

GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: May 2012 :: Volume 35 Issue 5

MAY CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 8th

7:00 p.m. Neighborhoods at Quail Creek

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 17th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

C2ZN040Z

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

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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, lmurph34@gmail.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.

TWEETS

By David Catlin, Chapter President



The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society can trace its official existence back 50 years, to its organization as the Springfield Audubon Club back in 1962. Nine people responded to a notice in the paper placed by a woman named Margaret Weber. I picture her calling a few friends about possible dates for that inaugural meeting, writing up a little press release, and carrying it down to the offices of the *Springfield News & Leader* for them to publish.

In the process, she contributed the first volunteer hours to our organization.

Since that time, other volunteers have contributed tens of thousands more. Maybe hundreds of thousands. We have made attempts over the years to keep track of the volunteer time people put in, but with pretty spotty success. Our volunteers are the sort of people who would much rather spend their time just getting things done than tallying their hours in a little notebook.

So it's easy to lose track, until we hit some sort of milestone. Mary Murphy is stepping down as our Membership Chair this month, for instance—she has been faithfully attending our general meetings, distributing and collecting name tags, sending in membership fees, and covering related duties for something like nine years. The GOAS Board also says good-bye and thank you to David Hamilton and

Ellen Burns, who stepped down at the April meeting after serving their terms.

And then there are the people who continue to work behind the scenes—some of whom have worked for GOAS in one capacity or another since before I can remember. Myra Scroggs, who was a Board member, co-treasurer, president, past president, and is now (among many other things) organizing our Birdathon. Greg Swick—just awarded the GOAS “Choose Environmental Excellence” Award last month—who has invested so much volunteer time in our GLADE leadership academy that his wife has to remind him that he's supposed to be retired. Lisa Berger, who produces this newsletter, maintains (and pays for!) our website, tracks GLADE's finances, and still finds time to run her own business. And Dan and Ann Liles, who, when our bird seed supplier couldn't provide us with the small sunflower chips we had promised to one of our bird seed sale customers, put a whole bag of medium chips through their kitchen blender to fill the order!

There are many, many more like them. They are the people who serve as guest speakers at meetings (or recruit them), organize or participate in conservation work days, lead field trips, help with GLADE, monitor bluebird boxes, repre-

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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.

GOAS website sponsored by
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SANDHILL CRANES ON THE PLATTE RIVER, NEBRASKA

By Myra Scroggs

Thirteen lucky birders (Dorothy Thurman, Janice Greene, Carol Snyder, Hammons and Nancy Schanda, Marge and Jerry Williams, Ann Liles, Myra and Stephen Scroggs, Dixie Sleight, Alice and Dick Counts) enjoyed what was probably the best weather EVER on a late March weekend in Nebraska.

The beautiful sunrises illuminated 600,000 cranes as they slowly rose into the air from the river, one group at a time. The sunsets were even more spectacular than the sunrises as the cranes returned to roost in the river for the night, with the thin crescent moon and planets in the sky background. A brilliant meteor on our first morning seemed to signal what a treat we were in for.

During the day we visited the Rainwater Basin with many waterfowl, and on the way home stopped at Squaw Creek for waterfowl and white pelicans. Good birds, good company, good weather, and good times!



Sandhill Cranes: Janice Greene Photo

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 sent us on local conservation issues, bring refreshments, and cover the dozens of other jobs necessary to running an organization with no paid staff. To try and thank them all here would be like trying to invite all the correct people to a wedding without leaving anyone out. I'd certainly omit someone.

I suspect most of our members don't volunteer for the meager and sporadic thanks they get. They do it for other reasons, perhaps as numerous as they are. But, as much as they accomplish, there is always more to do. If you'd like to join their ranks, we'll certainly find a job for you. Just drop me an email at dcatlin754@sbcglobal.net



THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...


Sue Schuble is back by popular demand to present, *Searching for the Spoonbilled Sandpiper and other Rarities in China*. She will talk about the trials and thrills of travel and wildlife photography in China.

Sue has been a member of GOAS since she retired from teaching and coaching in 2001, trading teenagers for birds and animals, and finding the latter to be easier to get along with! She heads the GOAS Bluebird trail at Lake Springfield and serves as our Education Chair, volunteers as a bird of prey specialist with Dickerson Park Zoo, cleans cages, feeds animals and helps with programs at WOW, and is a volunteer naturalist with the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. She enjoys traveling to remote places, wildlife photography, and pursues as many outdoor activities as she can fit into her dizzying day planner!

Join us at 6:30 pm, Thursday, May 17th for refreshments. 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 65).

Ann and Dan Liles, Program Chairs

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 Printed on recycled paper