

# Maintaining Communications and Recognizing Quality Student Research

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Missouri Chapter of the  
Society for Conservation Biology



# Missouri Chapter Overview

- Established 1998 with 85 charter members
  - University of Missouri Conservation Biology Program
- Current membership 258
  - Diverse membership: government, private and non-profit resource managers and scientists; university faculty and students; and environmental educators



# Maintaining Communications

- First product:
  - *The Glade*, published October 1998 and twice annually since then.
  - Missouri conservation focus
- Objectives:
  - Chapter communications, showcase member research, announce events of interest,
- Produced by an editor, who is a MOSCB board member



# *The Glade* Format



- Editor/President/VP's Corner
- News and Notes
- Membership Information
- Featured research, natural history, and policy articles (2 -3)
  - 1000 - 2000 words with photos and/or graphics
  - Most articles are by invitation or suggested by members
- Produced in PowerPoint and printed at copy center using nice paper (4 pp double-sided)
- Mailed to members and posted on web page



# The Glade

The Newsletter of the Missouri Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology

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## News and Notes

•**Annual meeting:** MOSCB will be holding its annual meeting at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference (Feb 1-3, 2006). All members are invited to attend. The time, date, and location will be posted on the MOSCB website in January.

•**MOSCB board elections:** elections for the board (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) will be held at the 2006 annual meeting. Nominations will be accepted from January 1-15, 2006 and a list of candidates will be posted on the MOSCB website shortly afterwards. You can nominate yourself or a peer. Nominations should be sent to the attention of MOSCB Secretary Dana Dixon (mosecb@conbio.org). Members can vote at the meeting, or can vote absentee by sending an email to the attention of Sara Storrs (mosecb@conbio.org) by the beginning of the annual meeting.

•**MOSCB-sponsored conservation workshop at MNRC:** MOSCB has organized a special conservation workshop of oral talks at MNRC 2006. Information about the free workshop will be posted on our website later this fall. The theme of the workshop is "bringing researchers and practitioners together."

•**Poster judges needed:** MOSCB will once again be sponsoring a student poster competition at the 2006 MNRC. We need three members to serve as poster judges during the Wednesday evening poster session. Please contact Stacy James (mosecb@conbio.org) to volunteer.

•**Address change?:** If you change your address, please let our secretary know so we can keep up to date on where to send the Glade. Email Dana at mosecb@conbio.org.

## Restoring early-successional bird habitats at Bradford Research and Extension Center in eastern Boone County.

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, University of Missouri-Columbia, email: navarretten@missouri.edu

As part of the Missouri Conservation Initiative funded by the Missouri Department of Conservation, we conducted a series of bird and plant surveys in eastern Boone County at the UMC Bradford Research and Extension Center (BREC) and adjacent land owned by George Hobson. This project is part of a larger initiative led by Tim Reinbott, BREC superintendent, to create a network of native plantings and to restore early-successional plant communities to benefit wildlife in an agricultural setting. BREC and adjacent private lands offer an excellent location to demonstrate the integration of conservation with traditional farming operations. In addition, BREC has a staff accustomed to working with cooperators on multidisciplinary research and the facilities to offer workshops and field days where scientists, farmers, students, and the general public can interact.

Development of private lands surrounding BREC is impacting wildlife because farms having habitat suitable for wildlife become physically disconnected from other farms. In addition, native vegetation has been replaced with introduced turf grasses that provide little or no cover or food for wildlife. The objectives for our project were to carry out vegetation and bird surveys in both research and private lands and begin managing for native plant communities to increase native plant and wildlife species diversity.

### Plant Surveys

With the help of the MDC and DNR botanists, we have periodically conducted plant surveys during 2004 and 2005 within several prairie and wetland areas. A list of 150 native plants was compiled including 26 species with a Coefficient of Conservatism of five (5) or higher (Ladd 1997). Some species identified include *Andropogon gerardi*, *Antennaria neglecta* and *A. plantaginifolia*, *Lespedeza capitata* and *L. virginica*, *Lobelia spicata*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Panicum virgatum*, *Penthorum sedoides*, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*, *Sabatia angularis*, *Silphium integrifolium*, *S. laciniatum*, and *S.*



*Asclepias incarnata* and monarch caterpillar (Randy Tindall Photo)

*terebinthaceum* and 4 orchids (*Spiranthes cernua*, *S. lacera*, *S. vernalis* and *Platanthera lacera*). It was the first record in Boone County for *S. vernalis* (picture p. 3; T. Smith, pers. communication July 2004). Native Plant Society members are helping monitor these orchids to learn more about their phenology and natural regeneration (Ward 2005). A small population of the fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* was also found in a prairie remnant under *Cephalanthus occidentalis*. This fern is an unusual find because it is typically a woodland species and it is only the second record in Boone county (G. Yatskievych, personal communication June 2005). We did the plant inventory in 2004 after mowing was stopped in target areas. In 2005, we initiated management on some areas by either burning, spraying with herbicides, or using both treatments. We will continue monitoring these areas on permanent transects to compare vegetation richness, frequency, and dominance for consecutive years as a result of management.

### Bird Surveys

Columbia Audubon Bird Surveys led by Brad Jacobs were done once a month after sunrise and before noon in different bird habitats for a one year period at BREC. Habitats surveyed included upland prairie,





# Funding *The Glade*

- Approx \$200 each issue for printing and mailing
- Paid for with *voluntary* membership fees, fundraisers, one-time donations
  - Donors acknowledged in that issue



**Glade Maintenance**

# Value of *The Glade*

- Our most widely-recognized contribution to Missouri conservation community
- Strong support for continued hard-copy mailings
- Membership dues reminders work well
- Fulfilling our goal of membership communication



# Recognizing Quality Student Research

- Mechanism:
  - Annual student poster competition since 2003
  - Held at Missouri Natural Resources Conference
- Objectives:
  - Reward work well done, encourage explicit ties to conservation implications
  - Promote awareness of MOSCB and SCB





# Poster Contest Implementation

- Contest open to undergrads, grads, and recent (<6 mo) graduates
- Provide announcement of contest guidelines to abstracts coordinator, who forwards to students whose abstracts have been accepted
- Those eligible submit to us their abstract and contact information
- We recruit judges through MOSCB listserve
- Our contest is not announced on the conference website, but our goal is to change that



# Judging Guidelines

- Overall appearance/legibility
- Text/figures balance
- Scientific merit
- Explicit about conservation applications
- 3 judges rank independently, then confer to select winner



# Contest Value

- Recognition for MOSCB at widely-attended natural resource conference
- Student recognition
  - Certificate placed on poster
  - Winner announced at conference gathering
  - Invitation for follow-up article in *The Glade*
- SCB recognition
  - Prize is one-year membership to SCB and journal subscription

# Summary

- *The Glade* and the poster contest serve our diverse, statewide membership well
- Both have served to increase the stature of MOSCB with the Missouri conservation community
- The longer we continue these activities, the more our name will get out and the better they will continue to serve our chapter objectives...

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.

