



Northeast Nature Notes

An Update from the Northeast Regional Office

The approaching spring brings to mind thoughts of green plants growing, flowers blooming, and an abundance of animal life awakening from their winter slowdowns. There's an energy associated with spring that promises new beginnings in a way that the winter New Year can't.

This is my family's second spring in northeast Missouri—it couldn't be more different than our first one. My children had never experienced snow staying on the ground for weeks at a time, and it has been a rare experience for me. The bitter cold kept us indoors much more often than we wanted.

As spring got nearer, our anticipation built up to a ridiculous level. Every day would bring moans and groans about when we would get to see grass again. I've never seen kids take such an interest in finding out what the temperature would be each day! But even after the snow finally melted, the world stayed grey and dreary.

Finally, a day came when my son opened the front door to see the sun shining bright, all traces of snow gone from the ground, and small buds of green bursting from every plant in sight. He ran out into the front yard, spread his arms wide, and yelled "It's green!" The sight of nature's annual renewal brought him such joy that he couldn't contain it.

In our busy lives, we sometimes forget to take a moment to experience the wonder of nature. To me, this is a great tragedy. Time spent in nature is healing, relaxing, fulfilling—bringing satisfaction to our bodies, our minds, and our souls. This is the perfect time of year to renew your connection with nature and enjoy the promises of a new beginning.

Amanda Moore



NEW FEATURE!

Have nature questions? Get them answered here!

Send me your nature questions, and I'll answer them!

Missouri Department of Conservation
Northeast Regional Office
3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-785-2420
Office hours:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday



NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Things to do from April to June

Knee High Naturalists

Recommended for ages 3-5, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

April 9: Have You Seen Trees?

Join us for story time and a tree-mendous craft.

April 23: Hiding in Plain Sight

Animals are all around us, but we don't always see them. Learn how they use camouflage to hide.

May 7: First Impressions

Animals each have a special footprint. Can you match animals to their tracks? We'll learn how at this program!

May 21: Bugs By Numbers

Help your little one recognize insects by counting body parts. We'll also have a build-a-bug craft!

June 4: Scavenger Hunt

Can you find a circle in nature? Something that flies? We're hitting the trails to find nifty natural items!

June 18: Pond habitat

Be ready to get wet as we take a look at plants and animals found in and around the pond!

Creature Feature

Recommended for ages 6-12, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

April 11: Breathing Trees

From the air we breathe to the water we drink, trees keep us and nature healthy!

April 25: Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day by creating a butterfly habitat in your own yard.

May 9: Tracking Tales

Wildlife tracks capture the story of an area. Learn to read the tale at this program.

May 23: Log Scene Investigation

Search for clues to understand what's happening in a log habitat.

June 27: Scavenger Hunt

Practice your powers of observation by hunting for objects on the habitat trail.

Conservation Keepers

Recommended for families, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

April 21: Earth Day Trash Bash

Earth Day is a great time to focus on bringing more beauty to our communities. Come along as we clean up the habitat trail!

May 19: Nature Safety

Spending time outdoors keeps us connected with nature, but it's important to keep safety in mind. Learn to protect yourself from natural dangers such as poison ivy at this program.

June 16: Stream Team at Spur Pond

Join a local Stream Team in cleaning up at Spur Pond! Trash bags and work gloves will be provided. Rubber boots are recommended. We'll meet at the Spur Pond parking lot for this program.

Ask the Naturalist!

Send me your questions: Amanda.Moore@mdc.mo.gov

Animals that are active at night are nocturnal. What are animals that are awake in the day called?

We have all kinds of words to describe when an animal is most active. *Diurnal* means they are most active in the daylight hours (like most people).

Crepuscular means they are most active at dawn and dusk (coyote, deer). *Vespertine* means they are active only at dusk (think bats!). *Cathemeral* is used for animals that are active off and on all day and night, like cats.

SPECIAL EVENTS

You don't want to miss this!

Crappie Clinic

Enjoy a day of family fun as you learn basic crappie fishing skills, from casting and knotting to proper bait and tackle. Best of all we will be hitting Mark Twain Lake for a day of fishing! Guides will take you out on boats to put your new skills to the test. Bring your own fishing equipment or borrow ours for the day. Bait and lunch will be provided.

May 12, 2012, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center
Mark Twain Lake

Call or e-mail Rob Garver for more info or to register.

Rob.Garver@mdc.mo.gov 660-785-2420

Conservation Day Camp

June 12-14 for those entering 3rd-5th grades

June 19-21 for those entering 6th-8th grades

Are you wondering how to keep the kids busy this summer? Dive into aquatics with three days of nature activities! They'll have such a splashing good time, they won't even realize how much they're learning.

Camp starts at 8:30 each morning and ends at noon. A snack will be provided. This program is free, but registration is required and space is limited! Contact Karen Armstrong at 660-785-2420 for more info.

Green Fire

June 9, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

The works of Aldo Leopold have inspired people from multiple generations and diverse backgrounds. Take some time to enjoy his story as we watch "Green Fire" together. Snacks will be provided!

This event is free, but registration is required. Please contact Karen Armstrong at 660-785-2420 for more information or to register.

Anniversary Celebration

June 9, 9 a.m. to noon

Celebrate 75 years of conservation with us at the Northeast Regional Office.

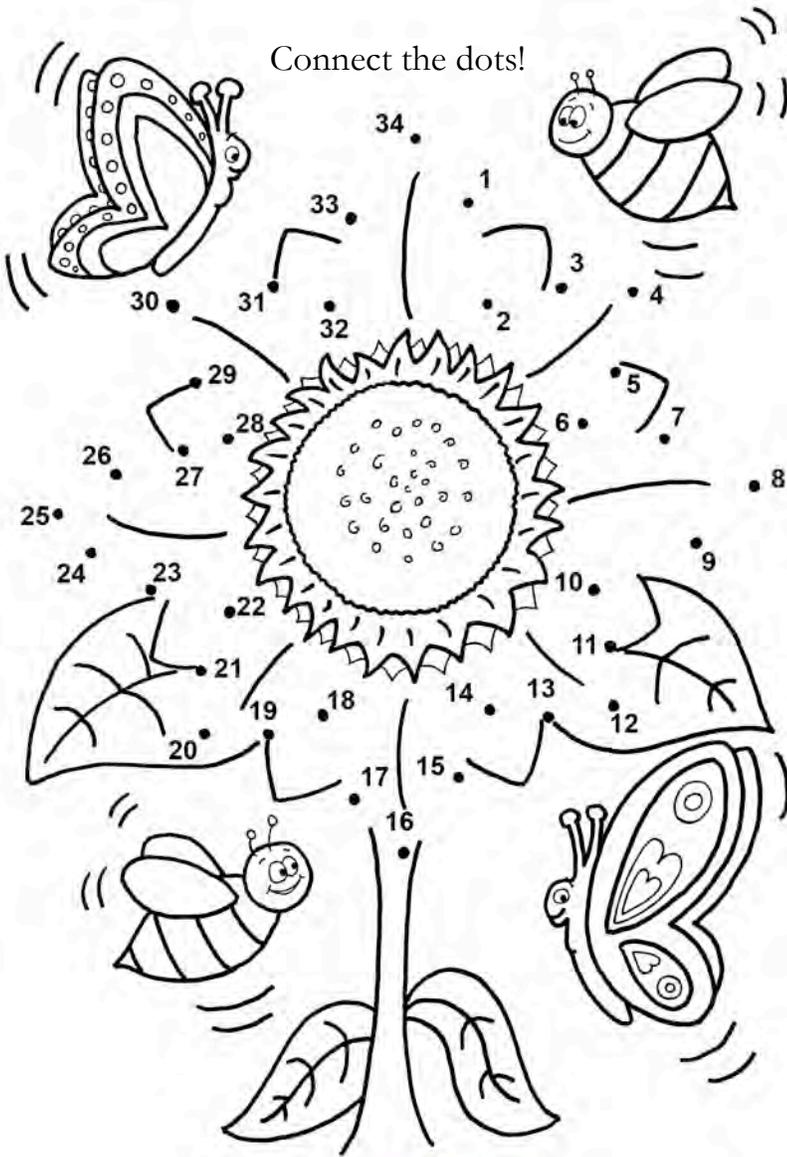
Go fishing, practice your archery skills, make a nature craft, or take a GPS-guided hike on our habitat trail! Bring the whole family for this free event.

Registration is not required. Contact Karen Armstrong at 660-785-2420 for more information.

KID'S CORNER

Fun and Games, Oh Yeah!

Connect the dots!



netmums.com

How many ants are marching?



Color me!

Optional Activity:

Flower Survey—Record the types of flowers found in your yard or local park. Visit a conservation or natural area and record the types of flowers found there. You can look them up in a field guide, write a description, or draw them. Which place had a bigger variety of flowers? Which place do you think will have more kinds of wildlife?

Total: _____

have more kinds of wildlife?

April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Knee High Naturalists	10	11 Creature Feature	12	13 American toads begin calling	14
15 Baltimore orioles begin arriving	16	17	18 Listen for whip-poor- wills calling	19	20 Average day of last frost!	21 Conservation Keepers
22	23 Knee High Naturalists	24	25 Creature Feature	26	27	28 Watch for june bugs
29	30					

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Knee High Naturalists	8 Office Closed Truman's Birthday	9 Creature Feature	10	11	12 Crappie Clinic
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 Wild strawberries ripen	17	18	19 Conservation Keepers
20	21 Knee High Naturalists	22	23 Creature Feature	24	25 Coneflowers blooming	26
27	28 Office Closed Memorial Day	29	30	31		

June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Knee High Naturalists	5	6 Wild turkey hatch is at its peak	7	8	9 Anniversary Celebration
10	11	12 Conservation Day Camp	13 Conservation Day Camp	14 Conservation Day Camp	15	16 Conservation Keepers
17	18 Knee High Naturalists	19 Conservation Day Camp	20 Conservation Day Camp	21 Conservation Day Camp	22	23
24	25	26	27 Creature Feature	28 Listen for dog-day cicadas singing	29	30



Missouri Department of Conservation
 Northeast Regional Office
 3500 South Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501