The mission of the Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems (GLADE) is to care for Ozarks ecosystems, to develop future community leaders, and to improve the quality of life through conservation and educational efforts throughout the Ozarks. It is a collaborative Greater Ozarks Audubon Society and Missouri State University conservation leadership project.

GLADE Launches Recruitment Drive for June 2013 Academy

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society (GOAS) is proud to announce that the 5th annual Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems (GLADE) will take place during the week of June 16-22, 2013, at the Missouri State University Bull Shoals Field Station. Applications are currently being received and can be downloaded at www.greenleadershipacademy.org. Students can also receive GLADE information from one of the many “target teachers” throughout the 12 county GOAS region in Southwest Missouri. Application deadline is March 22, 2013.

GOAS is very proud of GLADE’s accomplishments during the past four years. We want to thank all of our regional and state supporters for prioritizing habitat restoration, responsible natural resource management, and youth leadership development.

For more information on GLADE, go to www.greenleadershipacademy.org or contact us at gladeproject@gmail.com
From the Glade Top

by Greg Swick, GLADE Co-Director

Yes, it’s cliché, but we just couldn’t operate GLADE without your generosity. It truly takes a village.

GLADE 2013 enjoys the support of so many people in the Ozarks and beyond… people who believe that the answer to our environmental challenges lies in our proper stewardship of resources, our efforts to restore/preserve critical Ozarks ecosystems, and our commitment to the development of today’s youth into the responsible community leaders of tomorrow.

This week we received word that Ozark Water Watch will again become an official GLADE sponsor for our work with youth on regional water issues. We are extremely pleased that this fine non-profit is partnering once again with GLADE. (In a related issue: On January 9, 2013 the White River and its entire basin were designated as a "National Blueway". This is only the second watershed in the nation to receive such recognition. Three cheers for the White River watershed!)

The Audubon Society of Missouri also continues its GLADE support in 2013 by providing a scholarship to a lucky southwest Missouri teen. The ASM recognizes that we must address the plight of our beloved birds through engaging in critical habitat restoration, increasing avian awareness among today’s youth, and developing future conservation-based leaders.

The Ligon Family Delta Foundation has joined others to provide not one, but eight GLADE scholarships for southwest Missouri high school students! That’s a lot of impact! We welcome this foundation’s support of our continued efforts to positively affect the world in which we live.

All of this organizational support is very gratifying, but the efforts of individuals committed to GLADE has been nothing short of phenomenal. Even in a year that we did not conduct an individual GLADE fundraising drive, we have to date received almost $5000 from individual donors. We will also receive at least $6000 from GOAS, our parent Audubon chapter.

Members of the GOAS and Missouri State community continue to volunteer countless hours, commit valuable resources, and engage the public through Audubon Birdathon and other education efforts to see that GLADE continues.

It is appropriate here to cite the following quote, widely attributed to Margaret Mead:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

GLADE is proof positive that the statement is true. May your life be richer as a result of your efforts to see that this lovely place we call the Ozarks continues to be a source of inspiring natural resources, purposeful citizen stewardship actions, vibrant leaderful communities, and empowering place-based education.

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