@sbcglobal.net)**Library**

Karen Smith

[krnds@aol.com](mailto:krnds@aol.com)**Fundraising, Events**

Christine Kline

[birdsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:birdsecretary@comcast.net)**IBA (Important Bird Areas)**

Paul Habiger

[paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.com](mailto:paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.com)**Conservation**

Jill DeWitt

[listens2prairies@gmail.com](mailto:listens2prairies@gmail.com)**International Conservation**

Heidi Retherford &amp; Hilda Tingey (co-chairs)

[purplemoose@swbell.net](mailto:purplemoose@swbell.net) (Heidi)[hmtiney@yahoo.com](mailto:hmtiney@yahoo.com) (Hilda)**COORDINATORS****Field Trips**

Pat St. John &amp; Sherry Leonardo (co-chairs)

[pstjohn@kumc.edu](mailto:pstjohn@kumc.edu) (Pat)[home172@aol.com](mailto:home172@aol.com) (Sherry)**Historians**

Dick Dawson, Shari Harden

[dick\\_yodar\\_dawson@hotmail.com](mailto:dick_yodar_dawson@hotmail.com) (Dick)[kestrel277@comcast.net](mailto:kestrel277@comcast.net) (Shari)**Programs**

(A Coordinator for 2010 is needed.)

**Awards**Pat St. John [pstjohn@kumc.edu](mailto:pstjohn@kumc.edu)**Chapter Membership, Database**Christine Kline [birdsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:birdsecretary@comcast.net)**Webmaster, BurroughsAnnounce**Mike Stoakes [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com)**Publicity, Press Releases**Michael O'Keefe [mokeefe@ucmo.edu](mailto:mokeefe@ucmo.edu)

# The Art of Giving

**"For it is in giving that we receive."** The act of giving yields true benefits. When you give to Burroughs Audubon, your donation benefits the people, creatures, and environments important to you. Your generosity enables Burroughs Audubon to support graduate studies in ornithology, promote restoration of critical habitat, maintain our local sanctuaries, and provide funding for Audubon Adventures in metro classrooms. Burroughs also offers bird walks, field trips, guest speakers and educational programs that are free to everyone. Donations help to support ongoing projects locally, an hour away at Squaw Creek (our adopted National Wildlife Refuge) and even as far away as Central America, where neotropical migrants face devastating habitat loss on their over wintering grounds. You, the giver, benefit by knowing habitats are protected, children are learning to be good stewards of the Earth, and everyone is enjoying the birds in our woods, prairies, and wetlands.

You can donate to Burroughs Audubon by joining the National Audubon Society or with a direct donation to Burroughs Audubon, your Greater Kansas Chapter of the National Audubon Society. You can become an Audubon Advocate who pledges a monthly gift, or honor a loved one with a Living Tribute or a Memorial. Your generosity will be felt close to home and half a world away.

**Donations are fully tax deductible.***Burroughs Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.***Burroughs Audubon Society****7300 West Park Road – Blue Springs, MO 64015**For Stock Gifts or Workplace Giving visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click on "Give now."

### Give by Becoming a Member of the National Audubon Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ May we contact you by email?  Yes  No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

 USA: 1 Yr \$20  Canada: 1 Yr \$45  International: 1 Yr \$50  Change of Address**Make checks payable to:** National Audubon Society**Please Memo:** Burroughs Audubon Society COZN020Z**Mail to:** National Audubon Society ~ P.O. Box 422250 ~ Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Questions? Call (816) 540-3515

Moving? Enter new address, check "Change of Address," and mail.

*Your membership to Audubon is deductible except for  
the \$15 fair market value of Audubon Magazine*

### Give by making a donation to Burroughs Audubon Society

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ May we contact you by email?  Yes  No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:** Burroughs Audubon Society**Mail to:** Burroughs Audubon, 7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, MO 64015*Burroughs Audubon is currently expanding its giving in the field of education,  
including Audubon Adventures through its Library and Education Committees.**Your donations will help support us in these areas.**Your donation to Burroughs Audubon Society is tax deductible.**Burroughs Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.*

# New Local IBA brings 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Birding Festival

by Elizabeth Stoakes, President

We are fortunate here in Missouri to have a total of 47 IBAs – Important Birding Areas – all of which were established in only 8 years. They encompass all types of habitat, each with its own unique bird species. They include forests and glades in the Ozarks, prairies in the north, and wetlands and riparian corridors in western Missouri. We also have access to an amazing wetland complex deemed a “Globally Important Bird Area” for its role in hosting migrating and breeding waterfowl and shorebirds—Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in northwest Missouri.

Burroughs Audubon is currently partnering with Missouri Audubon and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to introduce Weston Bend State Park to the general public and birding community as a newly appointed IBA – Important Birding Area. One of the ways we’ll be accomplishing this is through a festival named Wings Over Weston on May 7 and May 8. May 7 will concentrate on school children while May 8 will be open to the general public. The formal name for this area is the Iatan / Weston River Corridor by National Audubon. As soon as Weston Bend was established as an IBA, a comprehensive management plan was drawn up and funding was acquired to maintain it. As an IBA, Weston Bend is vital to supporting populations of threatened species. Weston Bend is a prime example of riparian habitat that hosts waves of beautiful migratory songbirds each year. The area also boasts a Great Blue Heron rookery.

There is much more to learn about IBAs; see [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) for more details. And plan to come out and enjoy our very own IBA in Weston this spring! If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Christine Kline (816) 540-3515.

## DONATE TO THE 90th ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION APRIL 10, 2010

### Contact us:

Christine Kline (816) 540-3515 or Lori Lind (816) 308-3591

### or drop off your items:

Burroughs Audubon Library & Nature Center  
7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, Missouri

*Wings Over Weston*

*Weston Bend State Park*

**May 8, 2010**

Bird Mazes \* Live Birds \* IBA Trail Guided Bird Walks \*  
Games \* Make A Feeder \* And MORE!

Bring your pennies to help us raise money for this IBA.

*Check our website for more information*

[www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org)



## President's Nest

by Elizabeth Stoakes, President

Migrating Red Knots struggle to find sufficient food due to overfishing of horseshoe crabs in eastern bays. A developer threatens to build houses just one mile from Madera Canyon, one of Arizona’s birding “hotspots.” Here in Missouri, Greater Prairie Chickens have been driven to the brink of extinction by loss and fragmentation of our virgin prairies. I’m sure many of you, like me, find the news of environmental problems overwhelming and discouraging at times. It seems as if reversing any loss of birds or habitat is only a dream, and any efforts we make will be far too little to achieve permanent, meaningful results.

I counteract this frustration by remembering part of our goal: to promote the appreciation of birds and conservation of habitat. We do this by engaging people in Burroughs Audubon via local, small-scale bird conservation projects that will produce tangible results. Recently, a member of the Missouri Master Naturalists recently approached us for funding to establish a Purple Martin colony in the heart of Kansas City. One house of 24 Purple Martin families is modest, but could eventually produce as many as 100 young birds annually to help sustain a healthy population. Schoolchildren, observing these beautiful swallows, could be inspired to learn about birds and protect them. This is just one example of how we, as Burroughs Audubon members can make bird conservation a reality, not just an abstract concept!

Other achievements abound! A Burroughs Audubon member has devoted many spring seasons to rehabilitating injured and orphaned songbirds. Four members attended an intensive Audubon workshop on coastal wetland ecology and restoration in Louisiana so that they may educate others. (Watch for their report in the next issue.) Still, more of us are performing Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird Counts while others are working to remove invasive plants and restore native species to our natural areas. Other projects include monitoring bluebird trails, maintaining feeding stations, and taking children on nature walks. Everyone can help birds in their own way. The small gains truly accumulate. My greatest hope is that before my presidency ends, many more Burroughs Audubon members will be inspired to find their own projects that will lead them to an even deeper knowledge of and appreciation for the birds who share our world.

Until next time, get out and enjoy the birds!

## Controlled Burn Brings Revitalization *by Christine Kline*

In 2007, the *Missouri Prairie Journal* printed an article by Larry Rizzo on the Urban Prairie Oases of Kansas City. One of these urban spots was our own Esther O'Connor Wildflower Prairie: "One of the most diverse and beautiful prairie plantings in the metropolitan area can be found at the Burroughs Audubon Society Library located at Lake Jacomo. The area is officially known as the Esther O'Connor Wildflower Prairie, dedicated to a former long-time Burroughs member. Lousewort, penstemons, silphiums, coneflowers, blazing stars, royal catchfly, and an array of grasses are but a sampling of what can be seen. Blooming prairie flora spans the growing season. This site represents what a well planned and managed planting can be."

On November 2, 2009, John Jansen and Larry Rizzo graciously performed a much needed prairie burn on our little patch of prairie. While our prairie is a planted prairie, it is known for its good and many plantings that are diverse and "in such a visible location for visitors." This spring, our prairie will be renewed and beautiful. Stop by and see us!



*Thank you to John Jansen, his team of two with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation, Linda Williams and Octavio Lorenzo from Missouri Master Naturalists, and Larry Rizzo for a successful and much needed Prairie Burn at the Burroughs Audubon Esther O'Connor Wildflower Prairie. We are in debt to those who volunteer their time and efforts!*

## Visitor From Afar Brings Joy to Birders

*by Christine Kline*

On December 3, 2009, a Black-throated Sparrow was spotted at the home of Dean and Pat Rush outside Amazonia, Missouri. The sparrow was authenticated by Larry Lade on December 5, 2009 and continued to delight birders until January 16, 2010. A total of 73 birders traveled to see the sparrow, some coming from as far as St. Louis. Some birders even came twice because once just wasn't enough! The Black-throated Sparrow presented itself for all but five birders. Jack Hilsabeck, from St. Joseph, Missouri quoted Dean Rush and said, "Pat and I would like to thank those that came for making it a very special winter." Dean said, "I think we all agree that this was a special bird and very special hosts." Well said, Jack!



*Picture by Al Smith, St. Louis County*

### Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library

**7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, Missouri**

*(Off the Woods Chapel Road entrance to Lake Jacomo)*

**"A Secret Garden" as seen in the Blue Springs Examiner**

**Come in and see our book specials for spring.**

### Hours

**Tuesdays ~ 12:30 PM until 4:30 PM \* Thursdays through Saturdays ~ 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM \* Sundays ~ 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

Cordgrass is often called Ripgut. Big bluestem is often called turkey foot! These, along with Indian Grass and little bluestem bounce and sway, a waving motion much like the waving blue arms of KU students at a basketball game. These grasses and the ground growing forbs are excellent nutrition for grazing animals and wildlife on the prairies.

When I hear the word prairie, I visualize the dark brown American bison (*Bison bison*) with its shaggy mane and beard and a long tail with a tuft at the tip. More commonly known as the Buffalo, its huge broad head has short black horns curving out, up, and in at pointed tips with a spread of 3 feet! If it gets spooked it can travel at 32 mph. Here as some of the highlights of the animals you can find on the prairies.

The Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupids*) is a chicken-like bird with a short, rounded blackish tail and brown streaked body plumage. The males have long black tufts of feathers on the sides of their neck and orange air sacs which balloon during courtship as they dance and stamp their feet while cackling and clucking. The resounding and mesmerizing ring of their "booming" call may be heard from a long distance. This is one performance worth getting up for at the crack of dawn. However, I have observed this ritual as late as 9:00 AM.



The Plains Leopard Frog (*Rana blari*) is a stout green to brown frog with large dark spots between yellow dorsolateral ridges and a light colored jaw stripe that can grow from 2" to 4 3/8". You might hear its two or three guttural voice notes like a chuckle. It is primarily nocturnal but forges about the prairie and moist areas on a cloudy day.

The Eastern Green Toad (*Bufo debilis*) is a small bright green and flat toad that can grow up to 2 inches. It is covered with many small warts and black spots. It is active at twilight and has a piercing cricket-like trill.

The Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is seen on the prairie more than any other bird of prey. It is such a joy to observe this slender, long-winged long-tailed hawk with a white rump glide over the prairie with its buoyant tilting flight. As a mouse or vole is spotted, the Northern Harrier quickly snatches it with its sharp talons.

The Coyote (*Canis latrans*) is slim and buff colored and resembles a small collie. The coyote diet consists mainly of rabbits, mice, voles, ground squirrels and carrion. At night, the prairie songster serenades with yelps and yips ending in a howl resounding over the prairie.

Finally, the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) is a 16" crow-sized owl and it's a favorite of mine! I have spent many a late afternoon observing this tawny-brown, heavily streaked, long-winged little owl with a blackish patch around each eye by a cemetery about 7 miles from my home. On a field trip to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in the late 1970s, our leader, Dick Myers sent us into the field along the far north road to flush Short-eared Owls. We cautiously high stepped around the huge ant hills which attracted the Massasauga rattlesnakes. We did flush a number of owls. We also saw and heard several Massasaugas!

When you consider plants, wildflowers, trees, spiders, insects, moths, butterflies, birds, mushrooms, amphibians, and reptiles, it would take volumes to describe in detail the abundant life on the prairie; all of which is an integral part.



573-496-3492 Phone  
573-496-3003 Fax  
[mowldflrs@socket.net](mailto:mowldflrs@socket.net)  
[www.mowildflowers.net](http://www.mowildflowers.net)

We'll be in your area  
April 17  
Burroughs Audubon

*Gardening with natives is as good as it gets!*

*"We're enthusiastic about doing something good for the environment, bringing back a little chunk of the native ecosystem that once occupied the neighborhood."*

**- Mervin Wallace, Owner**



**Plant the prairie!**  
**Kansas City WildLands  
Workday**

**Saturday, May 8, 2010 9:00 AM to Noon**  
Help Burroughs Audubon help Kansas City Wildlands!  
Plant wildflower seedlings and remove invasive plants.

**Three WildLands sites will be targeted**  
**Ernie Miller Park** (Olathe)  
**Rocky Point Glades** (Swope Park)  
**Jerry Smith Park** (Kansas City)

Contact a Burroughs representative for more information:  
**Dick Dawson** [dick\\_yodar\\_dawson@hotmail.com](mailto:dick_yodar_dawson@hotmail.com)  
**Don Arney** [sora@kc.rr.com](mailto:sora@kc.rr.com)



# EVENTS

Burroughs Audubon is an organization that promotes the appreciation of birds, enjoyment of nature, natural history, education, and conservation. The Fundraising Committee was formed to help us affirm our mission and through a team effort reach our goals. So please join us for these events and share your love for birding with friends and birders alike.



[www.terraceongrand.com](http://www.terraceongrand.com)

Download the Terrace on Grand Fact

Welcoming Burroughs Audubon

April 10, 2010

1520 Grand

Kansas City, Missouri 64108

816-527-0026

Weddings Celebrations Corporate Events

Kansas City has a new place to celebrate.

5,000 feet of exciting new event space accentuated by a stunning roof deck with stunning views of the Kansas City skyline

## BIRDATHON 2010 PLEDGE FORM

A Birdathon works like a walkathon. Birders/participants solicit and collect pledges, but pledges are based upon species observed instead of miles traveled. The funds raised will support Burroughs Audubon programs and projects.

*Please make checks payable to Burroughs Audubon.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each species that Team \_\_\_\_\_ identifies. *(You should expect each team to identify approximately 150 to 200 species.)*

I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a flat contribution to Team \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a flat contribution to Birdathon. (You don't have to pledge to a specific team.)

**Send your pledge form to:**

Lori Lind, Treasurer

624 N. Kent ~ Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

**Teams will conduct their Birdathon between  
May 8, 2010 and May 16, 2010.**

**Leaders will be soliciting pledges until May 31, 2010.**

**Download the Burroughs Audubon Birdathon Brochure**

[www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org)

## Burroughs Audubon



## Birdathon May 8-16, 2010

At the peak of spring migration, another Birdathon is welcomed as Burroughs Audubon's #1 fundraising event! Sometimes, it brings us more than all our fundraisers put together. It makes sense. We're doing what we love and supporting Burroughs Audubon at the same time.

### TO JOIN A TEAM

**Paul Habiger ~ (816) 616-6402**

Teams are already forming this year for another competition to see which team can achieve the most species in a 24-hour period. You don't have to be an experienced birder to participate. You don't even have to bird a full 24 hours. Whether you just want to have some fun for part of the day or you want to be one of the "insane" birders, adding a new species to your life list, Birdathon provides endless fun with joyous and experienced birders.

### TO PLEDGE

There are several ways you can pledge money. You can pledge a certain amount for each species that is identified, or you can make a flat contribution. You can specify which team gets credit for your pledge, or you can just send a pledge to Burroughs. Either way, use the form to the right or contact a team member directly. Burroughs Audubon is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations/pledges are tax deductible.



*Pictured above: Rain or shine, you can't keep a gardener inside! Lori Lind, Paul Habiger, and Jill DeWitt work the 2009 sale in a refreshing spring rain. To volunteer for the plant sale while learning more about native plants and working with native plant gardens, join us by contacting Jill DeWitt at (816) 333-3293.*

### **A quick note about the Burroughs Audubon Annual Plant Sale**

Growers, at your shovels because we'll have the plants at the Annual Plant Sale! Whether you take orders from your friends for your landscaping projects, or purchase some Dwarf Crested Iris or Bluebells for Mother's Day, you'll be helping us make this a successful fundraiser just as in years past.

Consider bringing your "before shots" for some landscaping advice from some of our landscaping professionals. Last year, a member's residence received a Kessler Society Award.

All plants offered at the Annual Plant Sale are plants that thrive in our challenging mid-western climate.

Make this the year your surroundings burst into color.



## **Annual Plant Sale**

### **Grow Native! Support Burroughs!**

**April 17, 2010**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Burroughs Audubon Library and Nature Center**  
**7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, Missouri**  
*(Just off Woods Chapel Road at Lake Jacomo Entrance)*

**Plants provided by Missouri Wildflowers Nursery**

To preview the catalogue or place advance orders:

[www.mowildflowers.net](http://www.mowildflowers.net) or (573) 496-3492

and reference Burroughs Audubon

## **Top 10 Reasons to Use Native Plants**

by Alan Branaghan, Director of Horticulture Powell Gardens [www.powellgardens.org](http://www.powellgardens.org)

### **#10 Spirit of Place**

"Homogenize Milk, Not Landscapes." (The Landscape Revolution by Andy Wasowski) Celebrate gardening within the inherent beauty of the Osage and Drift Plains bisected by the magnificent Missouri River.

### **#9 Aesthetics**

Their unique beauty has become "exotic" in a sea of non-native Callery Pears, Yews, Knockout Roses, Japanese Spireas and Stella d'Oro Daylilies.

### **#8 Less Consumption of Fossil Fuels**

The mow, blow and go crew are major air polluters. Natives require less consumptive maintenance.

### **#7 Bank Carbon**

They are mainly long-lived and bank carbon well. Remember their roots stabilize climate and enrich soil.

### **#6 Less Fertilizer**

Fertilizer to them is literally waste! They are lean and mean. Less fertilizer use always improves water quality.

### **#5 Less Pesticides**

Pesticides have not won the war on pests; the balance of life works on diversity. Detoxify our landscape and bodies.

### **#4 Free Labor**

If you plant them, they will come, shield, protect and pollinate! They are the army of adapted micro-fauna. Predators and pollinators work for free; \$50 Billion dollars worth of pollination (when last estimated by EO Wilson in the 1980's.) Insectaries Gardens are a main-stay at all organic farms.

### **#3 Conserve Water**

They require less water when planted in a place that mimics their native habitat.

### **#2 Conserve Wildlife**

All the fauna has evolved with them: save the creatures big and small. Native plants accompanying fauna feeds the food chain, provides original habitat, and maintains the balance of life.

### **#1 Infrastructure**

They support the web of life that holds the alive "skin" of our planet together into a working ecosystem that recycles vital elements. Healthy soil, fresh water and clean air are our most important investment. We don't want to end up like Mars!

*Thank you, Alan for a personal compilation!*

## Squaw Creek NWR Spring Calendar

**March 6**

Refuge Habitat Workday  
9:00 AM

**March 13 to May 2**

Refuge Office Opens on Weekends  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**March 27**

Refuge Habitat Workday  
9:00 AM

**April 10**

Refuge Wide Volunteer Workday  
9:00 AM

**April 16-17**

Women in the Outdoors

*This two day event provides all women an opportunity to learn new outdoor skills and experience the natural wonders of Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in a non-threatening / non-competitive environment.*

**April 24**

Refuge Habitat Workday  
9:00 AM

**May 1**

International Migratory Bird Day  
Auto Tour Route

### We Need You!

Volunteers in the greater Kansas City area are now being coordinated for the spring calendar above. Volunteers are needed on the weekends from March 13, 2010 until May 2, 2010 to help greet visitors and sell items in the gift shop. Volunteers are also needed for International Migratory Bird Day and workdays. Please contact Christine Kline at [birdsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:birdsecretary@comcast.net) or (816) 540-3515 if you can volunteer just one day this spring!

[www.squawcreek.org](http://www.squawcreek.org)

**Burroughs Audubon**  
is a friend of Squaw Creek



# Squaw Creek 75 Years!

## Reaped Rewards Bring Birders a Lifetime of Enjoyment!

by Christine Kline

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge is visited by thousands of visitors every year. Many of them are birders. It's not a mystery what draws them. It's the waterfowl and the shorebirds. It's standing in one spot for one hour and having a fellow birder point out to you 14 new species of warblers and going home with over 30 new life birds after a day at Squaw Creek. It's seeing several Sandhill Cranes at one time and watching birds fall from the sky after a front moves through. Even on the coldest of days, it's magical seeing 1.6 million snow geese and over 300 Bald Eagles.

But in spring 2009, I, like many others, developed a whole new respect for Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge when its Wildlife Operations Specialist, Corey Kudrna, was our guest speaker. He explained how modern wetland management techniques maximized the numbers and species of shorebirds that use the refuge throughout the year. I then realized it's not just land but rather a man-made system of levees and habitat areas that are carefully managed, maintained, and enhanced for migratory bird populations and habitats. Last issue, Corey touched on some of their most recent projects. Five acres of prairie was overseeded with native wildflowers collected from the refuge over one year's time, an acre in the loess bluffs was cleared of brush, over 1,000 native wildflowers were planted, and 475 acres was burned to provide more plant diversity for grassland nesting birds. Finally, water levels were drawn down to increase the cattail component which is very beneficial for the American Bittern and other marsh birds.

Because managing, protecting, and preserving these habitats is vital for the birds, workdays and volunteers are equally vital. Volunteers are important to the refuge even from a monetary perspective. Did you know that the refuge receives money for every hour a volunteer dedicates to the refuge? The money is used for the very thing that helps generate it – supplies, food, and gifts for workdays and their volunteers! So put one of this spring's workdays on your calendar now. The refuge has projects to fit all levels of ability.

We are birders. The rewards are ours to reap.

### ABOUT WORKDAYS:

*Workday activities are weather dependent and may be canceled due to inclement weather. Please call Corey Kudrna (816) 383-0043 to inquire about cancellations. Safety is a primary concern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For this reason, on all workdays, volunteers will need to wear work boots, long sleeve shirts, and long pants.*



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# ISSUES and ACTIONS

For over a century, Audubon has been a leading voice encouraging conservation of precious habitat and wildlife for future generations. The articles that appear on this page, along with other issues and actions can be viewed in more detail at [www.audubon.org/campaign](http://www.audubon.org/campaign).

## Conservation Matters: Good for Birds, Good for Us

by Jill DeWitt, Conservation Chair

**In Missouri**, conservation advocates converged at the state capitol on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The budget is facing serious cuts, and we aligned our priorities with that in mind as we talked with Legislators about Increasing energy efficiency and renewables, protecting water quality, maintaining state parks, and building green with LEED Certification.

**In Kansas, Kansas Senate bill 2420** would introduce decoupling of utility net sales and profits, which encourages energy efficiency and conservation.

**Transmission** –The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority (KETA) are working on legislation. Gov. Parkinson has appointed Lt. Gov. Findley to chair a transmission sub-policy group.

**Wind Siting** – There's talk of allowing individual counties to make these decisions, but that is really not ideal due to the need for a comprehensive, statewide overall plan.

**Gardner, KS Intermodal Transportation Facility:** The Hillsdale Environment Loss Prevention (HELP) group has joined with others to file a lawsuit asking a judge to set aside the permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the BNSF rail yard proposed near Gardner and Edgerton. HELP wants a full environmental impact statement (EIS) and health risk assessment (HRA) completed on the entire development project. To learn more about how this is likely to affect Johnson County and the metropolitan area visit [www.helpairwater.com](http://www.helpairwater.com).

**Update on Sunflower/Holcomb Power Plant:** Sunflower Electric Corp. submitted a revised permit application to KDHE, whose review is expected to take three to six months. KDHE will coordinate with the EPA to address any federal requirements.

*Editor's Note:*

**To join the Conservation Committee** contact Jill DeWitt (816) 896-9104. Subscribe to local, state and national alerts by emailing Jill at [jdewitt@audubon.org](mailto:jdewitt@audubon.org).

## Urgent Call: NCLI Movement

by Jan and Lyle Alderson, co-chairs Education Committee

As a response to national concerns with the epidemic of childhood: Obesity, increasingly sedentary lifestyles, and media as well as such books as Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*, Congressman John Sarbanes and a number of others have tried to address this concern through an enormous number of small acts as well as major efforts which have become more visible through the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) movement. On the average, a child now interacts with media 70 hours a week!

There is an urgent call by the NCLI Coalition: "The U.S. Department of Education is working RIGHT NOW on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aka No Child Left Behind), and they need to hear from you about the need to include provisions for pre-K through grade 12 environmental and outdoor education as outlined in the No Child Left Inside Act, sponsored by Senator Reed and Congressman Sarbanes."

It is essential that the Department of Education (DOE) hear from every one of us. Use the email address, [ESEA.comments@ed.gov](mailto:ESEA.comments@ed.gov) and let Secretary Duncan and the Obama Administration know that you support the inclusion of NCLI in the reauthorized ESEA.

*Editor's Note: The template message below may help you in composing your email to the Department of Education. Please remember to personalize it with information about why you are a member of the NCLI Coalition.*

Dear Secretary Duncan,

As you consider strategies to strengthen and amend ESEA, we urge you to consider the provisions laid out in the No Child Left Inside Act, which would expand opportunities for environmental and outdoor education in America's schools. Comprehensive environmental education has been shown to improve student achievement across core subject areas and increase engagement in learning. Environmental education is critical to providing our students with the knowledge and skills to tackle complex problems and succeed in a green economy. Increasing environmental literacy is a proven way to expand the academic pipeline for STEM subjects and is increasingly seen as an innovative way to give students the sense of wonder and excitement so essential to encouraging scientific inquiry. What's more, getting children outside and active promotes a healthy lifestyle that is essential to fighting obesity and reducing symptoms associated with attention deficit disorder, depression, and stress.

Leaving environmental education out of ESEA would be a missed opportunity to improve education while helping to systemically address the Obama administration's other priorities of energy independence, a strengthened economy, and a healthier nation. We support the inclusion of NCLI in the reauthorized ESEA.

Sincerely,  
(Your Signature)

# Spring 2010 Field Trips

10

Field trips are open and free to everyone. Please contact the trip leader to see if there are any last minute changes that may have occurred due to inclement weather. You may also visit [www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org) and click on "Field Trips" for changes or for field trips posted after this newsletter was complete. For all field trips, bring comfortable footwear for hiking, binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen, and FRS radios if you have them. All trips involve walking on both dirt and/or paved trails.

## Jerry Smith Park's Woodcock Walk

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM

Whether you call it a mudsnipe, bogsucker, or timberdoodle, the American Woodcock has a fascinating courtship display that can be seen right here in our area! Larry Rizzo will lead us on a short hike to an overlook where these birds often display at dusk. The hard surface trail will lead to the area where the birds display, but some hiking over unpaved ground may be necessary. Bring a flashlight and dress for evening weather. From Holmes Road go east on 139th Street and proceed ¾ mile to the park entrance on the left. Follow the long gravel drive to the parking lot at the top of the hill. Regardless of weather, call Larry after 12:00 PM (Noon) for confirmation of this trip. Windy and/or inclement conditions can affect the trip.

Larry Rizzo: [larry.rizzo@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:larry.rizzo@mdc.mo.gov) or (816) 655-6254 ext. 246 after 12:00 PM (Noon)

## Smithville Lake

Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 AM

Linda Williams will take us to visit some of the lesser known areas at the northeast end of Smithville Lake including the Little Platte River wetland restoration. (Hiking could be muddy!) Meet at the Camp Branch Marina parking lot. We will break for lunch at a local restaurant and birding may continue depending on the mix of migrants arriving at the lake.

Linda Williams: [lkwilliams@kc.rr.com](mailto:lkwilliams@kc.rr.com) or (816) 536-5001

## Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 AM

Sunrise is at 6:47 AM but we won't meet until 8AM in the parking lot at Squaw Creek's Headquarters. We will be joining our guest speaker, Kevin J. Cook, at Squaw Creek to seek out all species from shorebirds and waterfowl to warblers and sparrows. Pack your coolers so we can make the most of our birding time for this full day of birding. Because Squaw Creek's weather can drastically vary from that of Kansas City's, please dress in layers and be prepared for all kinds of weather. Check the Burroughs Audubon website for changes, updates, carpooling, and/or trip contacts at [www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org).

## Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 AM

Our good friend, Alan Branhagan, Director of Horticulture at Powell Gardens, will take us on a day trip to the closest "Ozark-like" habitat you can see right here in our own area. Big Buffalo Creek is Alan's favorite place, and he is well acquainted with it. We'll be looking for Carolina Chickadees and spring migrants including the Worm-eating Warblers. Spring wildflowers may also be in bloom. Meet at the commuter lot at Highway 50 next to the QuikMart just east of the entrance to Powell Gardens.

Alan Branhagan: (816) 687-2600 ext 241 or [abranhagen@powellgardens.org](mailto:abranhagen@powellgardens.org)

Interested in staying the night and getting a free breakfast? For more, contact Heidi Retherford at [purplemoose@swbell.net](mailto:purplemoose@swbell.net)

## Van Meter State Park & Grand Pass Conservation Area

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 AM

Shari Harden and Sherry Leonardo did this same trip last October and got "busted" by the CACHE police not once, but twice! So, they thought these same areas would be worth checking out this spring. Meet at the commuter lot at Highway 7 and I70 in Blue Springs, Missouri at the north side of price chopper. We'll look for rails and spring migrants at Van Meter State Park in the morning and shorebirds and waterfowl at Grand Pass Conservation Area in the afternoon.

Shari Hardin: (816) 289-2230 [kestrel277@comcast.net](mailto:kestrel277@comcast.net)

Sherry Leonardo: (816) 763-1393 [home172@aol.com](mailto:home172@aol.com)

## Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting (ASM)

Cape Girardeau, Missouri [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org)



April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Wings Over Weston Birding Festival

Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

## Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting (KOS)

Ringneck Ranch, Mitchell County [www.ksbirds.org](http://www.ksbirds.org)



May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>

## Blue River Bird Census #1

Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 AM

Don Arney, Burroughs Member and Kansas City Wildlands Member will perform two spring bird counts for the Kansas City Wildlands. For this first one, meet at the soccer parking lot at 128th and Blue Ridge Boulevard. We'll spend the morning walking the trail along the Blue River and count as many birds as we can see.

Don Arney: (816) 931-8536 or [sora@kc.rr.com](mailto:sora@kc.rr.com)

## Spring 2010 Field Trips continued...

### Platte County Tweets and Eats

**Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 AM**

Join Laura Gilchrist as we bird Platte Falls Conservation Area and Little Bean Lake/Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area. Afterwards, we'll all gather at Pat's Steakhouse, near Little Bean, to eat a home-cooked lunch together. Meet at the Platte City Park-n-Ride Commuter Parking Lot off the Platte City Exit (Exit 18 & I29). The Lot is located next to the large Sonic sign seen easily from the exit. Please R.S.V.P. to Laura prior to May 22, 2010 if you'll be joining the gang for lunch.

**Laura Gilchrist: (816) 835-9595 or [lgi.bird@gmail.com](mailto:lgi.bird@gmail.com)**

### Dunn Ranch Prairie

**Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 AM**

Jim and Ellen Zellmer will help us find prairie birds such as the Upland Sandpiper, Great Prairie Chicken, Henslows and Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolinks, and the Black-billed Cuckoo. We will also visit some other conservation areas to collect some CACHE data. Meet us at I35 and 152 Highway at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Liberty, Missouri. Because of its remoteness, pack your coolers.

**Jim Zellmer (816) 228-3955 (before noon or after 6:00 PM) or [towhee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:towhee@sbcglobal.net)**

### Blue River Bird Census #2

**Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 AM**

The second spring bird count for the Kansas City Wildlands will again meet at the soccer parking lot at 128th and Blue Ridge Boulevard. We'll spend the morning walking the trail along the Blue River and count as many birds as we can see.

**Don Arney: (816) 931-8536 or [sora@kc.rr.com](mailto:sora@kc.rr.com)**

### Quivira National Wildlife Refuge & Cheyenne Bottoms Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Ed McCullough, long time Burroughs Member and past President will take us on a tour of this great Kansas destination during the breeding season. Many species of waterfowl, shorebirds and waders including Avocets, Snowy Plovers and Black-necked Stilts will be seen. We'll also look for nesting Mississippi Kites, Least Terns, Barn and Burrowing Owls. Travel by your own means to Great Bend, KS on Friday evening and stay in the lodging of your choice. We'll meet outside the Highland Hotel and Convention Center (3017 10th Street, (620) 792-2431) at 8:00 AM on Saturday. We'll bird all day Saturday and for ½ day on Sunday. Due to its remoteness, pack your coolers. Please R.S.V.P. to Ed McCullough so he knows how many to expect.

**Ed McCullough: (816) 868-2579 or [ed@mucculloughweb.com](mailto:ed@mucculloughweb.com)**

## Saturday Bird Walks

### Wild Bird Center

**Led by Mike Stoakes**

**4046 W. 83rd Street  
Prairie Village, KS**

Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month on a free bird walk to help you identify birds in our own area! Dress for the weather and meet us in the parking lot of the Wild Bird Center at 8:00 AM.

**March 6, 2010 ~ Mill Creek Stream Way**

**April 3, 2010 ~ Antioch Park**

**May 1, 2010 ~ Overland Park Arboretum**

### Overland Park Arboretum

**Led by Trent Reed**

**8909 W. 179th Street  
Overland Park, KS**

Learn to identify birds by their songs and calls during one of our free bird walks. Wear closed toe shoes and pants and bringing bug repellent. Meet us in the main lobby of the Arboretum.

**March 27, 2010 ~ 7:00 AM**

**April 24, 2010 ~ 7:00 AM**

**May 22, 2010 ~ 7:00 AM**

**June 26, 2010 ~ 7:00 AM**



*From left to right: In October 2009, a group of birders visited Wildcat Glades in Joplin, Missouri. (Picture by Chris Pistole, Wildcat Glades Naturalist) Grand Falls was scoped by birders at Wildcat Glades. (Picture by Matt Gearheart.) An unseasonal & out of range Black Vulture was discovered at John Redmond Reservoir on November 19<sup>th</sup> on a Burroughs Audubon field trip. (Pictures by Matt Gearheart and Christine Kline)*

*Are you wondering if a field trip has been cancelled due to the weather?*

## **BurroughsAnnounce**

BurroughsAnnounce is a group email list for timely announcements and information between your *WingBeat* newsletters. To receive email notices of field trips and events send an email with the word "subscribe" in the subject line to:

[BurroughsAnnounce-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:BurroughsAnnounce-owner@yahoo.com)

You will receive an email with instructions.

*Easy to use, user friendly!*

Prepare for  
Corinth Square  
(913) 381-5633



Springtime!

Prairie Village, Kansas



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# 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Burroughs Audubon Dinner & Silent Auction

featuring  
Kevin J. Cook

During a second-grade parent-teacher conference, his teacher, Mrs. Case, explained to Kevin's parents that he couldn't spell "school" or "Wednesday," but he could spell *Brontosaurus* and *Archaeopteryx* with an uncanny precision that included slanting his letters to approximate the italics necessary for a proper scientific name. On yearbook signing day at the close of high school, Kevin's three English teachers advised him to consider alternatives to college because he probably would not pass the freshman English requirements. Ignoring their advice, he exempted college English by testing out of the subject with high scores. He has since gone on to publish more than 6,000 pieces of writing. Besides writing, Kevin has guided nearly 200 wildlife observation tours, has taught day-long seminars on various wildlife subjects, and has taught classes on subjects as varied as nature writing and gardening for birds.

Kevin is best known for his passion for birds. His latest projects include co-writing *Good Birders Don't Wear White* and writing for Bird Watcher's Digest's *The Backyard Question Box*. He has spent his life paying attention to life. If it lives, he has probably read about and gone looking for it either in the field or in a museum just to satisfy a curiosity that never fades.

This evening, attendees will be delighted to see Kevin's humor shine through as he talks about goofy people he has had on tours, questions and answers from Bird Watcher's Digest – the unclipped version, life lessons he's learned from the birds and things we should know about birds that we can't get from a field guide.

Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Terrace on Grand

1520 Grand ~ Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Convenient, Safe, & Free Parking at KC Star at 16<sup>th</sup> and Grand  
Security, Curb Side Drop Off for Guests, Guest Elevator, Handicap Accessible

Hors d'oeuvres and Spirits

Join us for a Cash Bar, Cigar Humidor, and Reserve Wine & Champagne Wall

Book Signing

Good Birders Don't Wear White

Chapter 21 ~ Shift Your Focus from Birding to Birds by Kevin J. Cook

Silent Auction, Dinner, Presentation

Dinner will include a buffet with a choice of two entrees. A vegetarian choice will also be provided.

Registration for \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Reservations at \$35.00 per person

Table of 8 for \$240.00

(Includes a free gift for each guest)

Please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Good Birders Don't Wear White for the Book Signing  
(Payment of \$8.95 per book is enclosed.)

Payment, Registration, and/or RSVP must be received by April 5, 2010

Make check payable to Burroughs Audubon and mail to:

Lori Lind, Treasurer ~ 624 N. Kent, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

Questions: Christine Kline (816) 540-3515 or Lori Lind (816) 308-3591