



GOAS *Scissortail*

GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017 VOLUME 40 ISSUE 3

FROM ANN'S AERIE

Ann Liles, Lisa Berger and Guests

A Tribute to Becky

Ency Rebecca Matthews, 98, passed away on February 20. Most recognize the impact she made on conservation and education in our community, and also her gentleness, humor, and perseverance to accomplish big things.

Becky's interest in birding began about 1968. She held offices, including president, and served on committees, from the time we called ourselves the Audubon Club of Springfield, through 1980 when the club became GOAS, a chartered Chapter of the National Audubon Society, and until her passing.

Becky's conservation outreach began with her weekly *Birdwatch* columns written for the News-Leader from 1971-2005. She helped establish the Volunteer Naturalist program at the new Springfield Conservation Nature Center in 1988-89, serving as its first coordinator. In 1994, she was recognized for her volunteer contributions, when she received Springfield's Gift of Time Award, and in 1997, Becky received National Audubon's William Dutcher Award, recognizing outstanding volunteer service by Audubon leaders. The Conservation Federation of Missouri honored Becky with the Conservation Communicator of the Year Award in 2000. When she retired from writing her column, our Chapter and the Nature Center co-hosted a Becky Matthews Gala in 2006; a tribute to a life-long learner, teacher, and volunteer.

While in poor health, it was always special when she could attend a meeting; her last was March 17, 2016.

From Jan Horton... Becky's son Dan got it right when he said, "Becky was witty and wise." And I would add to that "warm and welcoming." She gravitated toward new members of the Audubon Society getting acquainted and providing help with bird identification. She became a friend to everyone and everyone felt welcomed. You could ask Becky a crazy question about a bird and she would have the answer or help you find it.

From Connie Tyndall... I met Becky after moving to Springfield in 1963 and have regarded Becky as one of my very dearest friends. A deep friendship is usually based on common interests, and we have many. We share a commitment to husbands, children, and community service. We share a love of the outdoors in all its specifics: birds, plants, bugs, patterns of seasonal change. We love just being out and being a part of it all. Becky and I also share a love of the Lord, although it took me a while to catch up with her. I think she is one of the blessed, because she knew Jesus as her savior all her life long.

From Dorothy Thurman... Becky was the best kind of teacher--she just pointed out the things that delighted her and then it would delight you. She probably made up this song to teach children how to learn the song of the white-eyed vireo, but it has stuck in my head as well: "Chick perk-a wee-o chick,
Continued on page 2

MARCH CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 14th

7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 16th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE

GREATER OZARKS CHAPTER

OF THE

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership in the National Audubon Society includes:

- ◆ 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 _____

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

National Audubon Society
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014
Attention: Chance Mueleck

Please send renewals to National Audubon. Follow instructions provided with notice to renew your membership, or **renew** through our web page.

Get the **Scissortail** in your inbox!

Contact Mary Sturdevant, GOAS Membership Chair with questions, or Lisa Berger, Secretary, if you want to receive the newsletter by mail.

GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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 birdwatching, education, habitat preservation and restoration, and public awareness, for the benefit of humanity and wildlife.

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A Tribute to Becky, continued from page 1



Chick perk-a wee-o chick! The white-eyed vireo sings this song, Chick perk-a wee-o, chick!"

Her columns in the News-Leader were what convinced me to join the Audubon Club, after enjoying birding on my own for so long. Her son Dan had copies of the columns available at her funeral, and I'm finding them still a joy to read.

From Betty Johnson... Becky always made new birders or visitors feel welcome on field trips. She was anxious to show everyone "the bird", a tiny wildflower, a mushroom, a butterfly, an insect or some other facet of nature.

My sister, Kathy, told me when she

lived in Springfield years ago that Becky took us on a field trip east of Springfield. Kathy said we stopped by an empty plowed field and she wondered why we were stopping there. Becky got out of the car and began to show us Horned Larks feeding in the field. She knew exactly where to find each species.

From David Ringer... I was born on Becky's 65th birthday, but it was the birds, not the stars, that created our bond. When I started attending GOAS field trips as a teenager, Becky was there with her kind smile, the answer to a question, the offer of a ride. If it might have seemed intimidating to interact with someone so well-known in the community, she never made it feel that way -- quite the opposite. Once she showed up on my parents' front porch unannounced with a binocular harness as a spontaneous gift for me. The joy and peace that Becky found in birds -- and in sharing them with others -- helped shape my life, and it's my privilege and responsibility to carry her legacy forward now. Thank you for everything, Becky. I'll think of you with each bright Purple Finch and mysterious woodcock.



THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Two of our Chapter's premier photographers will share the stage in March: Marvin De Jong and Jerry Williams will present images and stories of recent trips to Ohio's Magee Marsh and North Dakota's Prairie Pothole region, respectively.

Magee Marsh is sited on Lake Erie's south shore, serving as a migrant trap, where warblers and other migrants refuel before crossing the lake to nest in boreal forests. As at High Island and other major stopovers, "birds are up-close, and easily seen and photographed", says Marvin.

The Prairie Pothole region provides very different habitat from that found in Missouri. Many species of nesting waterfowl and birds call the northern prairies their summer home. Learn about the history of the area, peek into the future, and find out why this place is important for birds.

Marvin, Jerry, and Margie, have been members of GOAS for many years, have served on the board, given programs, led field trips, and served as chairs on various committees. It's always a treat when our members share their adventures with us!

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday, March 16th for refreshments and to socialize. The program begins at 7:00 pm, followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).

Ruth Grant, Program Chair

MARCH CALENDAR