



*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 place-based, collaborative Greater Ozarks Audubon Society and Missouri State University conservation leadership project.*

## ***Class of 2017 GLADE Team Announced***

The GLADE Selection Committee is proud to announce the GLADE Class of 2017! The young people chosen for the ninth year of GLADE are a diverse group, representing youth from extreme rural areas and urban areas of the Ozarks, and from both public school and home school environments.

The students and their high schools are: Katie Blomenkamp, Logan-Rogersville; Klee Bruce, Home School; Ethan Chestnutt, Willard; Taylon Crim, Republic; Josh Delao, Nixa; Clayton Frye, Ozark; Emile Gephart, Branson; Samantha Gundel, McDonald County; Darren Hartley, Glendale; Kayla Howell, Glendale; Sage Hyder-Hill, Springfield Central; Adam Melgren, Logan-Rogersville; Evan Parker, Springfield Central; Breiana Percival, Ozark; Deah Powell, Dadeville. These selected teens, represent 11 area schools.

The Missouri State University/Greater Ozarks Audubon Society conservation leadership academy youth, over its nine year history, have transplanted nearly 10 acres of native Giant Cane (*Arundinaria giganteum*) to riparian habitat, assisted in restoration of two acres of glade habitat, assisted in restoration of the Dabbs Creek sector of the Mark Twain National Forest, assisted in conservation projects from South Creek to the Watershed Center, and have also impacted communities in which they live in many ways, including the creation of outdoor classrooms, native plant gardens, and Bluebird trails. We warmly welcome our newest class to the GLADE family!

## ***From the GLADE Top...***

by Brooke Widmar, GOAS Board Member and GLADE Girls' Residence Coordinator

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society (GOAS) will be participating in the Community Foundation of the Ozarks' 3rd annual Give Ozarks fundraiser. This is a 24 hour online day of giving, midnight to midnight on Tuesday May 9, 2017. Over 200 non-profits throughout the Ozarks are participating, in hopes of breaking our million dollar fundraising record from the last two years.

GOAS is an Agency Partner with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, which is hosting Give Ozarks along with presenting sponsor BKD Wealth Advisors; platinum sponsors, The Commerce Trust Co./Coover Charitable Foundation, Edward Jones, the Musgrave Foundation and Ron and Janice Penney, along with numerous other sponsors.

The money raised by the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society chapter will go towards serving the community through various conservation projects and educational opportunities. Projects include the South Creek restoration project, Audubon Adventures, monthly field trips that are open to the public, and our largest project, GLADE. This program is offered free of charge to the students, paid for through grants and fundraiser projects put on by GOAS throughout the year.

## Get Outdoors! Conservation Opportunities abound!



Ozarks youths engage in hard work with a purpose at GLADE. Transplanting native cane restores the original habitat of many Neotropical bird species, including Swainson's Warbler. Each year, nearly two acres is converted into riparian canebrake via the efforts of regional teens. Photo © Kelsey Rumley



For many GLADE participants, holding a Neotropical migrant such as this Black-and-white Warbler is life-changing. Photo © Kelsey Rumley

- Saturday, Apr. 7, GOAS South Creek Workday, 9:30 am. Meet at Fred May memorial near the corner of Sunset and Jefferson Avenues. Pile brush, pick up trash, pull invasive plants.
- Thursday, Apr. 20. Come to see our recently selected GLADE 2017 participant Klee Bruce present on her bird-based literacy project at Holland Elementary. The event is part of the monthly Greater Ozarks Audubon Society meeting at 6:30 pm at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. Refreshments will be served.
- Saturday, Apr. 22, Springfield March for Science, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm on the Springfield Square. For more information, go to [https://www.facebook.com/SciMarchSpfdMO/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/SciMarchSpfdMO/?ref=br_rs) This event is open to all and is not affiliated with the GLADE project.
- Saturday, Apr. 22, James River Basin Partnership float trip. 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Brooke Widmar, GLADE Residence Coordinator, at [brookecwidmar@gmail.com](mailto:brookecwidmar@gmail.com)
- Friday, May 5 – Sunday, May 7. Join with birders from all over Missouri for the annual Audubon Society of Missouri conference. Featured will be multiple field trips and a banquet with Ted Floyd, Editor of Birding Magazine and author of many field guides, as the key note speaker. GLADE participants can attend free of charge, courtesy of the Greater Ozarks Audubon chapter! Email Greg Swick, GLADE Outreach Coordinator, [grswick@gmail.com](mailto:grswick@gmail.com) for more information!
- Saturday, May 6! Join the GLADE Birdathon Team to bird all day with members of the Audubon Society of Missouri! The goal of this Big Day will be to see as many bird species as possible in one day (our goal is 100!), and **to raise money for GLADE 2018!** Past and future GLADE participants are welcome! To join the Birdathon team for all or part of the day, Contact Greg Swick, GLADE Outreach Coordinator, 417-581-2757 or [grswick@gmail.com](mailto:grswick@gmail.com).
- Tuesday, May 9, Give Ozarks Fundraising Event. Please donate to Greater Ozarks Audubon Society (GOAS) so that the chapter can continue serving the community with outstanding educational programs. GLADE is the GOAS's flagship project. For more information, go to <https://giveozarks.org/2017/goas>

For more information on GLADE, go to [www.greenleadershipacademy.org](http://www.greenleadershipacademy.org) or contact us at [gladeproject@gmail.com](mailto:gladeproject@gmail.com)