



**TEACHERS,
EDUCATORS,
YOUTH
LEADERS...**

Come see us this Fall at the Outdoor Teacher Resource Center We're here to help with:

- Lesson plans and hands on activities for the conservation classroom
- Education Trunks
- Children's book library, videos, and posters
- Grant information and more...

Call 816-759-7305 and schedule an appointment with an education consultant.

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INSIDE EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

Teachers Gone Wild	2
C=MDC ²	2
Project Workshops	3
Discover Nature Schools	3
Trunk Training	4
Eagle Days	4

Outdoor Teacher

GORMAN DISCOVERY CENTER

FALL 2010

KC's New Education Consultant Welcome, Jeremy Soucy

I stood there on that mountain, staring into a crystal clear pond. As I watching native trout feed I thought, I am one of only a handful of people who will ever see this spot. Roughly 12 years ago I chased a girl into the mountains of Colorado and mentally I haven't come back. We all have moments in our lives where something just changes. Along time has passed but that fire still grows.

Growing up in the heart of St. Louis I had very little interest in the outdoors. My mind was filled with sports, movies and junk food. I had several glances of nature with my grandparents but I was, for a lack of a better term, a "city kid." However, throughout my life, one thing has always been constant; my gift for gab. My mother said that I would always make for a good lawyer or used car salesman. I have also been told things like, "You never meet a stranger" and "You would talk to a stop sign". While these are funny, they are 100% true.

During college, where I discovered the above mentioned girl, I struggled to find my niche. I tried everything from social work to journalism but never really felt like this is what I wanted to do. Then one day a friend asked me to take a class on mountain ecology that just so happened to be taught in Colorado. Thinking that I had yet to go to Colorado and spending time with her wasn't bad either, I would go for it. I came back from that experience a changed man.

I immediately transferred into college at the University of Missouri where I completed my degree in natural resource management then went on to work on my masters in Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

After a short time spent with Arkansas State Parks, I returned home to work for the Missouri Department of Conservation as an Education Specialist and the newly built Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center. This was a dream job for me. I could not honestly believe somebody would pay me to do this awesome job. I spent the next 5 years of my career learning more about Missouri fish, forest and wildlife, the department I worked for and how to better communicate with school children of all ages.

This all lead me to right here. I am now the newest Conservation Education Consultant in the Kansas City Region. I look forward to working more directly with teachers through trainings, workshops and school visits. Moving to this large city has been a very humbling experience for me. In Cape Girardeau I was a big fish in a tiny pond. Here, I haven't successfully made it to my office without wrong turns, construction and the friendly honking of my fellow drivers. I feel that I have a lot to offer the KC Region and I also have a lot to learn from everyone.

The cold mountain air gushed past me and sent shivers to my spine but at the same time I felt like this was it for me. Little moments shape us and make us who we are. Once I came back from that trip I relocated and never have heard from the girl but the love for the outdoors was born.



Teachers Gone Wild

Here are three opportunities for you, the teacher, to recharge, learn a new skill, and become nourished by the natural world.

Peak Color Walk:

As promised you asked for a "Fall Hike" to compare to the "Spring Hike" so here is your opportunity. Bring your binoculars, water bottle and we'll bring the trail mix. We'll look for late blooming fall flowers, colorful leaves, and watch for wildlife getting ready for winter. Need a free ride from the Discovery Center to Burr Oaks there is room for 5. **Join us on October 14, 2010 from 5 to 6:30 pm. To enroll contact Sally Bell (see sidebar page 1).**

Shooting Sports are a Blast:

Go wild at the Lake City Shooting Range to learn the importance of being able to hunt safely, ethically and effectively. Experience MDC staff will teach you the proper way to handle a handgun and shotgun. You will learn the basics behind safe hunting and learning to identify game in the field. We will practice target shooting as well as trap. **Join us on October 16, 2010 from 8:30 am to noon. To enroll contact Jeremy Soucy (see sidebar page 1).**

Holiday Harvest:

Meet us at the Discovery Center for a festive time. This year bring your own greenery, such as a wreath, table topper, or grape vine wall décor and we will help you decorate it for the Holidays. Learn about Missouri's trees, and plants as you decorate with a variety of Missouri native plant parts. **Join us on November 20, 2010 from 10 am to noon. To enroll contact Sally Bell (see sidebar page 1).**

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect"
Aldo Leopold

Science Wise $C=MDC^2$ (College Credit)

How do blue gills hear underwater? Water conducts sound, they can hear directly through the bones in their head.



rivers and streams, and the use of the Forester's Biltmore stick to measure diameter, height and board feet in trees. **To enroll visit www.sciencepioneers.org.**

Teaching environmental science and want to get the math teacher involved? According to a study on integration of classes in 2005

"Integrating math and science brings together overlapping concepts and principals that enrich the learning context". $C = MDC^2$ will focus on Math activities that enhance the teaching of environmental science plus correlate with math and science standards. Some of the math activities will include: Population lessons with wildlife and plants, velocity and stream power of

Projects That Take Your Class Outside

Project Learning Tree, Project Growing UP WILD and PLT Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood will take place at the University of Central Missouri (UCM) in Warrensburg, Missouri from 9 – 3:30 PM.

Getting your students “into the outdoors” can be a challenge. **Project Learning Tree** K – 12 uses the forest as a door to move your classroom outside and teach environmental science. PLT helps students learn how to think, not what to think, about the environment.

This class will be September 25, 2010. There is a \$15 fee for the book.

Growing UP WILD and PLT Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood will be offered together on November 13, 2010. There is a fee of \$22 for both books. Growing UP WILD and PLT Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood use the natural world to engage children 2 – 7 in play and exploration. GUV invites children to explore wildlife and the world while PLT Environmental Experience for Early Childhood focuses on senses and trees.

Transportation will be provided from Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Blue Springs on a first-come, first serve basis for 5 educators. **To enroll contact Claudine Lamb (see sidebar page 1)**



GUV teachers showing how they feel about wildlife

Discover Nature Schools - Grant Opportunity

Just like new shoes for school, the Missouri Department of Conservation has developed a program that will fit and satisfy state officials, administrators, teachers and students alike. It is called Discover Nature Schools and it encourages students and teachers to go outside to explore and learn about nature. The purpose of the program is to promote conservation education through instructional units that meet grade-level expectations and

encourage hands-on outdoor learning experiences. Students and teachers are provided books as well as grant funds for classroom materials and a field trip experience. A six hour teacher training is required. The Discover Nature School Grants are for upper elementary and middle schools at this time.

For more information go to www.mdc.mo.gov, click on EDUCATION (Learn more).



Fall training is scheduled for Saturday Oct 23rd from 8:30am to 5pm at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center. **To enroll contact Claudine Lamb (see sidebar page 1)**



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Discovery Trunks

What are DISCOVERY TRUNKS? These are trunks filled with hands-on teaching tools, video tapes and reference materials to assist in the instruction of conservation for children.



Trunks are available for teachers and youth leaders and will offer you the opportunity to teach conservation in 3-D. We have Mammal, Tree, Fish, Wetland, Amphibian and Reptile, Bird, Black Bear, and Insect Trunks. In order to be eligible to check the trunks out you will need to attend a three-hour workshop held on **Tuesday November 16, 2010 from 5 to 8 pm. To enroll contact Jeremy Soucy (side bar pg. 1).**

Eagle Days

Each year the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service host the Eagle Days School Program for local schools. This year we are again offering this program to local schools. This event will be held on Friday, December 4 at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. This is approximately a three hour program that includes a live eagle program, hands-on wetland related exhibits, and viewing eagles and their nests on the refuge. Teachers will also receive free educational materials prior to the field trip. Field trip grants are available to cover transportation cost for students grades K-3 if you register before October 31; the early bird gets the worm. **Registration begins Oct 4, 2010; contact Adam Brandsgaard at 660-646-6122 ext.239**



Join us for Eagle Days and view perching bald eagles.