Perched on a rustic bench in a duck blind in the great Central Flyway, I gazed upon an endless stream of waterfowl passing overhead and extending to the expansive Kansas horizon. I was a watcher, never quite embracing the excitement of hunting that my father and brother enjoyed.

That blind was the center of my first “patch”, and it is still clear in my memory. We birders know our local patches, those special places where we bird regularly. In fact, we know them in detail simply because we return to them again and again to experience the wonder of life around us.

Now back to that childhood patch... The splendor of this dynamic, living screenplay unfolding at dawn touched me deeply. There was an underlying simplicity that guided the winged ones on their mass migration. Their ancient dance and unison resonance served as a rite of passage for all and renewed the day in the angled morning light. It transported me from a distant watcher to the center of their spirited realm, serving in time to empower my own fledgling wings.

Many years passed before I rediscovered my passion for birds; my son Nathan awakening the sleeping dragon. Throughout his formative years, birding dominated his thoughts and impacted the rest of our family. Our vacations would always combine birds, beaches, and interesting cities to make sure fun was had by all.

At the age of 13, Nathan met Rebecca Matthews, wonderful mentor and founding member of GOAS. Soon we joined the chapter and participated in our first ever Christmas Bird Count on Dave Catlin’s Fellows Lake team! We had arrived! Through Nathan’s teen years, many GOAS folks mentored him in the direction of his dreams, http://blog.aba.org/aba-podcast. I also was profoundly impacted by this extraordinary fellowship of birders.

GOAS is truly a community of “thoughtful, committed citizens”. Our collective acts of kindness and determination, often aimed at encouraging young birders (of all ages!) and accompanied by our genuine concern for birds, ripple outward and result in advocacy and progressive leadership within the entire conservation network.

I am excited about serving as GOAS President! I am honored to have this opportunity to “give back” to the movers and shakers who call themselves GOAS. Thank you for your vote of confidence! Now, let’s soar on the warm winds of our common vision!

Good birding, Greg
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.

Time To Stock Up on Bird Seed
28th Annual Seed Sale
November 23, 2019
8 AM to 4 PM
Watch webpage for order form!
See Details

President…………………………Greg Swick
………………………………………….. 209-0652
Vice-President…………………Becky Swearingen
………………………………………….. 766-1708
Secretary…………………………Lisa Berger
………………………………………….. 860-9108
Treasurer…………………………Wendy Vit
………………………………………….. 849-8550
Board…………………………Klee Bruce
………………………………………….. 368-7781
Board…………………………Charley Burwick
………………………………………….. 860-9505
Board…………………………Ben Caruthers
………………………………………….. 292-4597
Board…………………………David Catlin
………………………………………….. 861-8875
Board…………………………Jim Fossard
………………………………………….. 848-2205
Board…………………………Myra Scroggs
………………………………………….. 425-6502
Board, Past President……Janice Greene
………………………………………….. 862-4381

THIS MONTH’S PROGRAM...GLADE

One hundred sixty-eight teens have participated in the Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems, representing 29 individual high schools and two home-schooled students since the project was introduced in 2009!

A GLADE grad from Nixa HS has already applied for a Community Conservation Grant to revitalize the native plant garden installed by a former GLADE student attending in 2010. To date, 34 grants have supported projects across the Ozarks, totalling $12,837. This year’s class was exceptional, as each preceding class has been, while each are distinctly unique.

We extend an invitation to all prior years’ grads to join us as we cheer-on the newest class when they present highlights of the week’s activities, their insights, and more. Just sayin’, there will be extra food, too.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday October 17th 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