

Conservation Forum 2003



Wednesday, November 5, 2003
The Living World
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Conservation Forum Program

Registration and view exhibits 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Afternoon Session I 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Classroom 1 **Todd Antoine, Senior Planner, Great Rivers Greenway**
Great Rivers Greenway: A Regional Community Benefit.

Classroom 2 **Debbie Boege, Department of Biology, University of Missouri-St. Louis**
*Home range and movement patterns of river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) in Missouri.*
Beth Congdon, International Center for Tropical Ecology, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Capybara dispersal: How does the world's largest rodent find a home?

Classroom 3 **Pamela Rout, Education Director, Wild Canid Survival and Research Center**
Providing an alternative to extinction: Mexican gray wolf recovery efforts.

Classroom 4 **Dianne Benjamin and Michael Nelson, The Green Center**
Environmental stewardship programming with urban youth: Community-based environmental education.

Monsanto Room **Eric Miller, Director of Animal Health and Conservation, Saint Louis Zoo**
Saint Louis Zoo's Conservation Centers: Connecting the Zoo to the Wild.

Afternoon Session II 6:10-6:40 p.m.

Classroom 1 **Shelley Welsch and Linda Fried-Ellis, River des Peres Watershed Coalition**
From sewer to stream: Building a coalition to reclaim a river.

Classroom 2 **Sandra Arango, Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development,
Missouri Botanical Garden**
The importance of basic research in conservation: The case of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Classroom 3 **Tom Leifield, Area Manager, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area,
Missouri Department of Conservation**
Conservation at the confluence: Columbia Bottom Conservation Area.

Classroom 4 **Leonard Sonnenschein, President, St. Louis Children's Aquarium**
*A sampler of aquatic conservation actions: A worldwide report on science and public understanding
by St. Louis Children's Aquarium.*

Monsanto Room **Mercedes Rouges and Lucio Malizia**
International Center for Tropical Ecology, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Conservation issues of subtropical Andean forests.

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Dinner and view exhibits 6:40-7:50 p.m.
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Evening Session 8:00 p.m. Anheuser Busch Auditorium

Presentation of Conservation Action Prize to Wilford "Wolf" Guindon
Founding member, Monteverde Conservation League, Costa Rica

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Dr. Frank Joyce, Asociación Conservacionista de Monteverde and Education Abroad
Program, University of California**

Conservation in Costa Rica: Working mutualisms between people and nature.

Conservation Action Prize

In October 2000 the International Center for Tropical Ecology established the Conservation Action Prize to recognize individuals who are particularly active in the frontline of biological conservation. Conservation action is, more often than not, the endpoint of years of hard work, dedication, sound science, forged alliances and sheer determination. It takes a very special kind of individual to achieve and implement solutions in the conservation arena. The ICTE's Conservation Action Prize recognizes and honors the "unsung heroes" of conservation who have been intimately involved and successful in seeking solutions to conservation problems, developing conservation strategies, implementing programs that conserve natural resources, habitats and biodiversity, educating the public on issues pertaining to biological conservation, or providing leadership through example. The first recipient of the Conservation Action Prize was **Sharon Matola**, Director of the Belize Zoo, who has brought environmental education to the kids of Belize and has actively campaigned against ill-advised development projects in Belize. In 2001, the prize was presented to **Doug Ladd**, Director of Conservation Science for the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy for his stalwart work in conservation planning, natural area assessment, management, restoration and research for over twenty-five years. **Mark Jenkins**, Senior Warden, Meru National Park and Bisanadi and Mwingi National Reserves, Kenya received the award in 2002 for his sterling work in conservation of African wildlife and national park management. This year we recognize **Wilford Guindon**, long-time conservationists of the cloud forests of Monteverde, Costa Rica.

Wilford "Wolf" Guindon

Wilford "Wolf" Guindon has devoted himself to the conservation of the cloud forests of Monteverde, Costa Rica. His love for this area began in 1951 when he arrived in Costa Rica as one of the original Quakers seeking to establish a new life in this peace-loving country. He is a founding member of the Monteverde Conservation League and has been intimately involved in many conservation efforts including working with local farmers to replant trees and create small forests on their farms (*bosques en fincas*). Wolf worked with **George Powell** to establish the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and in 1972, transferred the administration of the Reserve to the Tropical Science Center that Wolf joined and later became the coordinator, a position he held from 1974-1984. His rapport with local farmers and landowners facilitated land purchases and the expansion of the reserve. He developed trails and protected the forest from poachers and squatters. In 1986, Wolf participated in negotiations for the land purchases to create the largest private reserve in Costa Rica: *El Bosque Eterno de los Niños* that surrounds the Cloud Forest Reserve. In 1998, he received awards presented by Costa Rica's President Miguel Angel Rodriguez from the Ministerio del Ambiente y Energia and Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservacion for "distinguished work in support of and consolidation of the system of National Areas of Conservation." Wolf's knowledge of the natural history of the area is legendary and this has greatly aided conservation efforts, research and education programs. His capacity to work with people, to defuse confrontations and resolve disputes with regard to human dignity and without violence has greatly facilitated the conservation of Monteverde forests. He has championed collaboration among conservation organizations and has been successful in getting people to work towards the common goal of safeguarding biodiversity within the reserves he loves.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Frank Joyce

Frank Joyce is the director of tropical biology and conservation for the Education Abroad Program of the University of California. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania and his Master's and Ph.D. at Cornell University. For his Ph.D., he studied the nesting associations of birds, ants and wasps in Santa Rosa National Park. After completing his Ph.D., Frank was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. His research interests focus on nest-site selection by birds, wasps, ants and fish. For ten years, Frank has been a board member of the Asociación Conservacionista de Monteverde that owns and manages the Bosque Eterno de los Niños. He also advises and collaborates with the Area de Conservación Guanacaste, particularly in marine conservation. Frank Joyce lives and works in Monteverde, Costa Rica with his family.

Participating Conservation Organizations

Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development

The Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development applies the scientific expertise and resources of the Missouri Botanical Garden to preserve the Earth's biodiversity and to ensure its availability for future generations. The Center advocates a scientifically based approach to conservation and develops and implements conservation strategies in areas of great biological threat and importance. The major goals of the Center are to analyze and interpret scientific data and make recommendations for decision makers in countries rich in biodiversity and to create partnerships for conservation, provide training and build capacity, and promote sustainable community development in these countries. Conservation projects in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Madagascar, Tanzania, Vietnam and China are currently associated with the Center and have so far benefited more than 200 local researchers, students and community leaders through training and research support.

Contact: Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development, 235 Tower Grove Avenue, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63110. Tel.: (314) 577-9412; Fax: (314) 577-9596; email: CCSD@mobot.org.

Center for Plant Conservation

Founded in 1984, the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) is a national conservation organization headquartered at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Comprised of 33 botanical gardens and arboreta nationwide, the Center is dedicated to conserving and restoring the rare native plants of the United States. The Center currently houses over 600 rare United States taxa in live holdings within this network. It is the first national organization devoted exclusively to preventing the extinction of America's threatened flora.

Contact: Center for Plant Conservation, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166. Tel.: (314) 577-9450; email: cpc@mobot.org; <http://www.mobot.org/CPC>.

Confluence Greenway

The Confluence Greenway Project is working to establish a perpetually sustainable, 40-mile riverside recreation and conservation area on both banks of the Mississippi, extending from the Gateway Arch in downtown St. Louis to the river's meeting-points with the Missouri and Illinois Rivers. The Confluence Greenway will create a popular, one-of-a-kind destination for countless visitors. Its parks and trails will offer unprecedented access to the waterfront for hiking, biking, fishing, bird-watching, river-watching and much more. The Greenway will restore and protect environmentally sensitive land, plants and wildlife, while helping to keep our rivers clean, control flooding and reduce storm runoff. Significant parts of the project already exist, such as the Gateway Arch, Eads Bridge, Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, Pere Marquette State Park and Columbia Bottom. The Confluence Greenway will unite them, along with several more parks, trails and other sites.

Contact: Confluence Greenway, 2100 Locust #2N, St. Louis, MO 63103. Tel.: (314) 436-1324; Fax (314) 436-9215; email: lauracohen@trailnet.org; <http://www.confluencegreenway.org>.

Gateway Center for Resource Efficiency

The Missouri Botanical Garden acquired the EarthWays Home and made it the Gateway Center for Resource Efficiency headquarters in November 2000. The EarthWays Home, a three-story Victorian residence built in 1885 at 3617 Grandel Square, was renovated in 1994 to showcase practical demonstrations of energy efficient systems, recycled products and waste reduction practices. Systems and products in the EarthWays Home offer visitors a springboard to rethink product design and building operations to achieve affordable resource efficiency. Visitors will experience hands-on applications of sustainable lifestyle choices. Many existing features in the EarthWays Home are readily available for general construction and renovation.

Contact: Gateway Center for Resource Efficiency, 3617 Grandel Square, St. Louis, MO 63108. Tel.: (314) 577-0220; Fax: (314) 577-0298; email: gateway.center@mobot.org; <http://www.mobot.org/gatewaycenter/earthways.html>.

Gateway Greening

Gateway Greening is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community development through community gardening. Since 1984, Gateway Greening has helped transform neglected and abandoned lots in St. Louis into productive gardens and beautiful landscaped areas. In addition to our community gardens, Gateway Greening also partners with area schools to bring gardening programs into the classroom—educating children on the wonders of gardening through grow labs, vermicomposting, outdoor programs and other gardening activities.

Contact: Gateway Greening, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166. Tel.: (314) 577-9484; Fax: (314) 577-9435; email: gateway.greening@mobot.org; <http://www.gatewaygreening.org>.

Great Rivers Greenway

Great Rivers Greenway, formerly known as the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, is one of the largest districts of its kind in the nation. Great Rivers Greenway works for a clean, green, connected St. Louis region. Through its efforts, Great Rivers Greenway will provide economic, social and environmental benefits across St. Louis and surrounding areas. The organization was established in November 2000 by the successful passage of the Clean Water, Safe Parks, and Community Trails Initiative (“Proposition C”) in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County, Missouri. Great Rivers Greenway is funded by a 1/10th of 1-cent sales tax. State legislation, passed in April 1999, made the local district and funding possible.

Contact: Great Rivers Greenway, 1000 St. Louis Union Station, Suite 102, St. Louis, MO 63103. Tel: (314) 436-7009; Fax: 314-436-8004; <http://www.greatriversgreenway.org>.

The Green Center

The Green Center is a natural laboratory and cultural gathering place, where people of our region with their diverse backgrounds and experiences can come together to appreciate and understand each other and their relationship to the natural world. By offering the opportunity to touch and experience the wonder of nature in our outdoor spaces, we explore the link between nature and culture in a whole and healthy society. The outdoor spaces of the Green Center include the 26 acre Ruth Park Woods; a one-half acre wetland; a one-half acre prairie; learning/demonstration gardens; and an arboretum, all located within a mile walk of the Green Center headquarters in Kaufman Park in University City, Missouri.

Contact: The Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Avenue, University City, MO 63130. Tel.: (314) 725-8314; Fax: (314) 725-4291; email: info@thegreencenter.org; <http://www.thegreencenter.org>.

International Center for Tropical Ecology

The International Center for Tropical Ecology was established in 1990 through a cooperative agreement between the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden. The Center promotes research and education in tropical ecology, the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of tropical ecosystems. A key role of the Center is to facilitate graduate education in ecology, evolution, systematics, tropical biology and conservation by providing a stimulating academic environment. Presently more than 80 graduate students from over 20 countries are associated with the Center. The Center is also committed to undergraduate education in conservation biology, focusing on Missouri and temperate ecosystems. Through events such as the Conservation Forum, the Center promotes awareness within the St. Louis community of the importance of conservation and environmentally sustainable policies and practices.

Contact: International Center for Tropical Ecology, UM-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121. Tel.: (314) 516-5219; Fax: (314) 516-6233; email: icte@umsl.edu; <http://icte.umsl.edu>.

Missouri Botanical Garden

A world-class garden and botanical and conservation research institution, founded in 1859 by Henry Shaw, features 79 acres of gardens, flora from tropical rain forest to deserts, special events, and educational programs. The Missouri Botanical Garden is home to over 30 different gardens, the Climatron®, a world famous Botanical Research Center, an active Education Division, and much more. Shaw Nature Reserve is located approximately 35 miles west of St. Louis and encompasses 2,500 acres of natural Ozark landscape and managed plant collections. The Missouri Botanical Garden’s mission is to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life.

Contact: Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299. Tel.: (314) 577-5169; Fax: (314) 577-9596; email: freeland@mobot.org; <http://www.mobot.org>.

Missouri Department of Conservation

The mission of the Missouri Department of Conservation is: to protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state; to serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities; and to provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources. Since 1937, the Missouri Department of Conservation has been working to control, manage, restore, conserve, and regulate the bird, fish, game, forests, and all other wild resources in the state. Our goal is to create healthy, sustainable plant and animal communities well into the future. Hunting, fishing, and trapping permits provided most of the funding in the first 40 years, but in 1976 an expanded program, the "Design for Conservation" was passed to set aside one-eighth of one percent sales tax directly to the agency. That consistent funding, plus a strong, non-political structure and very supportive public helped Missouri become a leader in conservation efforts.

Contact: Missouri Department of Conservation, St. Louis Regional Office, 2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304. Tel.: (636) 441-4554; e-mail: berthh@mail.conservation.state.mo.us.
<http://www.conservation.state.mo.us>.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources envisions a Missouri where people live and work in harmony with our natural and cultural resources, make decisions that result in a quality environment, and prosper today and in the future. The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to preserve, protect and enhance Missouri's natural, cultural and energy resources and to inspire their enjoyment and responsible use for present and future generations.

Contact: Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Tel.: 1-800-361-4827; Missouri Department of Natural Resources, St. Louis Urban Outreach Office, 4030 Chouteau, 6th Floor, St. Louis, MO 63110. Tel.: (314) 340-5900; Fax: (314) 340-5904; email: nrshavp@mail.dnr.state.mo.us; <http://www.dnr.state.mo.us>.

Missouri Society for Conservation Biology

The Missouri Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology serves the state of Missouri as a local chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB). The SCB is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss and restoration of biological diversity. MOSCB's and SCB's membership comprises a wide range of people interested in the conservation and study of biological diversity and includes resource managers, educators, government and private conservation workers, and students. The goal of MOSCB is to facilitate cooperation and establish a communications network among individuals in the state of Missouri who are involved or interested in issues relating to conservation biology. Activities conducted by MOSCB include production of *The Glade* (contains research articles and essays), maintenance of a listserv and website, notification to members of conservation events in the state, and sponsorship of a student contest at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference.

Contact: Stacy James, MOSCB board member and graduate student, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia, 105 Tucker Hall, Columbia, MO 65211. email: stacy_james@usgs.gov; <http://www.snr.missouri.edu/moscb>.

Monteverde Conservation League

The Monteverde Conservation League is a private, non-profit association of Costa Rica with international members from around the world. The same organization administers **Bosque Eterno de los Niños** (BEN) (Children's eternal rain forest). They started working in 1986, protecting the rain forest bordering the famous Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve. To protect the reserve from becoming an ecologically isolated island in a sea of pastures and farms, the league began an innovative land-acquisition program. In 1987 a group of Swedish children raised money and sent it to the League to buy and protect threatened forests near Monteverde. Every acre of rain forest is a rich storehouse of tropical nature, alive with thousands of species of plants, insects and animals, some yet to be identified and studied.

Contact: Monteverde Conservation League, P.O. Box 10581-1000, San José, Costa Rica. Tel.: 011 (506)-645-5003; email: acmmcl@sol.racsa.co.cr; <http://www.acmonteverde.com>.

The Nature Conservancy - Missouri Chapter

The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit conservation organization committed to the protection of ecologically significant areas and the diversity of life they support. Since 1951, The Nature Conservancy and its one million members have been working with communities, businesses, governments and partner organizations to protect more than 116 million acres of valuable lands and waters in the United States and around the world. The Missouri Chapter and its 14,000 members have protected more than 150,000 acres of critical natural lands across the state and currently manage 40 preserves totaling 20,000 acres. The Nature Conservancy uses a strategic, science-based planning process to identify the highest-priority conservation landscapes. If protected, these priority landscapes promise to ensure biodiversity of our lands and waters for future generations to use and enjoy.

Contact: The Nature Conservancy, 2800 S. Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63144. Tel.: (314) 968-1105; email: missouri@tnc.org; <http://nature.org>.

North American Butterfly Association

The North American Butterfly Association was founded by Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg in 1993 to promote non-consumptive, recreational butterflying and to increase the public's enjoyment, knowledge and conservation of butterflies. The St. Louis Chapter (NABA-St. Louis) was started in 2000. Our chapter offers monthly butterfly walks as well as programs on butterfly topics. One of NABA's main activities is the July 4 butterfly count that takes place in Canada, the United States and Northern Mexico. Similar to the Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count, the butterfly count is a census of butterflies in a given area year after year. NABA-St. Louis conducts counts at Busch Conservation Area in St. Charles County, Horseshoe Lake in Madison County, Illinois and in the Shawnee National Forest in Harrisburg, Illinois.

Contact: NABA-St. Louis, 1425 Bobolink Place, St. Louis, MO 63144. President: Ann Earley; Tel.: (314) 799-3961. email: aee623@prodigy.net, <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabas/stlouis.htm>; <http://www.naba.org>.

The River des Peres Watershed Coalition

The River des Peres Watershed Coalition is an expansion of the River des Peres Headwaters Coalition, which was founded in 2002. The Coalition wants to "...improve, protect and maintain the River des Peres and its watersheds as a vital natural and cultural resource in the St. Louis metropolitan area." The Coalition is working to develop a watershed management plan for the River des Peres, which will guide its development for years to come. Individuals, agencies, organizations and municipal governments are already a part of this rapidly expanding Coalition. The River des Peres Watershed Coalition is a special project of the Green Center, a 501c(3) center for outdoor environmental education and the arts.

Contact: The River des Peres Watershed Coalition, 8025 Blackberry Avenue, University City, MO 63130. Tel.: (314) 725-8314; Fax: (314) 725-4291; email: riverdesperes@thegreencenter.org.

Saint Louis Audubon Society

The St. Louis Audubon Society is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society whose mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the world's biological diversity. Local activities include a monthly newsletter, birding field trips, adult and youth classroom presentations, conservation partnerships and general membership meetings.

Contact: The St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, St. Louis, MO 63122. Tel.: (314) 822-6595; <http://www.stlouisaudubon.org>.

Saint Louis Children's Aquarium

St. Louis Children's Aquarium is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1971, celebrating its service to the St. Louis community in providing an increased understanding of aquatic life and the environment, enabling people to conserve our water-fed ecosystems and to provide leadership for the preservation and sustainable use of our aquatic resources. Visitors to St. Louis Children's Aquarium learn firsthand through interactive exhibits displaying aquatic life in recreations of habitats representing the Mississippi River, Amazon River

and connecting oceans with over 10,000 living creatures displayed in dynamic ecosystems. St. Louis Children's Aquarium serves as a responsible community resource that attracts and involves the broadest possible audience. With the ideal of a high-quality visitor experience, a visit to the St. Louis Children's Aquarium will evoke wonder, curiosity, understanding, caring and action. We are currently producing a series of activities that focus on *Kids and Water*.

Contact: St. Louis Children's Aquarium, 416 Hanley Industrial Court, Brentwood, MO 63144. Tel.: (314) 647-9594; Fax: (314) 647-7874; email: info@childrensaquarium.com; <http://www.childrensaquarium.com>.

Saint Louis Rainforest Advocates

The Saint Louis Rainforest Advocates is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting tropical forests worldwide. To accomplish this we facilitate grassroots conservation efforts in tropical source countries; educate the public locally about pertinent rain forest issues; and take responsible direct action towards the conservation of rain forests.

Contact: Rachel Crandell, Saint Louis Rainforest Advocates, P.O. Box 9257, St. Louis, MO 63117. Tel.: (314) 878-8427; email: rwcrandell@aol.com.

Saint Louis University, Department of Biology (Biodiversity and Conservation)

As the worldwide trend of extinction of species and destruction of ecosystems escalates, the Department of Biology at Saint Louis University has responded to these threats by developing increased research and educational opportunities in biodiversity and conservation. Our ecology and systematics research groups are becoming vital to conservation efforts, both indirectly and directly. Our systematics group impacts our understanding of species biodiversity, by discovering and describing new species, both nationally and internationally, and ensuring that appropriate units of biodiversity are being recognized for conservation. We use data derived from morphological, molecular and behavioral studies to develop hypotheses of evolutionary relationships, identifying both endangered species, as well as surrogates that may be used to test conservation strategies. Our group studies important ecosystem processes, such as the function and structure of ecosystems, both in Missouri and at a larger scale. This research has immediate significance in identifying critically imperiled aspects for conservation. We encourage collaboration with other departments at SLU, including the physical sciences, political sciences and law school, as well as among universities and conservation organizations in St. Louis. Our research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Service, U.S. National Park Service and National Geographic Society.

Contact: Dr. Gerardo Camilo, Department of Biology, Saint Louis University, 35077 Laclede Ave., St. Louis, MO 63103-2010. Tel.: (314) 977-3900; email: <http://bio.slu.edu>.

Saint Louis Zoo

The Saint Louis Zoo has a long history of conservation and scientific endeavors, however it recently announced that it was reaching further, and forming the Conservation Centers to vastly expand these activities. By making a direct connection between the animals in the Zoo's care to their threatened brethren in the wild, the Conservation Centers are uniquely positioned to educate and engage public support. Central to extending conservation efforts beyond the Zoo's boundaries the eleven Conservation Centers practice holistic approaches to conservation, each effort includes: (1) wildlife management, protection and recovery efforts; (2) research and conservation science, and last, but not least (3) community efforts that include sustainable development and training a base of local conservation expertise. In summary, the Conservation Centers extend around the world, from Missouri to Mt. Ararat. It is appropriate, since Mt. Ararat is renowned as the landing site for Noah's Ark, and the Conservation Centers seek to become lifeboats for the many endangered species and habitats. Zoos are more than exhibits, and the programs of the Conservation Institute at the Saint Louis Zoo are critical connections that link the animals in the Zoo's care, and its public, to conservation efforts designed to save species for ourselves and our children.

Contact details: Saint Louis Zoo, One Government Drive, St. Louis, MO 63110. Tel: (314) 781-0900. <http://www.stlzoo.org>.

The Sierra Club – Eastern Missouri Group of the Ozark Chapter

The purpose of the Sierra Club, founded in 1892, is “to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.” Volunteers participate in committees and as individuals in lawful environmental activism to influence public policy to achieve these objectives. Outings are provided for members and non-members alike. Participants enjoy the fellowship of other members. Non-participating members have the satisfaction of supporting vital environmental policy.

Contact: Sierra Club, 7164 Manchester Ave., St. Louis, MO 63143. Tel.: (314) 644-0890; email: sierra@brick.net; <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mo/emg>.

The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House and Education Center

The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House and Education Center opened its doors to the public in September 1998. Built entirely from corporate gifts and private donations, this amazing facility has had nearly 1 million visitors since opening. The goal is to provide not only an aesthetically pleasing experience, but also to encourage guests to understand the vital plant/animal relationships they encounter in our conservatory. With more than 1,200 tropical butterflies flying every day, representing more than 60 species, and 150 species of tropical plants, we explain how butterflies rely on specific plants for their survival. In addition to the 8,000 square foot conservatory, The Butterfly House includes a theater that continually shows *The Butterfly Effect*. This film describes the life cycle of the butterfly, and how it affects humans. This educational facility provides a special experience for children and adults, from our comparative live invertebrate collection housed in the central exhibit hall to formal classes taught on site. Finally, the Butterfly House has just opened the Native Habitat and Teaching Pavilion that adds a new site for outdoor activities and classrooms. The goal is to have the visitors to the Butterfly House leave with a better understanding of how the simplest of actions can have major effects on wildlife.

Contact: The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House and Education Center, Faust Park, 15193 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017. Tel.: (636) 530-0076, Ext. 11; Fax: (636) 530-1516; email: bflydir@stlnet.com; <http://www.butterflyhouse.org>.

Trailnet

Trailnet is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating multi-use recreational trails, conserving greenways and encouraging walking and bicycling for recreation and transportation in the St. Louis bi-state region of Missouri and Illinois. Gateway Trailnet, Inc. was founded in 1988 by then St. Louis Mayor Vincent Schoemehl and a group of volunteers to serve as an advocacy group for the St. Louis Riverfront Trail. Since then, Trailnet (as it is now called) has expanded its mission to include the development of multi-use trails and greenways in the St. Louis metropolitan area. As a land trust organization, part of a growing network of citizen-based organizations throughout the nation that conserve open space for public benefit, Trailnet’s activities are focused on greenways, linear parks and natural areas, often along streams, rivers and abandoned rail corridors.

Contact: 3900 Reavis Barracks Road, St. Louis, MO 63125. Tel.: (314) 416-9930; Fax: (314) 416-9928; email: trailnet@trailnet.org; <http://www.trailnet.org>.

Tyson Research Center, Washington University

Washington University Tyson Research Center is a 2,000-acre field station that provides numerous unique opportunities for research, environmental studies and education. Tyson is situated near the Meramec River, just outside the metropolitan St. Louis, Missouri area, and is surrounded by an additional 6,000 acres of conserved parks and land. Many new animal and plant research projects are under way, a new weather station has been installed, and Tyson has joined the NADP network that monitors acid rain. Tyson also offers educational and scouting programs through the Field Science Program.

Contact: Tyson Research Center, P.O. Box 258, Eureka, MO 63025. Tel.: (314) 935-8430;
Fax: (314) 935-8433; email: dlarson@biology.wustl.edu; <http://www.biology.wustl.edu/tyson>.

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society has members throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. Activities include weekly botany and birding field trips, monthly entomology meetings, and program meetings featuring speakers on nature-related topics. WGNSS participates in the North American Migration Count of spring Neotropical migrants and the Christmas Bird Counts. WGNSS offers two scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students; information about the scholarships and application details are available on our web site.

Contact: Webster Groves Nature Study Society, 1508 Oriole Lane, St. Louis, MO 63144. President: Yvonne Homeyer, (314) 863-3321, email: homeyer@earthlink.net. Scholarships: Mike Flieg, (314) 645-3356; email: GMFlieg@aol.com; <http://www.wgnss.org>.

Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Wild Bird Rehabilitation is dedicated to caring for injured and orphaned songbirds and releasing them back to their habitat. Founded in 1992, the volunteer organization cares for over 2000 birds a year from a clinic near Big Bend Blvd. and Interstate 44. WBR also conducts educational programs for schools and community organizations throughout the metro St. Louis area.

Contact: Wild Bird Rehabilitation, 10040 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63122. Tel.: (314) 984-9116;
email: info@wildbirdrehab.org.

Wild Birds for the 21st Century

Incorporated as a non-profit, 503(c)(3) in 1997, Wild Birds for the 21st Century, supports and promotes the protection of wild birds and their natural habitats, particularly migratory land birds. Emphasis is placed on popular education or culture through a website, information booths, talks and mailings with special regard to gardening for birds.

Contact: Jane Sutter, 7376 Pershing Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130. Tel.: (314) 727-9336;
email: orchrdhse@aol.com or jesutteri@aol.com; <http://www.wildbirds.org>.

Wild Canid Survival and Research Center

Founded by Marlin Perkins in 1971, the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center is internationally recognized for its work with endangered canids from around the world. Family wolf packs roam in natural habitat within a 63-acre private reserve prior to their release to the wild. Known locally as the Wolf Sanctuary, the WCSRC is dedicated to the preservation of wild canids through captive breeding, education and research. The WCSRC currently houses four species of wild canids: red wolves, a species native to Missouri; Mexican gray wolves, the most endangered wolves in the world; South American maned wolves, a tropical canid; and swift foxes, a small canid native to the grasslands of North America. 30,000-40,000 people visit annually and participate in a variety of educational programs.

Contact: Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, P.O. Box 760, Eureka, MO 63025-0760.
Tel.: (636) 938-5900; Fax: (636) 938-6490; email: wildcanidcenter@onemain.com;
<http://www.wolfsanctuary.org>.

NOTES

Conservation Forum 2003 Organizing Committee

Ms. Sandra Arango (Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development)

Ms. Holly Berthold (Missouri Department of Conservation)

Ms. Hayley Hendrickson (Executive Assistant, The Nature Conservancy—Missouri Chapter)

Mr. Jim Jordan (Associate Curator of Education, Saint Louis Zoo)

Ms. Olga Martha Montiel (Missouri Botanical Garden and ICTE Development Board Member)

Dr. Patrick Osborne (ICTE Executive Director)

Ms. Patti Redel (Missouri Department of Conservation)

Mr. David Shores (ICTE Development Board Member)

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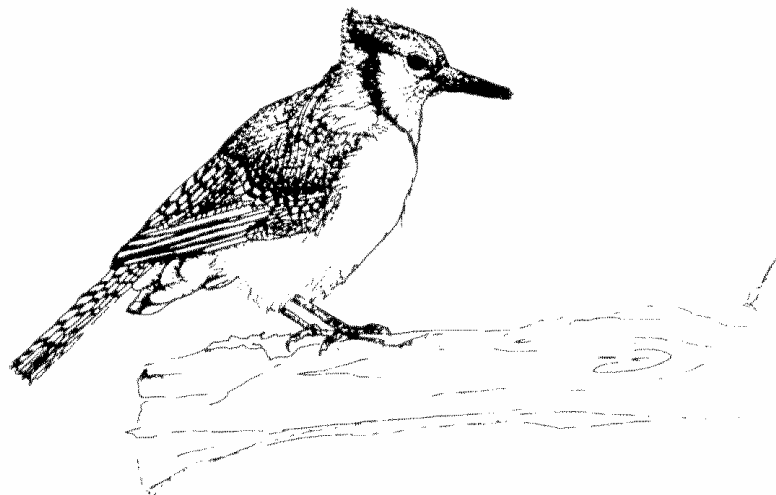
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