



KANSAS CITY

JULY / AUGUST 2012

Nature & You

News and Events from Missouri Department of Conservation

The Missouri Department of Conservation Nature Centers and Interpretive Sites are special places to discover nature and to learn the importance of conserving it too.

– Linda Chorice

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) nature centers and wild acres are natural gems amid ever-expanding suburbia. Come visit. Take a deep breath and slow down, if only for a little while. Many experiences await your discovery. Among the best are interpretive programs offered by our MDC staff.

Our profession is unique. Most visitors can relate to wildlife biology, forestry management or fisheries. But we are the education staff, the Interpreters. It is our role in MDC to “interpret” how the natural world works for our visitors.

When you hear the word interpreter, you may think of the translation of a foreign language. Actually, in this day and age, those statements are sometime too close to the truth. In contemporary society, we are often so overscheduled and plugged in that we struggle to find time for nature in our lives. Nature may actually feel foreign.

That’s where interpreters come in. Our job is to help initiate, refresh or renew connections between our visitors and nature. We do this by continuously building our knowledge base about Missouri’s fish, forests and wildlife. Also, we take time to know our audience. Then we present our natural world knowledge in a way that makes it relative to our audience. But it is not just about information. Our job is to inspire, share stories, light a spark and fan the flames!

Jay Miller, chief of interpretation at Arkansas State Parks, believes that interpretation is a combination of memories, wonder and

excitement. Nature is not about watching a television program or just reading a book. It is about total immersion. Nature is about being face to face. It is about hearing sounds, smelling scents, searching for small details and taking the time to hear the entire symphony.

As interpreters we constantly strive to refine our craft to discover better ways of helping Missourians connect with and conserve nature. The ultimate indicator is when that person reaches an “ah-ha” moment. This moment is the precise instant when we make a personal connection with an idea

or object. For those of us who have the privilege of conveying the joys of the outdoors to our visitors, helping them experience their “ah-ha” moment in nature can be challenging and yet most rewarding.

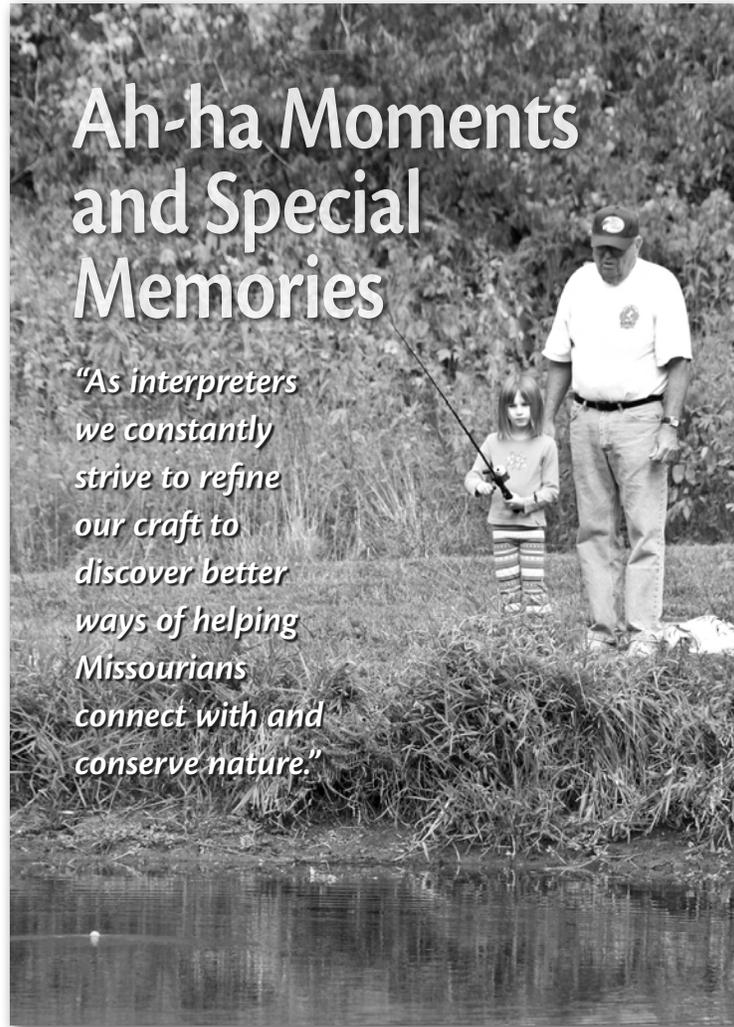
Fishing is an excellent way to help someone connect to nature. More than one million anglers are drawn to the rivers and lakes each year by the diversity of fish species caught in Missouri. Our job is to help those learn to fish who wish to join the sport. Lack of equipment, experience and proximity to lakes or rivers can create barriers. But

it is our duty as interpreters to create vision and knowledge in our audience that enables them to enjoy these outdoor pursuits.

MDC offers fishing education programs throughout the Kansas City area such as the Family Fishing programs offered July 14 and August 11 at Burr Oak Woods and August 18 at the Discovery Center. Check the calendar events inside for more information. A popular fishing program held yearly at Blue Springs Lake is the No Boundaries Event. MDC staff from various divisions and volunteers come together to provide special needs anglers the opportunity to fish. Participants enjoy sharing time with friends and family near peaceful waters. But the peace is always shattered with excitement when a fish bites the bait. By providing sound advice and an enthusiasm for the outdoors, programs such as these and many more help Missourians connect with and conserve nature.

It is our role to walk with our visitors to reveal the secrets of the stream or the forest. We work here because we are inspired. We love and yet are humbled by the importance of our role in MDC. We are passionate explorers of the local natural resources and we want to share this love with all of you. So join an interpreter for a little adventure this summer. Make a few memories of your own. Experience your own childlike wonder and excitement as you leave the virtual world behind for a little while. We invite you to visit your local Missouri Department of Conservation Area and discover your personal connection with nature and experience an “ah-ha” moment of your own.

– Brandon Pope, Education Specialist
– Lisa LaCombe, Manager
Burr Oak Woods Nature Center



Ah-ha Moments and Special Memories

“As interpreters we constantly strive to refine our craft to discover better ways of helping Missourians connect with and conserve nature.”

Burr Oak Woods CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.



1401 NW PARK ROAD
BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI 64015

HOURS: Nature Center
Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM
Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM
Area and Trails
Daily: 7 AM–6 PM
Daylight Savings Time: 7 AM–8 PM
Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:
Programs are free. **Call 816-228-3766** to sign up for a *Registration required* program on or after the first business day of that month.
<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280>

PROGRAMS & EVENTS JULY & AUGUST

BRILLIANT BUGS

JULY 7 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Ages 5 and up) Not only can some bugs colors be brilliant but so can their behavior! We will hike trails to find different types of insects and then we'll track them to find out what they do with their day. You will also have a chance to contribute to the new insect collection at Burr Oak Woods.

FAMILY FISHING

JULY 14 / SATURDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Families) It is time to bait the hooks and have some fun at the Burr Oak Woods W. Robert Aylward Educational Pond with catch and release. We will teach the basics of fishing, provide equipment and worms. Then you and your family try your luck. Kids who attend will be entered in the drawing at the end of the summer for a Zebco 33 Spincast Rod and Reel Combo and tackle box!

COOKING WILD: PANFISH

JULY 14 / SATURDAY / 1:00–2:30 PM
Registration required July 3–12 (Adults) Many anglers learn how to fish while catching panfish. A panfish is any fish, including bluegill, redear sunfish, crappie and many others that fit into a frying pan. Join us as we learn about this large, abundant group of fish. We will discuss catching, cleaning and most importantly, cooking and tasting these wonderful fish!

NATIVE GARDEN STEPPING STONE ART

JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 1:00–2:30 PM
Registration required (Adults and Families with children ages 5 and up) Native plants are wonderful but they sometimes can be less accessible than we like. Make your own stepping stone to start an easy to maintain walkway through your native garden! Bring a friend or family member and create a lasting memory together.

WILD EDIBLES: MEET PURSLANE!

JULY 24 / TUESDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Adults) To your health! You will love getting to know this nutritious wild plant during a tour of a Missouri River bottom garden. It is easy to include this interesting little native in your own garden and in your diet. Purslane is a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids!

ROCKIN' & READIN' NATURE TALES

JULY 28 / SATURDAY / 11:00–12 NOON
Walk-in (Ages 2 and up) Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

CRAYFISH CATCHIN'

JULY 28 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Families) Looking for some summertime family fun? Join Naturalist Kathleen in Burr Oak Creek to get wet and wrestle up a few crayfish. The entire crew can experience the thrill of capturing this remarkable crustacean.

TICKS TICK ME OFF!!

AUGUST 4 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Ages 5 and up) It's awful to look down after a pleasant hike to see that what you thought was a piece of dirt is actually a blood sucking tick! Come learn about these annoying arachnids and get some insight as to what their purpose in nature is and if there are ways to deter them from feasting on you.



FAMILY FISHING

AUGUST 11 / SATURDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Families) It is time to bait the hooks and have some fun at the Burr Oak Woods W. Robert Aylward Educational Pond with catch and release. We will teach the basics of fishing, provide equipment and worms. Then you and your family try your luck. Kids who attend will be entered in the drawing at the end of the summer for a Zebco 33 Spincast Rod and Reel Combo and tackle box!

SsssNAKES!

AUGUST 11 / SATURDAY / 1:00–2:00 PM
No registration required (All ages) Slither in and discover the wonderful world of Missouri's snakes. These legless, scaly reptiles are often misunderstood. But they are beneficial to us and the environment. Join us as we untangle snake myths, learn who lives around us and meet some live snakes up close.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES OF KANSAS CITY

AUGUST 16 / THURSDAY / 7:00–8:00 PM
Registration required (All ages) Many native amphibians and reptiles quietly live their lives in the Kansas City area, often out of sight but never too far away. Join us at the New Kansas City Regional Office as we share some of their secrets and get to know some of our local residents a little better.

What's for dinner?

Join us as we feed the critters on exhibit at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center every Saturday and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

**We help people
discover nature!**

FREEZE FRAME HUNT

AUGUST 18 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
No registration required (All ages) Kickoff a month of fun excursions with our photographic scavenger hunt! Join us this Saturday or start on your own anytime between Aug. 18 and Sept. 21. We will get you started with trail maps and places to find the natural objects and creatures you will have to photograph at Burr Oak Woods. Finish the hunt in a few hours or a few visits and turn your photos in by Sept. 21 for a chance at First, Second or Third Prize.



WILD EDIBLES: YOUR FAVORITE WEEDIES

AUGUST 21 / TUESDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Adults) Show and tell for the wild edible plant enthusiasts. Bring in your favorite recipes to share with the group.

**DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES:
CREEK ADVENTURE**

AUGUST 25 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM
Registration required (Families with children ages 5 and up) Slosh, splash and wade your way through Burr Oak Creek with Naturalist Kathleen. Investigate this watery world and meet some of the amazing creatures that call the stream home. Put on your old shoes and come out for a wet, fun-filled family adventure! Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults to mentor their children while exploring nature and mastering outdoor skills together.



ROCKIN' & READIN' NATURE TALES

AUGUST 25 / SATURDAY / 11:00–12 NOON
Walk-in (Ages 2 and up) Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

FIRST PLACE
DALE EDSON



**Burr Oak Woods
photo contest
winners on display**

Thanks to all who submitted photographs for the public photo contest we displayed in March in the nature center. All photos were taken on the Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area and it was great to see how artfully nature was captured by some excellent photographers. We appreciate all entries. Through a public vote, the following people were selected as photo contest winners.
1st PLACE • Dale Edson, Independence, tiger swallowtail butterfly
2nd PLACE • Richard Dec, Blue Springs, colorful autumn foliage
3rd PLACE • Dale Edson, Independence, obedient plant (*Physostegia angustifolia*)



THIRD PLACE
DALE EDSON



SECOND PLACE
RICHARD DEC

Lake City

SHOOTING RANGE & OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.



28505 E. TRUMAN ROAD
LANDAHL PARK

BUCKNER, MISSOURI 64016

HOURS: May 1 – September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16 – April 30

Wed.–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday & Tuesday

and all state holidays

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3.00 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3.00 per round per person
- Archery range: \$3.00 per person per hour

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a *Registration required* program.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282>

IT'S MORE THAN CHRONOGRAPHING....

JULY 13 / FRIDAY / 6:00–8:30 PM AND

JULY 14 / SATURDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM

Registration required (Adults) A chronograph tells the shooter the speed of the projectile at a given distance. But did you know it also tells a lot about trajectory of a bullet down range, accuracy and much more. There is a significant amount of work by the shooter prior to using a chronograph. Learn a new way to get you and your rifle ready for the next hunt.

DISCOVER HUNTING: WOMEN'S FIREARM SAFETY

JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 8:00–11:30 AM

Registration required (Women ages 18 and up)

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for



women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include keeping firearms

secure in homes, basic marksmanship and laws regarding firearm ownership.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: FAMILY TRAP SHOOTING

AUGUST 2 / THURSDAY / 9:00–11:30 AM

Registration required (Families with children ages 12 and up)

Trap shooting is a fun sport and it's easy to learn the basic skills. Topics that will be covered are firearm safety, different actions on shotguns, proper shot size, proper firearm fit and good shooting techniques. Trap is a good way for an upland game hunter to improve their shotgun skills.



covered are firearm safety, different actions on shotguns, proper shot size, proper firearm fit and good shooting

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: INTRODUCTION TO SKEET SHOOTING

AUGUST 14 / TUESDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM

Registration required (Families with children ages 12 and up)

Want to improve your upland game wingshooting skills? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on winged game.



game wingshooting skills? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun

DISCOVER HUNTING: WOMEN'S FIREARM SAFETY

AUGUST 18 / SATURDAY / 8:00–11:30 AM

Registration required (Women ages 18 and up)

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for



women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include keeping firearms

secure in homes, basic marksmanship and law regarding firearm ownership.

Tips for sighting in rifles for long-range shooting

Accurate long-range shooting requires a rifle and scope be "sighted in" or adjusted so bullets consistently strike targets within a small circle. This is useful for distant shots at white-tail deer in Missouri or for hunters heading west where shots are often taken at long distances for game from prairie dogs to elk.

Many Missourians do not have access locally to a shooting range much longer than 100 yards. But here are a few tips for using those ranges to sight in rifles for accurate shooting two or three times that distance.

Make sure your rifle and scope are in working order. The scope should be mounted level and the cross hairs of the scope not cantered. The scope mounting screws should be tight to the rifle. Check the tightness of the scope ring to the scope mounts. Finally, insure the scope rings are tight around the scope.

➤ At the range, you want to place your target at 25 yards to start off. This is important if you have a rifle you have never shot before, a new scope or you're working up a new cartridge load. At 25 yards you want to establish consistency in your bullet placement or bullet group.

➤ Turn the scope focus knob or objective until you have a clear view of the target.

➤ A solid rest for your rifle is needed such as a rifle sled, sandbags or a rifle rest. Never sight in your rifle shooting off-hand or unsupported.

➤ Once you have placed 3 to 5 shots in the same grouping, move the group to where your shots are one inch below the bull's eye. Note: If your scope is one fourth MOA every inch of movement in elevation or windage it is 16 clicks on the scope. If your scope is one eighth MOA it is 32 clicks to obtain one inch of movement in elevation or windage.

➤ Move your target to one hundred yards. Leave the scope at its highest magnification. Fire 3 to 5 rounds from a solid rest. Make scope adjustment (if needed) so the next 2 to 3 rounds are in the bull's-eye.

➤ Turn your elevation knob up so your target hit groups are 3 inches high of bull's-eye at 100 yards. Fire 2 to 3 rounds to verify proper adjustment was made. Make adjustments if needed.

Once you have sighted in your rifle this way it is very easy to make elevation adjustments for shots greater than 300 yards. Remember to use the brand and bullet weight of ammunition in the field that you sighted your rifle in with. Good shooting!

– Steve Elliott,

Lake City Range Supervisor

PROGRAMS & EVENTS JULY & AUGUST

BASIC SHOTGUNNING

JULY 7 / SATURDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM

Registration required (Ages 12 and up) This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a shotgun. Topics that will be covered are safety, parts of a shotgun, shotgun gauges, shot shells, patterning your shotgun and shooting techniques. Class includes range time.

TEEN'S AND .22 CALIBER

JULY 10 / TUESDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM

Registration required (Ages 12–16) Are your teens interested in learning about shooting a rifle more accurately? Then this is a great class for them. They will be introduced to .22 cal. rifles, nomenclature of the firearm, ammunition and basic marksmanship skills. Shooting is an integral part of this class.

Parma Woods

SHOOTING RANGE & OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol range, shotgun patterning range, and archery range.



15900 NW RIVER ROAD
(MAIL) PO BOX 14024
PARKVILLE, MISSOURI 64152

HOURS: Temporary starting in March
Friday–Sunday: NOON– 4:30 PM
Starting May 1: Summer Hours
Friday–Sunday: 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 PM
Closed all state holidays

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3.00 booth per hour
- Shotgun patterning range: \$3.00 per hour
- Archery range: \$3.00 per person per hour

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:
Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a *Registration required* program.
<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/283>

PROGRAMS & EVENTS JULY & AUGUST

CATFISHING KANSAS CITY

JULY 18 / WEDNESDAY / 6:00–9:00 PM
Registration required (All Ages) According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Data, around 42 percent of all anglers in Missouri pursue catfish, making them Missouri's most sought after fish. Whether you are a seasoned catfish angler or a complete novice, you will benefit from this course as we discuss when, where, why and how to fish for this whiskered wonder.

INTERMEDIATE ARCHERY

JULY 24 / TUESDAY / 5:30–8:00 PM
Registration required (All ages) Archery is generally very enjoyable, but it can be frustrating at times. In this course we will talk about bow set-up, tuning and shooting fundamentals. We will also assist in troubleshooting common

problems and offer tips and advice on improving your shooting skills. Make sure to bring your own equipment to this class.

DISCOVER NATURE WOMEN: INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS

JULY 27 / FRIDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM AND
JULY 28 / SATURDAY / 8:00–10:00 AM
Registration required (Ages 11 and up) Ladies, are you interested in learning to shoot? Learn about handguns, rifles and shotguns as well as some basic shooting skills in a safe, non-intimidating atmosphere. You will learn to safely handle and shoot several different types of firearms. Any youth between the ages of 11 and 17 must be accompanied by an adult. All firearms and ammunition are provided.



HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS

AUGUST 7–9 / TUESDAY–THURSDAY / 6:00–10:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 11 and up) Originally designed to reduce hunting accidents, today's Hunter Education Classes provide much more. Hunter Education Classes meet the original goals of reducing hunting accidents but they also produce safe, knowledgeable, responsible and involved hunters. To learn more, to find a class or to register for a class, visit www.mdc.mo.gov and search for Hunter Education.

TRACKING AND TRAILING WOUNDED GAME

AUGUST 23 / THURSDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Registration required (All ages) Recovery of game animals is the responsibility of every hunter. Attend this workshop to increase your knowledge of tracking and trailing. This course will cover topics such as shot placement and timing, what to look for after the shot and game recovery techniques. Dress appropriately for outdoor field exercises.

DISCOVER HUNTING: DOVE CLINIC

AUGUST 29–31 / Wednesday–Friday / 6:00–9:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 11 and up) Participants in this class will learn everything they need to know to get started in dove hunting. Topics will include dove biology, scouting for and finding a place to hunt doves, proper equipment selection, proper shotgun patterning, shotgun shooting instruction and more. Participants must be Hunter Education Certified or exempt from the requirement. They should bring the equipment they would plan to use on a dove hunt.



How to enjoy the “Dog Days of Summer”

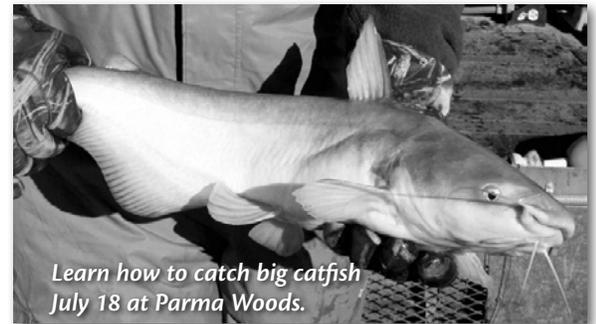
Dog days and catfish are a good combo for those venturing outdoors.

But first, ever wonder why they call July and August the “dog days” of summer? Do an internet search and you'll learn that dog days are named for the star Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (large dog). The Romans named the dog days for the star and constellation rising prominently in a season where humans and their four-legged friends suffer in the summer heat.

But the dog days also offer some fine outdoor opportunities if you plan well, drink plenty of water and don't overdo stress in the heat.

Get outside and enjoy those dog days. There is a lot going on in the outdoors. Since most folks are at home soaking up the AC, you will have it all to yourself.

One of my favorite things to do during mid-summer is to fish. Many fish species are in very predictable patterns and will readily bite a lure or bait properly presented to them.



Learn how to catch big catfish
July 18 at Parma Woods.

This is definitely the case with one of our most sought after fishes, the channel catfish. The dog days are one of the best times of the year for pursuing catfish. To learn more about finding and catching catfish, check out our Catfishing Kansas City class on July 18.

The dog days are also the best time to tune up for the upcoming hunting seasons. The archery season will be here before you know it. Now is the time to make equipment repairs and begin shooting practice so you will be ready.

MDC archery ranges are conveniently located around the metro area for target practice. Also, Parma Woods offers courses such as Intermediate Archery, Tracking and Trailing Wounded Game and Hunter Education.

Head outdoors and enjoy the dog days. They won't last long, and you are only given so many of them in your lifetime.

— Nathan Woodland,
Parma Woods Range Supervisor

Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting /fishing permits at the gift shop.



4750 TROOST AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64110

HOURS: Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
1st & 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM – 9 PM
1st & 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM – 4 PM
Closed all state holidays

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:
Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a *Registration required* program.
<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/281>

POP BOTTLE FISH

JULY 7 / SATURDAY / 10:30–11:15 AM,
11:30 AM–12:15 PM, 1:00–1:45 PM OR 2:00–2:45 PM
No registration required (All ages) Fish are uniquely built for their underwater world. Their streamlined bodies and slimy scales allow them to move through the water with what appears to be little effort. And their coloration is truly something to behold, from the bold colors of a longear sunfish to the cool silver of a blue catfish. We will do our best to imitate nature's wet wonders today as we use acrylic paint on recycled soda bottles. All supplies will be provided.

NATURE NUTS SUMMER READING PROGRAM

JULY 7 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
OR 1:00–2:00 PM
JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
OR 1:00–2:00 PM
AUGUST 4 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
OR 1:00–2:00 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will leave with a list of selected nature books. If they read four books before Aug. 18 and return their book card to the Discovery Center, they will receive a free nature explorer gift.

EXPLORING YOUR WATERSHED

JULY 17 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Walk-in (All ages) "We all live downstream." Come find out what this means. Examine how streams shape the land and how our actions shape the waterways around us by exploring our Missouri River model. Join us as we investigate the Brush Creek watershed to learn about the challenging water issues in an urban setting.



LEOPOLD'S LEGACY

JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Aldo Leopold's conservation advice has been sought throughout North America by many including the Missouri Department of Conservation. As MDC celebrates 75 years of managing Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife, we celebrate Leopold's influence on conservation. Join us for hands-on activities and ideas for implementing conservation into your daily routine.

GREEN FIRE THE MOVIE

JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 10:30– 11:45 AM OR 1:00 –2:15 PM
No registration required (All ages) Aldo Leopold said, "Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." The movie *Green Fire – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* explores Leopold's life and legacy. Learn about Leopold's land ethic, how he shaped conservation and his continuing influences in our community today.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: NATURE JOURNALS

JULY 21 / SATURDAY / 11:00 AM–12 NOON
No registration required (Families) Make your own nature journal from natural and recycled products. You don't have to be a writer or an artist to keep a journal. You just need your eyes, ears and a desire to experience the natural world around you. You will learn basic journaling techniques for writing and sketching, techniques similar to what Aldo Leopold used. Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults to mentor their children while exploring nature and mastering outdoor skills together.



FROG FRENZY

AUGUST 4 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Missouri is home to a variety of amazing frogs. Hop your way to the Discovery Center where you can try to out hop a frog. Marvel at metamorphosis as you take a journey through a frog's life cycle. Get face to face with some live frogs that call the Discovery Center home. All of this and more will leave you in a state of frog frenzy!



FUN IN THE SUN

AUGUST 4 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM OR 12:30–2:00 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Creating a solar art print is a quick and fascinating way to capture the beauty of nature when leaves, grasses and feathers are arranged on office blueprint paper and exposed to sunlight. Make a recycled frame to display your masterpiece

ADVANCED NATURE PRINTMAKING

AUGUST 7 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Registration required (Adults only) You may be familiar with the leaf print in Nature's Palette workshop. Tonight we will go beyond this to explore advanced printmaking techniques using oil-based inks and various etching papers. You are guaranteed to have fun while creating a beautiful leaf print to take home and frame.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS JULY & AUGUST

MAKE YOUR OWN JIG

JULY 3 / TUESDAY / 6:00–7:30 PM
No registration required (Ages 10 and up) The weather's warm and the fish are biting! Make the most of the summer months by creating simple jigs that are sure to be irresistible to your favorite fish. We will discuss the different kinds of jigs as well as learn about fishing regulations and the many species of fish that call Missouri home.

FINS TO FASHION

JULY 7 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Missouri is home to over 200 species of fish. The ability to identify our fish is a valuable skill for any naturalist or outdoors person. Learn the basics while creating a wearable work of art with molded fish and textile inks. Bring a t-shirt or use one of our recycled shirts.



**We help people
discover nature!**



DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: FISHING

AUGUST 18 / SATURDAY / 9:00-10:00 AM

AT DISCOVERY CENTER AND

10:30 AM-1:00 PM FISHING

Registration required (Ages 8 and up) Going fishing can be a relaxing and rewarding nature experience. Families are invited to join Education Specialist Steve Jacobsen in learning all about the skills of fishing and trying to catch the “big one”.

Please plan to meet at the Discovery Center at 9:00 a.m. for a brief skills session followed by a trip to a local pond for fishing. All equipment and bait will be provided.



Bring your own lunch and valid Missouri Fishing License. Transportation will

be available upon request. Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults to mentor their children while exploring nature and mastering outdoor skills together.

SWIM FISH! SWIM!

AUGUST 18 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

Walk-in (All ages) Fish are sleek swimmers that come in many shapes and sizes. Can you use recycled elements to make a fish? Join us as we construct our own fish designs and then race them down the rain gutter “river” in the Discovery Center gardens.

GEAR UP FOR FISHING

AUGUST 21 / TUESDAY / 7:00-8:30 PM

No registration required (All ages) Missouri attracts more than one million anglers to the state’s lakes and rivers each year thanks to a wide variety of catchable fish and fishable waters. Join them. We will teach you about our state’s fish and how to catch them. We will also tie crappie jigs, a favored lure for catching fish, and we’ll practice our casting skills using Backyard Bass.



**Willow-leaved sunflowers
make a whimsical garden addition**

Are you ready to add a whimsical looking plant to your garden? The willow-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus salicifolius*) might be a Missouri wildflower for you!

At the Discovery Center, our high school interns refer to this perennial wildflower as the “Dr. Seuss trees.” The name is fitting because of the airy willow-like leaves draping this six-foot-tall prairie plant. Bunches of bright yellow, daisy-like sunflower heads top these enchanting plants when they bloom in mid-July.

This sunflower is vital for native bees and the blooms also become a happening place for many other pollinators. In the fall, birds love to eat the seeds from the flowering heads. If you like bugs and birds to come play in your garden, planting the willow-leaved sunflower is

a splendid choice. If the height is intimidating for smaller gardens, simply prune the plant once or twice before the Fourth of July to control height. Pruning won’t affect the flowers.

Jerry Smith Park, located east of Holmes at 139th Street, is a re-established prairie in Kansas City and a great place to see willow-leaved sunflower growing in its native habitat. The park’s prairies were restored over the past decade by Kansas City WildLands and their partners. So go get the family, head to Jerry Smith Park for an adventure to encounter the Dr. Seuss tree the willow-leaved sunflower. Or, check them out in Discovery Center’s prairie.

– Victoria Schoell-Shafer, Discovery Center
Landscape Designer

**Boulders and logs:
inviting kids to play**

Nature provides us the opportunity to slow down from our fast-paced city life and enjoy the serenity found in the sound of bubbling water or the flitting of butterflies. Time outdoors also provides creativity and inspiration, especially for children. The Discovery Center’s new interactive play garden for children is transforming the garden’s northwest corner. Plantings will engage the senses with textures, colors and smells. Sticks, rocks, leaves and grasses provide materials for creative expression. Children are encouraged to use these materials to build forts, bridges, paths or anything their imagination envisions. Large logs and rocks are the foundation for children to imagine, create and explore.

The new area will also be used with our newly updated school programs, which correlate with Missouri Department of Conservation’s Discover Nature Schools curriculum. Program



Limestone boulders and tree trunks were moved in to create an interactive play garden.

changes include a greater emphasis on outdoor experience and exploration. In the new play garden, school students will create bear dens, design bird nests and make art using natural materials. Using their senses, students will understand differences between varieties of plants. The area will be used to help students forge personal connections in nature.

Come play at the Discovery Center!

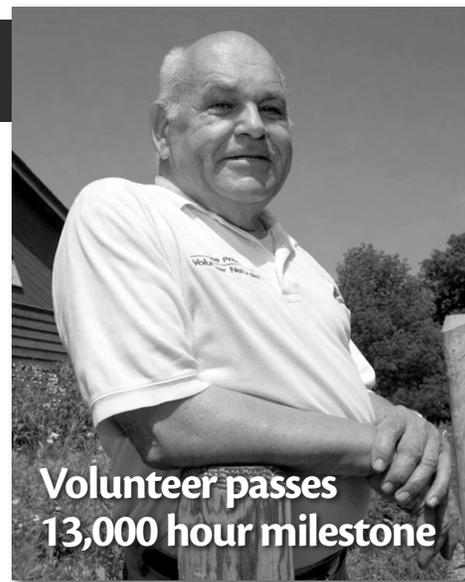
News & Events



No Boundaries event offers fishing for anglers with special needs

Each year the MDC staff and volunteers offer a fishing event for special need anglers in the Kansas City region. In June, we held our No Boundaries "fishing trip" for these anglers at the Blue Springs Lake Marina dock. We thank the Blue Springs Parks and Recreation

Department for welcoming these special anglers. Catching large carp that swim around the docks can be the thrill of a lifetime. Each fish caught creates great excitement among the crowd! By noon everyone is worn out, although smiles remain on faces. We conclude our special day with lunch shared on the dock. The connection with nature that fishing provides is a gift everyone can enjoy throughout their life.



Volunteer passes 13,000 hour milestone

Anyone who has visited Burr Oak Woods has met Joe Polka. Joe trained as a volunteer in 1997 and has become an icon at the nature center. He assists with educational programs, wages war against poison ivy and invasive plants along our trails, and he is currently helping restore historical building foundations near the Bethany Falls Trail. When asked about his favorite activity, he fondly shares stories about working at check-in stations during the white-tailed deer season. Thank you, Joe, for your passion and dedication to Burr Oak Woods. We couldn't do it without you! Your dedication to the Missouri Department of Conservation means a lot to the citizens of Missouri.

Welcome Burr Oak Woods Volunteer Class of 2012!



We have a fantastic group of 15 new volunteers who completed volunteer training this spring here at Burr Oak Woods. As you visit the nature center or attend our programs and special events you will have the opportunity to meet these passionate volunteers. We are proud to have them on our team! Pictured left to right: Casey Zimmerman, Lucy Quinn, Nick Mandacina, Vanessa Eades, Jermaine Johnson, Marla Martin, Joyce Worth, Susan Smith, Connor Dillon and Claudia Rossen. Not pictured: Brian Hester, Trissa Hutcheson, Jordan Malhiot, Rachael Malott and Richard Webster

Giving back to your community

Do you have an interest in giving back to your community? As a conservation volunteer you can share your outdoor experience with others while enriching another person's life.

A volunteer training class will be held at the Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education center near Independence on July 17 and 18 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The MDC shooting ranges and the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center are looking for new volunteers to help present outdoor programs and work with organized groups. Shooting ranges need additional safety observers. It's a way share your positive outdoor experience. Volunteers receive personal satisfaction by helping others enjoy the outdoors. They also develop lasting friendships while sharing outdoor activities.

If you are passionate about doing something good for others and want to get involved with your conservation community, then volunteer. For more information on how to get started contact: Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 816-759-7300; Lake City Shooting Range, 816-249-3194, or Parma Woods Shooting Range, 816-891-9941.