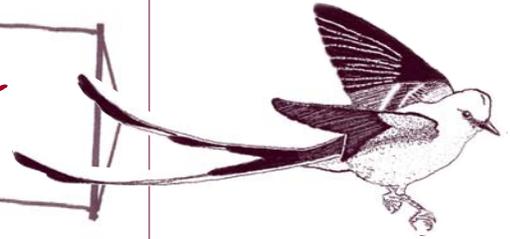


GOAS *Scissortail Flyer*



Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: JANUARY :: 2011 Volume 34 :: Issue 1

JANUARY CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13th

7:00 p.m., Nature Center

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

C1ZN040Z

Membership Application

- ◆ Affiliation with Greater Ozarks Audubon
- ◆ Eight issues of the **GOAS Scissortail**
- ◆ Four issues of **Audubon** magazine

- Please enroll me as a member of NAS and Greater Ozarks Audubon.....\$20
- Introductory 2 year Membership.....\$35
- I'm interested in making a bequest; please contact me at the address below

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

To join, make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail with this form to:

National Audubon Society
P. O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2250

Please send renewals to National Audubon. Follow instructions provided with notice to renew your membership. If you have questions, contact Mary Murphy, 863-8475, larmar34@peoplepc.com.

Log on to www.greaterozarksaudubon.org to subscribe to the GOAS newsletter online, or contact the GOAS Secretary if you want your newsletter mailed.

Learn A New Trick:

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Come to Meetings on  
Thursday Evenings

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TRAIL

By Myra Scroggs, GOAS Chapter President



Our Audubon chapter is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers who keep all our programs running. These people supply literally hundreds of hours of work during the year. I want to highlight these projects in our newsletter as a way to thank all our willing workers!

As I searched the archives to learn more about the history of our long running projects, one name kept appearing over and over. Kay Johnson has lead, at one time or another, just about every long term project we have. Kay's current interest is the South Creek Conservation project. The stretch of South Creek from National Avenue to Campbell Avenue was slated to be channeled with concrete. In 1998 GOAS convinced the city to leave the stream in its natural condition, provided our chapter would look after the creek and perform any necessary maintenance. Kay Johnson has worked tirelessly on this project, adding plantings of native plants along the waterway, including a 3 acre prairie that Kay is currently working to establish. Many volunteers have come out over the years to help Kay cut brush, pick up trash, plant flowers, pull weeds, pick rocks, sow seeds, and remove invasive species on the creek. Kay worked with the students at nearby Holland School to create a brochure focusing on nature along South Creek. Field trips to the creek were offered to area children and their parents. Ruby Ball, Mary Murphy, and Betty Johnson have been long time workers on the creek, as well as many others too numerous to mention, who have worked countless hours there. Give Kay a call if you would like to help out weekly, and plan to attend our creek clean up in April.

Prior to South Creek Kay worked on TNC's Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie restoration where GOAS members helped pull out old fences, remove brush, harvest seed, and inventory the endangered Mead's milkweed plants. Almost weekly Kay was accompanied by Betty Dyer, Ruby Ball and Mary Murphy as they traveled to El Dorado Springs to work on the prairie. Many other GOAS folks pitched in on this big project as well. More recently Kay designed, organized and helped install the outdoor classroom at Holland School. For this project Kay enlisted help from Boy Scouts, Master Naturalists, Ruby Ball, Mary Murphy, Sue Schuble and other GOAS volunteers. For years Kay monitored the Fellows Lake Bluebird Trail and other trails, and gave interesting nature tours to those folks who accompanied him on his weekly rounds. Thanks for the 1000s of hours of hard work Kay!

Our Volunteer Days started when Charley Burwick received a TogetherGreen Volunteer Grant from National Audubon and funded by Toyota. This grant was used to encourage members of the community to engage in conservation volunteerism. The grant required 6 events be held. First we held a BioBlitz at Valley Water Mill, partnering with the Watershed Committee, Master Naturalists and the Springfield-Greene County Parks, and were amazed at the 180 people of all ages who came out to engage in the many activities that day.

Next, partnering with the Springfield Nature Center, we had a family activity day building bird houses that Greg Samuel had predrilled for easy assembly. Some *continued on page 2*



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Representing:  
Cedar, Christian, Dallas, Douglas, Greene,  
Hickory, Polk, St. Clair, Stone, Taney,  
Webster, and Wright Counties in Missouri.

*Our mission is to promote bird conservation in southwest Missouri through education, habitat preservation and restoration, and public awareness, for the benefit of humanity and wildlife.*

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*Continued from front page*  
were put up at Valley Water Mill and the participants assembled bird feeders to install at home. Sue Schuble organized a lake clean-up and trail building day at Lake Springfield Park, along with Ozark Mountain Paddlers, MDC, and The Parks. Again we were pleased by the huge community turnout. An Earth Day cleanup and brush removal along South Creek found the Master Naturalists and Wesley United Methodist Church lending a hand. Jan Miller headed up a rain garden installation at Rutledge Wilson Farm Park, during which she taught the participants how to create a rain garden and then they went out and planted one at the farm. Sue Schuble led our final event, a Green Fest showcasing Earth friendly organizations in the area, with live music provided by Bo Brown and friends. Those events were well attended and encouraged our chapter to repeat with two GOAS sponsored Volunteer Days the following year. Volunteer and Sue Schuble are synonymous, so it was a good fit for Schuble to lead our Volunteer Days.

Speaking of Volunteer Days, our next event, *Spruce-Up Lake Springfield* is

slated for Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Lake Springfield, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided!

GOAS, Springfield Greene County Parks and MDC, will host the Spruce-Up event. This is year three for this big community-wide volunteer effort. Trail building will continue on the Greater Ozarks Audubon Trail at Lake Springfield, and pre-cut cedar tree removal will continue in glade restoration work. Wear suitable footwear and bring work gloves. Call 864-1051 (Ellen) to register so we can plan the lunch. The rain date is the following Saturday, Feb. 12. Come out to help make a difference in our community, and get a little fresh air at the same time!

**GO: Gettin' Out (with Schuble)**

The Springfield-Greene Co. Parks Dept. is offering FREE monthly GO programs to encourage people everywhere to engage in nature. Each month Sue Schuble will feature a different nature topic and suggest activities and places to experience that facet of nature. All programs will be at the new Botanical Center, 6:30 pm. Registration is required: Call 864-1049 (deadline: Friday before the program date).

**January 12: Spotting Wildlife**  
**February 16: Backpacking Trails**



**THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...TNC'S GWEN SHIRKEY**

**Journey to Latin America: Conservation Challenges and Opportunities**

Gwen Shirkey is the Deputy Director of Conservation Leadership for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Latin America. In her role, she is leading a team to build successful fund development for conservation priorities in freshwater, marine, climate and forest, and sustainable harvests across Latin America with U.S. and Latin America leaders. Previous to this role, Gwen led fund development for the Nature Conservancy in Missouri.

She has a masters degree in Public Administration from UMKC and has served as a community leader for over 20 years. Gwen lives in the Kansas Flint Hills where she is building a sustainable cabin with her partner, Brian. She volunteers on two boards, is a certified as a firefighter, and in her free time enjoys throwing pottery, yoga, making wedding cakes and good, local food for others.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday January 20th for refreshments and to socialize. The program will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).

*Dan and Ann Liles, Program Chairs*

**JANUARY CALENDAR**

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