

# The Chat

Volume 52 Number 9

Columbia Audubon Society

May 2010

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

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

## President's Column Vanessa Melton

Another year has come to an end, and with that we will be having our usual year-end celebration picnic at Wild Haven. The picnic will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 P.M. Please bring a dish to share with the group. We will take a short break for chapter business (including elections, see page 2) before we eat, so please make sure you are on time for that. Also, there will be a silent auction and sale of leftover items from the Trailside Museum which closed in April. (See article on page 3). So, come out to enjoy good food, great company, and add a few books to your birding library while you are at it. See you out there!

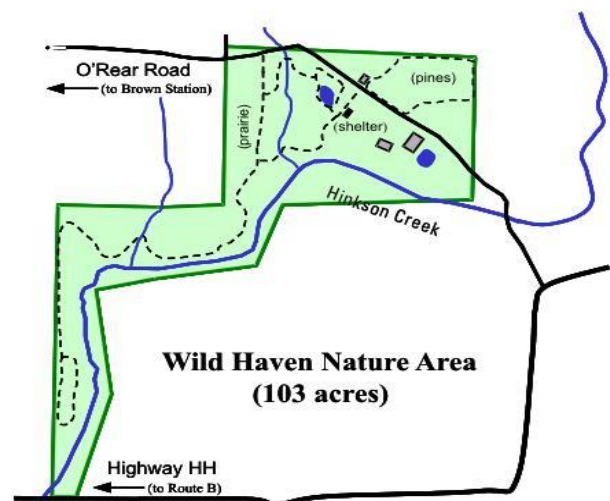
### Wild Haven Nature Area

Wild Haven is a 103-acre nature area located northeast of Columbia along upper Hinkson Creek. The area includes a 64-acre tract donated by the late Lee Jenkins in 1983, with the remainder acquired with the assistance of the Boone County Trust. Wild Haven not only consists of mature forest along a mile-long stretch of Hinkson Creek, but also a small remnant prairie, sandstone glades, former Christmas tree plantation and two small ponds. Some areas are being managed to restore natural habitats, remove exotic plants, and establish habitat

demonstration areas. This is an ideal location for field trips, outdoor classroom activities, and study of ecology and natural history. Wild Haven has an extensive trail system. A picnic shelter and workshop are also available. Wild Haven includes an area leased to a local astronomy club and a rental residence; please respect their property and privacy.

### Directions:

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



**Election Time**  
**David Silvey and Greg Leonard,**  
**Nominating Committee**

The positions of vice president, secretary, treasurer and board member are up for election at the May meeting. The only candidate for vice president is Alice Reese. Interim board member Bill Mees has volunteered to run again. We are still seeking nominees for the positions of treasurer and secretary. Self nominations and nominations from the floor for all positions will be accepted up until the time voting occurs. This is an opportunity for interested Columbia Audubon Society members to participate in the leadership of our chapter. Important matters and decisions face our chapter, and now is the time for each of you to consider playing a role. Suggestions, nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. Please contact David Silvey at by phone at 573-884-1431 or [silveyd@umsystem.edu](mailto:silveyd@umsystem.edu).

**Nature Areas Update**  
**John Besser, Cleo Kottwitz and Harold**  
**Anderson,**  
**Nature Areas Committee**

Spring Cleanup Work Day at Wild Haven

We will hold a work day on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Wild Haven nature area. This will be a Spring Cleaning day before the annual Chapter potluck picnic on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The first order of business will be cleaning up in and around the picnic shelter and mowing the area. We will also clean up the workshop, which has become very cluttered with remnants of previous projects and, most recently, with materials moved from the former Trailside Museum. Please plan to attend, especially if you have an interest in (or use for) the museum materials, if you can help us get our tractor ready for another mowing season, or if you have a

pickup that can be used to haul materials to the landfill or to the recycling center. We will meet at the workshop, starting at 9:00 A.M.

If you have questions, contact John Besser by e-mail [jbesser1@gmail.com](mailto:jbesser1@gmail.com) before the work day or by cell phone (573-529-6186) on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Update on New Nature Trail

We had a successful work day on April 17<sup>th</sup>, and made a lot of progress on constructing a new nature trail at the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary (formerly the Russell Nature Area) in west Columbia. The entire route has been cleared of logs, tree limbs, and brush and marked with yellow and black trail markers. Check it out yourself, starting at the gate at the north end of Cunningham Road. CAS has contacted local Boy Scout troops for help building a footbridge and some benches along the trail. We are also looking for volunteers who would be able to periodically mow the trail to encourage year-round use. Contact Cleo Kottwitz at [cdk13@socket.net](mailto:cdk13@socket.net) if you can help with trail maintenance.

June Work Day

On June 12<sup>th</sup> (tentative date), we will have a work day for maintenance and improvement of the Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardens at Wild Haven. This project is being conducted in collaboration with the Mid-Missouri Master Naturalists. The work will involve weeding, mulching trails, and installing shoreline/aquatic plantings. If you are interested, contact John Besser [jbesser1@gmail.com](mailto:jbesser1@gmail.com) or look for more details via the CAS e-mail list.

## Trailside Museum Update Denny Donnell

Recent actions of the CAS executive committee have led to the closure of the Museum/Nature Center at the Stadium trailhead of the MKT. The city will utilize the building in lieu of some other spaces currently being rented. The educational literature and some books have been given to the public school system. Bird eggs, nests, feathers, mammal bones, etc. have been donated to the University. Some educational exhibits went to the Department of Conservation for their new headquarters building at Eagle Bluffs. Furniture items were taken by Habitat for Humanity. The bird carvings will be removed by University staff. If the original donors would like theirs, please contact me. The books will be made available to members at the May (picnic) meeting at Wild Haven in two venues. Better books as listed below will be sold by silent auction with suggested minimum bids. Several boxes of books which are very useful but of no particular retail value will be sold on a first come basis for \$2.00 per hardback \$1.00 per paperback. Nearly everything has been removed but we must be out of the building by late May. If you have any questions, contact me at 573-442-8407 or [hddonnell@hotmail.com](mailto:hddonnell@hotmail.com).

Bailey, *Handbook of Birds of Western States*, 1902  
 Falla et al, *Field Guide to Birds of N Zealand*, 1966  
 Dickey, *Familiar Birds of Pacific Southwest*, 1945  
 Sutton, *Birds in the Wilderness*, 1936  
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 Friedman, *Host Relations of Parasitic Cowbirds*, (pb) 1963  
 Deigman, *Type Specimens of Birds in US Natural Museum*, (pb) 1961  
 Bennitt, *Checklist of Birds of MO*, (pb) 1932 signed  
 Bent, *Life Hist of NA Birds*, (pb) complete set most Dover  
 Bent, *Life Hist of NA Birds*, (pb) nearly complete orig ex lib  
 Bent, *Life Hist of NA Birds*, (pb) 13 misc issues (pb=paperback)

The Chat  
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Steve Stacey will give a presentation on mosses at the regular meeting of the Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plants Society at 7:00 P. M. on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. He will talk about moss identification, the beauty of incorporating moss in shade gardens, how moss propagates and different methods to grow moss outdoors and indoors. During this presentation Steve will show us mosses up close and teach us to develop a whole new awareness about these charming but sometimes overlooked plants.

Columbia's new Sustainability Director, Barbara Buffaloe, will discuss her new role and responsibilities at a public meeting on Tuesday, May 18, at 7:00 P.M. at the Boone County Government Building, 801 E. Walnut. Email [Colwillw@gmail.com](mailto:Colwillw@gmail.com) for more information.

Nelda McCrory has a Celestron 28x birding scope with legs and case for \$200. If interested, please call her at 573-445-8769.

### **Columbia Audubon Society Membership and Dues Form**

Local annual dues are voluntary. Make checks payable to the Columbia Audubon Society and mail this form to P. O. Box 1331, Columbia, MO 65205. Check the category below:

Student (\$10.00)  Individual (\$15.00)  Family (\$25.00)  Donor (\$50.00)  Friend/Business sponsor (\$300.00)

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Please deliver The Chat via e-mail to: \_\_\_\_\_