

the eagle

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a digital newsletter sent to members by e-mail



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E-MAIL TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations on the spectacular first issue of The Eagle Online (TEO). I miss not being able to attend more meetings and special events. My evening job at ETSU prevents me from attending most meetings during the school semester (also - the obtuse gas prices don't help!). This new format will allow me to stay up-to-date. It can also be easily printed and brought to meetings for those still offline.

I have been a strong proponent to have TEO moved to this medium for a few years now. When I saw a bird club newsletter put on Bristol Birds a while back, I thought to myself - This is what the BBC needs to do! And not only have you done it, but you did it in style!

I thought I might offer a suggestion as this is still early on in the TEO's lifespan. Display it over Bristol Birds. Think about even putting it on Tennessee Birds. Put it in on the Virginia Birding Boards. Put it everywhere appropriate for something like TEO. There is no cost attached and it will bring more recognition to the Bristol Bird Club for keeping current with the technological frenzy. But more importantly, it can bring in more members and keep those in close proximity informed of current status within the BBC and of the continued accomplishments of the BBC. It could fuel other bird clubs to share their newsletters across similar networks for us to enjoy. It could be big and, again, people would say that the BBC was one of the first to bring this to its adjoining states.

Also, archive each issue on the BBC Website. It seems to have grown very little since the new site was put in place. That is NOT criticism, merely a suggestion to help the BBC web space to continue to grow.

Again, fantastic job. I know that the newsletter will continue to evolve and grow.

Welcome to the future.

Rob Biller
Elizabethton, TN

A NOTE OF INTEREST

From every indication at the October meeting, BBC members are not finding conflicts with moving the meeting dates for the club's annual meeting to the "second Tuesday" of each month. Some expressed the fact that the new date would actually allow them to attend BBC because present conflicts with the third Tuesday. President Bill Grigsby indicated that moving to the "second Tuesday" would probably not take place until next year (2006). You will get more information about this as arrangements are finalized.

Steele Creek Nature Center Wildlife Weekend has record attendance

A great crowd turned out in beautiful autumn weather to take part in the annual wildlife weekend held at Steele Creek Park this past weekend. Just to give you some sense of the crowds. Fifty gathered at the camp fire on Friday night to see the owl show and Tom McNeil had 35 persons on his "owl prow!" which produced two Screech Owls heard (one seen) and two calling Great Horned Owls.



At the right is Todd Eastin leading off his tree identification walk. Much of the day's activities was hands on and everyone enjoyed learning to use their observation skills as well as field guides and such.

Don Holt (below) was his usual good self with his great "touch" for relating and explaining nature in such interesting and fascinating ways which everyone enjoys.

As one observer commented: Don has a "magic touch" when it comes to nature, enjoying nature and teaching nature.

You can say as many good things about Richard Lewis's morning of bird banding, capturing birds in nets worked with his daughter.



The morning got underway with a low cloud cover hanging close to the ground and the sun struggling to warm the birders on the bird walk. Many young people and some who may be future members of the BBC thrilled at the chance to learn bird identification (shown in the photo below). Steele Creek Park Junior Naturalists Charlie Parker and Sammy Cross along with staff naturalist Chris O'Bryan and Wallace Coffey of the BBC

were the trip leaders.

The Bristol Bird Club helped organize most of the field trips and our members were leaders for most of the trips.



We need to say a special thanks to Kevin Elam of BBC who is the main naturalist working at the nature center for his excellent event.

Thanks to Ron Harrington for our neat BBC display which was still in place when BBC met Tuesday night at the park and especial to BBC's Tom McNeil for these photos.

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Second Nature: The Art of Suzanne Stryk

Your newsletter editor highly recommends the wonderful nature art of local artist Suzanne Stryk which is now showing at the William King Regional Art Gallery at Abingdon, VA thru March 5, 2006. As a longstanding artists and an observer of nature, Stryk has focused on not only the physical reality of nature, but also how an artist conceptually communicates that reality. Admission is free and the show hours are 10-9 Tuesday, 10-5 Wednesday-Saturday, 1-5 Sunday. Don't miss this opportunity !



A keen observer and interpreter of the natural world, Suzanne Stryk's paintings explore connections between nature and culture. Many of her paintings in this series focus on architecture, using it as a visual and metaphorical structure in which to organize meticulously rendered bird and insect imagery.

One viewer has described her work as "realistic abstraction." Most people assume science is closer to what you're calling primary nature, yet science is also "second nature." Data, gene sequences and graphs describing a salamander aren't the salamander itself. Science is a translation of nature, attempting to explain the mysterious. She addresses these thoughts in her art and even considers how a salamander experiences the world. This is an amazing show of gorgeous and dramatic art which challenges the mind and the eye as you gaze into her field sketches, including many insects, birds and all types of nature subject brought to the thought process through a different revelation with art and the eye.



"Wings, feathers, nests and eggs are images of bird life that fill my current work," she notes. "They awe me just as they are, while they fascinate me as metaphors. My fascination reaches from the earliest known, the fossil bird, to the goldfinch on the branch outside my window.

She received her BA degree in art history from Northern Illinois University and her MA degree in painting from East Tennessee State University. She received an Artist in Residence from The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences (GA) and a fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

Stryk has exhibited at The National Academy of Sciences (DC), Butler Institute of American Art (OH), Spartanburg County Museum of Art (SC), Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts (PA), Art Museum of Western Virginia, Fernbank Museum of Natural History

(GA), Museum of the Hudson Highlands (NY), Anchorage Museum of History and Art (AK) and Huntington Museum of Art (WV). Her works are in the collections of Tennessee State Museum, Bank of America (NC), The National Academy of Sciences (DC), Carroll Reece Museum (TN), Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Merrill Lynch (NC) and B. F. Goodrich (NC).

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BBC votes to sponsor summer birding trip to Trinidad mountain nature center

At the October meeting of BBC, members gave a vote of support to the club's proposed tropical field trip which is planned for nine days running July 8-16, 2006.

Nearly a dozen members said they plan to travel to Trinidad for the exciting birding trip. The motion to approve the trip was made by Rick Knight and a second by Mary Jane Erwin.

John Moyle is working on details said the cost would be \$1,600 and that would include all fees. The current belief is that the trip could accomodate about 40 birders.

Anyone wanting more details or wishing to reserve their spot on the trip should e-mail Moyle at JPMOYLE18@aol.com and he can establish whatever other communication lines that are needed.

BBC Member Attending October Meeting

Larry McDaniel *, Kevin Elam, Rick Knight *, Scotty Childress, Don Holt *, Dianne Draper *, Mary Erwin *, Judy Roach *, Wilma Boy *, Fred Martin, Janice Martin, Lynda Newman *, Dexter Newman *, Ed Burke, John Moyle *, John Hay *, Wallace Coffey * (Lois Cox * attended dinner but not meeting). Those marked by * attended dinner at the Mad Greek Restaurant starting at 6 p.m.

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