



The Chat

Volume 52 Number 7

Columbia Audubon Society

March 2010

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

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

President's Column Vanessa Melton

Spring is almost here and that could only mean one thing. No, not the great search for spring migrants, but election time for Columbia Audubon Society. We are currently seeking members to form the Nominating Committee, so if you would love to have the opportunity to help pick a new member of the board contact me at 573-864-3905 or vanndawn@yahoo.com. Just because you serve on the Nominating Committee doesn't mean that you would have to serve as an officer or board member, so don't worry about that.

Also, we are also seeking a new Field Trip Chair. So 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. Again, contact me if you are interested.

Vote for Russell Property Replacement Name

The suggestions are in for a new name to replace Russell Property and it is time to take a vote. As you know, the family no longer wants their name associated with the property they used to own, so here is the list of possible replacements to be voted on at the March meeting:

Scott's Branch Audubon Nature Area
Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary
Columbia Audubon Nature Preserve

All members are encouraged to attend the March meeting to vote for a new name for one of our grand properties.

Learn about Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area at the March Meeting

Shauna Marquardt, area manager, will talk about the management of Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area and will emphasize some of the avian-specific projects, educational activities, and highlights from the past year.

Shauna is a Wildlife Biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation. She received a B.S. from the University of Central Missouri and M.S. from Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas. Since 2001, she has worked in the Midwest and Northern Great Plains conducting research on small mammals, bats, native and invasive plants, songbirds, and amphibians. Her current responsibilities deal with wetland management for water birds.

The general meeting and program start at 7:30 P.M. at Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. The board will meet starting at 6:00 P.M. in the church lobby. All members are invited to attend.

Get Involved

The CAS field trips for March, April and May have been cancelled because there is no field trip leader. Bill Clark will still be leading the CACHE trips on Wednesdays. He leaves Parkade Plaza at 7:30 A.M.

Columbia Audubon Society members are invited to participate in the following events:

The Wild Bird Center is hosting field trips on the first and third Saturdays of each month until further notice. The trips will leave from the store at 2703 E. Broadway, Ste 127 at 8:00 A.M.

The Native Plant Society will be holding their Winter Ramble field trip to Wild Haven on March 7th. The trip will focus on winter tree identification and spring flower leaf identification. Meet at Missouri Department of Conservation Research Center (1110 S. College Avenue) at 10 A.M. Contact: Becky Erickson at beckyerick@socket.net.

The Division of State Parks is asking for your feedback on the Missouri state park system and what staff can do in the future to make it better. The system is in a challenging time; however, it is also a time to move forward with innovative ideas. In the survey, you will be asked to prioritize what services and facilities you feel are most important and how parks can tailor their operations and programs to meet the most needs. The survey also includes questions on ways you feel state parks can generate more revenue.

Feedback is critical to their continued viability as an outstanding state park system. The survey will be available until March 11th, so please take some time to complete it and let state parks know your thoughts. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mostateparks>.

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park will be conducting volunteer training this spring. The beginning training course is either March 9th or March 18th from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Advanced training includes frogs and toads, butterflies, map and compass reading, interpretation and invasive species control. Call Roxie Campbell at 449-7400 to register.

The Friends of Rock Bridge will be hosting a fundraising breakfast at Applebee's, 2601 E. Broadway, on March 13th, beginning at 8:30 A.M. Tickets are \$5.00 (children under 8 are free). Proceeds will go toward educational and interpretive programs at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. For more information, contact Dottie Stoerker-Peters at 442-8476.

Speaking of state parks, Bill Bryan, the director of the Division of State Parks, will be the guest at the next Sierra Club meeting on March 16th. The meeting starts at 7:30 P.M. at the Hillel Foundation, 1107 University Ave.

For the 27th year, Randal Clark will lead wildflower walks at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park beginning on March 24th. The walks meet at 5:30 P.M. at the Devil's Icebox parking lot.

The North American Migratory Bird Count will be Saturday, May 8th. See upcoming issues of *The Chat* for more information.



Photo by Donna Brunet

Nature Area News

Harold Anderson and John Besser

On behalf of the Columbia Audubon Society, we wish to thank Sandra Kubal for donating 2 sacks of prairie grass and wildflower seed (Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Side Oats Gamma, Virginia Wild Rye, Blazing Star and a few other forbs) for the restored prairie plot at the CAS Albert Nature Area. According to Sandra, the seeds are Missouri ecotypes and should take about three years produce results.



Photo by Harold Anderson

On Sunday, January 31st, we were able to sow the seed over the area with the help of David Schenker and his niece Emily Burn (in photo), Ellen Erhardt, Kathleen Anderson and John Besser.

We had beautiful weather for sowing the seed.

**Treasurer's Report
Eric Seaman**

Summary	Month	Year to date
Income	\$659.69	\$7,599.17
Expense	\$191.98	\$8,014.68

2009-2010 Columbia Audubon Society Officers

- President Vanessa Melton, 864-3905
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- Vice President Bill Clark, 474-4510
- Secretary Bonnie Heidy, 442-2191
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- Treasurer Eric Seaman, 529-0530
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- Directors Jean Graebner, 698-2855
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- Membership Vanessa Melton (see above)
- Communications
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- Outreach & Education Bill Clark (see above)
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- Trailside Museum Denny Donnell, 442-8407
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- Field Trips Vacant
- Natural Areas John Besser, 874-5675
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Harold Anderson, 474-3185
Cleo Kottwitz, 874-8923
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- Hospitality Dolores Clark, 474-4510

Deadline for submission of articles to The Chat is the Monday following the monthly general meeting. Submit articles to jgast@centurytel.net or to 3009 Lynnwood Dr., 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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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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