



# Runge Conservation Nature Center

# HABITAT HAPPENINGS

September/October 2012

## Science=Conservation Success!

by Aimee Lehmuth, Volunteer Naturalist



Science has played a major role in Missouri's conservation history. The Department of Conservation pioneered science-based conservation and is still considered a leader in the field today. When the Conservation Commission was formed in 1937 the first commissioners promised that their decisions on how to regulate and manage Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife would be based on sound scientific research and development. This promise has been upheld throughout the years with more research being done today.

One can find many examples of science based conservation in all aspects of MDC. In 1990, MDC launched the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP). By monitoring the Ozark forest for 100 years MDC hopes to learn how different

management practices affect the abundance and reproductive success of birds, tree growth, species composition and regeneration, and how much carbon Ozark forests sequester.

Since the beginning, MDC has monitored the fish of the state. They continue to do so today by techniques and technology that have evolved over time. The Resource Assessment and Monitoring Program (RAM) monitors long term trends in the health of Missouri's warm-water, wadeable streams. The well-being of the critters in the streams is the main focus of this project.

Before the department began in 1937, Missouri's animal population hit an all-time low. Deer, turkey, prairie chickens, otters, and raccoons were nearly gone from the state and other species such as the buffalo and elk were completely extirpated. Through years of research and reintroduction programs, MDC has restored many of these animals back to Missouri. Most recently, elk were reintroduced to the state with the hopes of reestablishing a viable population. Science continues to be the foundation of Missouri conservation.

Look through the programs in this newsletter for other science successes.

# Volunteer

## Youth Volunteers...

...are the future of conservation. Currently, Runge has 11 youth volunteer naturalists. They range in age from 14 – 18. Some of these young people have graduated from high school and are heading off to college. Will they work in the field of conservation? No matter where their career path leads them they have and will continue to have a connection to our natural resources.



The following VOLUNTEER Naturalists were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge. Congratulations!

**200 hours** – Skyler Jesse

**500 hours** – Bruce Berger, Pat Derryberry, Anne Hutton, Elizabeth Veit

**750 hours** – Carol Young

**1000 hours** – Linda Tremain

## Lobby Exhibit

~September~

### Save the Last Dance, A Story of North American Grassland Grouse Noppadol Paothong



Noppadol Paothong, professional photographer, is exhibiting his personal photographs of grassland grouse from his new

book, "Save the Last Dance". Do not miss the opportunity to view birds like never before. Is it too late to save grouse and their habitats? Meander through the photographs and feel yourself transported to a landscape in need of preservation.

~October~

### Missouri's Insects and Wildflowers

#### Donna Brunet

Enjoy a close-up view of Missouri's insects and wildflowers in the Runge gallery. Donna Brunet is the author and primary photographer for the new field guide to butterflies and moths that will be published in 2013 by MDC. Some of the prints in this exhibit will appear in the new field guide. She hopes that individuals viewing her work will develop a stronger appreciation for the insects that share our yards and natural areas.

You can see a preview of the exhibit (including a few extras) at <http://donnabrunet.com/pages/exhibits/2012/runge.html>

## NATURE CENTER HOURS

### BUILDING HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday Open 8:00AM to 5:00PM  
Thursdays until 8:00PM

Sunday and Monday: Building Closed

### TRAIL HOURS

Open Daily 6:00AM to 9:00PM

# For the little ones



*Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.*

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."  
~Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist*

**Babes In The Woods** Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus caregivers.

**Little Acorns** Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregivers.

**Little Acorns PLUS** If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program **AND** one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide the ages of your children.**

## September

Call 573/526-5544 on or after September 1st to make your reservation.

### **Falling Leaves**

*By registration.* Come stroll through the shapes and colors of fall leaves. We will touch, look, color, and play with and in the leaves.

### **Babes In The Woods**

Friday, September 7 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, September 25 – 10:00AM

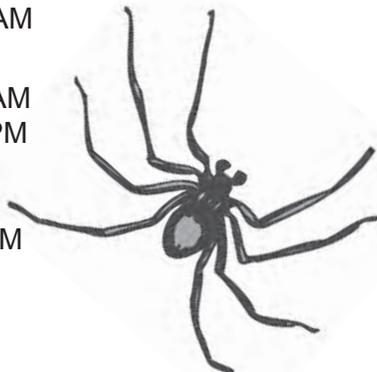
### **Little Acorns**

Tuesday, September 11 – 10:00AM

Thursday, September 20 – 6:00PM

### **Little Acorns PLUS**

Saturday, September 8 – 10:00AM



## October

Call 573/526-5544 on or after October 1st to make your reservation.

### **Spiders**

*By registration.* They show up in nursery rhymes, songs, and children's stories. Thousands can be found in forests and fields. Hundreds may be in your backyard and some can share your house with you! Let's look closer at these tiny animals - spiders - that live with us.

### **Babes In The Woods**

Wednesday, October 10 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, October 23 – 10:00AM

### **Little Acorns**

Thursday, October 11 – 10:00AM

Thursday, October 18 – 6:00PM

### **Little Acorns PLUS**

Saturday, October 13 – 10:00AM

# September Events

Make your registration by calling after **8:00AM on September 1st** to register for these programs **573/526-5544**. If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

## **Birds and Biodiversity of Honduras** **SEPTEMBER 4 / TUESDAY /** **6:30–7:30PM**

*Walk-in* (All Ages) Robert Gallardo is a former Peace Corps volunteer who, after serving in Honduras, decided to stay in the country providing a birding guide service to international clients. He is fascinated by the country's rich biodiversity and its potential for ecotourism. He is currently writing the first comprehensive field guide to the birds of Honduras. Robert will be visiting as part of a nationwide tour to highlight Honduras as an ecotourism destination and to promote his book project. You can learn more about Robert at his website: [www.birdsofhonduras.com](http://www.birdsofhonduras.com).

## **Save the Last Dance, A Story of North American Grassland Grouse** **SEPTEMBER 6 / THURSDAY /** **6:30–7:30PM**

*By registration* (All Ages) In this program, Noppadol Paothong will showcase his book, "Save the Last Dance – A Story of North American Grassland Grouse" – a book he's been working on for over a decade. He will share stories from his 11-year journey of documenting these highly endangered and extraordinary birds, along with stunning images of the species' mating rituals and habitats. There will be a book signing before and after the program.

## **What's Going On?** **Slimy Salamanders** **SEPTEMBER 8 / SATURDAY /** **10:00AM–2:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All Ages) Missouri has many salamander species. Today you'll meet at least 3 different salamanders and learn more about these interesting amphibians.



The large fish aquarium will be closed for a few weeks in September for maintenance.

## **Puppet Show: Tale of Tails** **SEPTEMBER 8 / SATURDAY / 1:00PM** *Walk-in* (All Ages) Do you want to know what happened? A storyteller's yarn may uncover how Bobcat lost its tail. Other Runge animals are getting anxious. Beaver, Scorpion and their puppet friends want to keep their tails for different and important reasons. Discover if something really took Bobcat's tail.

## **Story Tree...on the Trail** **SEPTEMBER 13 / THURSDAY /** **6:00–7:00PM** *Walk-in* (All ages) The Story Tree goes outdoors. Walk the Naturescape Trail between 6 and 7 p.m. and find a volunteer naturalist ready to share a storybook or two with you. (In case of inclement weather the Story Tree will come indoors.)

River Bluffs Audubon Society presents:  
**Eastern Wood-Pewee Breeding Demography in the Ozarks**  
**SEPTEMBER 13 / THURSDAY / 7:00PM**  
*Walk-in* (Adults) Sarah Kendrick, from the University of Missouri-Columbia, will speak on her research on Pewees. Her talk is sure to capture your interest in these active, vocal flycatchers.

## **The Runge Hiking Club: Three Creeks Conservation Area** **SEPTEMBER 15 / SATURDAY /** **8:00AM–5:00PM** *By registration* (18 years and older) Learn about our wondrous state! Each month we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

**Three Creeks Conservation Area**, located in Boone County, is predominantly forest area. Join us in exploring this close and convenient hiking area (4 miles, \*\*\*). Wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Bring water, lunch, and come dressed for the weather.

## **What's Going On? Booming, Bugling, and Burying** **SEPTEMBER 15 / SATURDAY /** **10:00AM–2:00PM** *Walk-in* (All ages) Do you like science? Become a biologist today and discover how science provides wonderful sights and sounds of plants and animals in Missouri.

## **Midweek Trekkers: Cuivre River State Park** **SEPTEMBER 19 / WEDNESDAY /** **8:00AM–5:00PM** *By registration* (18 years and older) Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

**Cuivre River State Park**, located on the southern edge of Lincoln County, is a band of uplifted, limestone bedrock hills which provides the park with an Ozark-like look. We'll hike the **Cuivre River trail** (8 miles, \*\*\*) which takes us over rugged, wooded hills, and through deep valleys. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

## **Nature's Needlers** **SEPTEMBER 20 / THURSDAY /** **10:30AM–Noon or 1:00–2:30PM** **or 6:00–7:30PM** *By registration* (18 years and older) In our ninth of the "Butterflies in Flight" series, we will focus on one of the most recognized and well known butterflies, the monarch. Join us as we learn more about the monarch and share a related quilt block.



**Discover Nature Families: Family Fishing Fun**  
**SEPTEMBER 22 /**  
**SATURDAY /**  
**9:00AM–NOON**

*By registration* (All ages) Have you ever wondered what types of fish inhabit our Runge pond? Here's your chance to find out! Join us for a morning of "catch and release" while relaxing and enjoying the crisp fall air. Bring your own pole and bait or use some of ours. Ages 16 and older will need a valid fishing permit.

## **Nature Walk: Binder Park** **SEPTEMBER 29 / SATURDAY /** **7:00AM–Noon** *By registration* (18 years and older) This will be a leisurely stroll around the lake and through the woods to observe the beginning of fall weather and the birds in that habitat. We will carpool from Runge Nature Center.

# October Events

Make your registration by calling after **8:00AM** on **October 1st** to register for these programs 573/526-5544. If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

## Teen Club: Hiking

**OCTOBER 6 / SATURDAY / 10:00AM–2:00PM**

*By registration* (12-18 years) *A-hiking we will go!* Meet at Runge and drive to Prairie Garden Trust in New Bloomfield. We will use department vehicles. Be prepared to hike approximately 4 miles. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Bring a backpack with your lunch, water bottle, and binoculars, if you have them. Make sure your parent/guardian comes in with you that morning and fills out the permission form to go off-site with us or the form can be found at <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center/permission-forms>. Space is limited.

## Puppet Show: Tale of Tails

**OCTOBER 6 / SATURDAY / 11:00AM**

*Walk-in* (All Ages) Do you want to know what happened? A storyteller's yarn may uncover how Bobcat lost its tail. Other Runge animals are getting anxious. Beaver, Scorpion and their puppet friends want to keep their tails for different and important reasons. Discover if something really took Bobcat's tail.

## Story Tree...on the Trail

**OCTOBER 11 / THURSDAY / 6:00–7:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) The Story Tree goes outdoors. Walk the Naturescape Trail between 6 and 7 P.M. and find a volunteer naturalist ready to share a storybook or two with you. (In case of inclement weather the Story Tree will come indoors.)

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents:

## Exploring Marion Bottoms Conservation Area

**OCTOBER 11 / THURSDAY / 7:00PM**

*Walk-in* (Adults) Just 20 minutes away, Marion Bottoms has easy access, easy walking, and many opportunities for birding and wildlife viewing. Frank Drummond, Wildlife Biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will describe the plants and animals that make this 2,997-acre area along the Missouri River such a special place.

## Trail rating system

- \*Easiest trail (flat terrain with no obstructions)
- \*\*Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
- \*\*\*Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
- \*\*\*\*Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
- \*\*\*\*\*Most difficult (significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks)

## The Runge Hiking Club: Paddy Creek Wilderness

**OCTOBER 13 / SATURDAY / 8:00AM–5:00PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) This month we will hike the Big Piney Trail located in northwestern Texas County. The trail starts at the Roby Lake Recreation Area and loops for 17 miles through the heart of Paddy Creek Wilderness along some of the area's finest overlooks. We will hike approximately half of the trail (8 miles, \*\*\*\*\*). Bring water, lunch, and hiking shoes and come dressed for the weather.

## Deer Processing

**OCTOBER 13 / SATURDAY / 1:00-4:00PM**

*By registration* (All ages) Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing.

## Midweek Trekkers: Paddy Creek Wilderness

**OCTOBER 17 / WEDNESDAY / 7:30AM–5:30PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) This month we will hike the North Loop of the North/South Big Piney Trail located in northwestern Texas County out of Slabtown (9 miles, \*\*\*\*\*). This trail is characterized by the shortleaf pine and some hard wood forest. Bring water, lunch, and hiking shoes and come dressed for the weather.

## Cardinals and Coffee—A Bird Walk

**OCTOBER 18 / THURSDAY / 7:30–10:00AM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) Join a naturalist for bird watching and shade-grown coffee. We will walk Runge's trails looking for the sights and sounds of birds. A few binoculars and identification books will be provided.

## Nature's Needlers

**OCTOBER 18 / THURSDAY / 10:30AM–Noon or 1:00–2:30PM or 6:00–7:30PM**

*By registration* (18 years and older) Our tent in the "Butterflies in Flight" series, we look closer at the beautiful luna moth. Join us as we learn about this common, but not often seen, moth and work on a related quilt block.

## What's Going On? Booming, Bugling, and Burying

**OCTOBER 20 / SATURDAY / 10:00AM–2:00PM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) Do you like science? Become a biologist today and discover how science provides wonderful sights and sounds of plants and animals in Missouri.

## Story Tree...on the Trail

**OCTOBER 20 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00AM**

*Walk-in* (All ages) The Story Tree goes outdoors. Walk the Naturescape Trail between 10 and 11 a.m. and find a volunteer naturalist ready to share a storybook or two with you. (In case of inclement weather the Story Tree will come indoors.)

## Nature Walk: Painted Rock Conservation Area

**OCTOBER 27 / SATURDAY / 7:00AM–Noon**

*By registration* (18 years and older) This will be a beautiful fall walk through rock formations with overlooks of the Osage River. Bring water and binoculars. We will carpool from Runge Nature Center.

## Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

**OCTOBER 27 / SATURDAY / 10:00AM–Noon**

*By registration* (6-10 years old and accompanied by an adult) Although this is not a hunter education course, this program can help you make sure your youth are safe during the hunting season. We'll cover the commandments of firearms and safety, safe methods for carrying a firearm, and tree stand safety.



## Discover Nature Families: Intro to Deer Hunting

**OCTOBER 27 / SATURDAY / 1:00-4:30PM**

*By registration* (6 years and older) Ever wished you knew how to hunt deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners; from tags to scouting, and from clothing to hunting methods.

# Scout Packs

Runge Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573/526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following scout packs.

## Boy Scouts:

**Wolf Cub:** Elective #13 - Birds

**Bear Cub:** Achievement #5 - Sharing Your World with Wildlife

**Webeles:** Naturalist & Forester Pack(s) Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirements.



## Thank you Desiree Laubert!

We enjoyed having, Desiree Laubert, University of Missouri intern, this summer. The staff wants to thank Desiree for assisting and presenting interpretive programs. You did a fantastic job. Keep up the positive and flexible attitude.

# Adventure Packs



Get outside and explore! Check out our Adventure Packs from the front desk the next time you visit the nature center. Choose between an ART & NATURE pack, INSECT pack, AQUATIC pack, or a TRACKS & SCAT pack to use while exploring the trails at the nature center. There are fun-filled ideas and tools inside each pack to help you DISCOVER NATURE.

*What's*  
**HOT** *in the*  
**NATURE SHOP!**

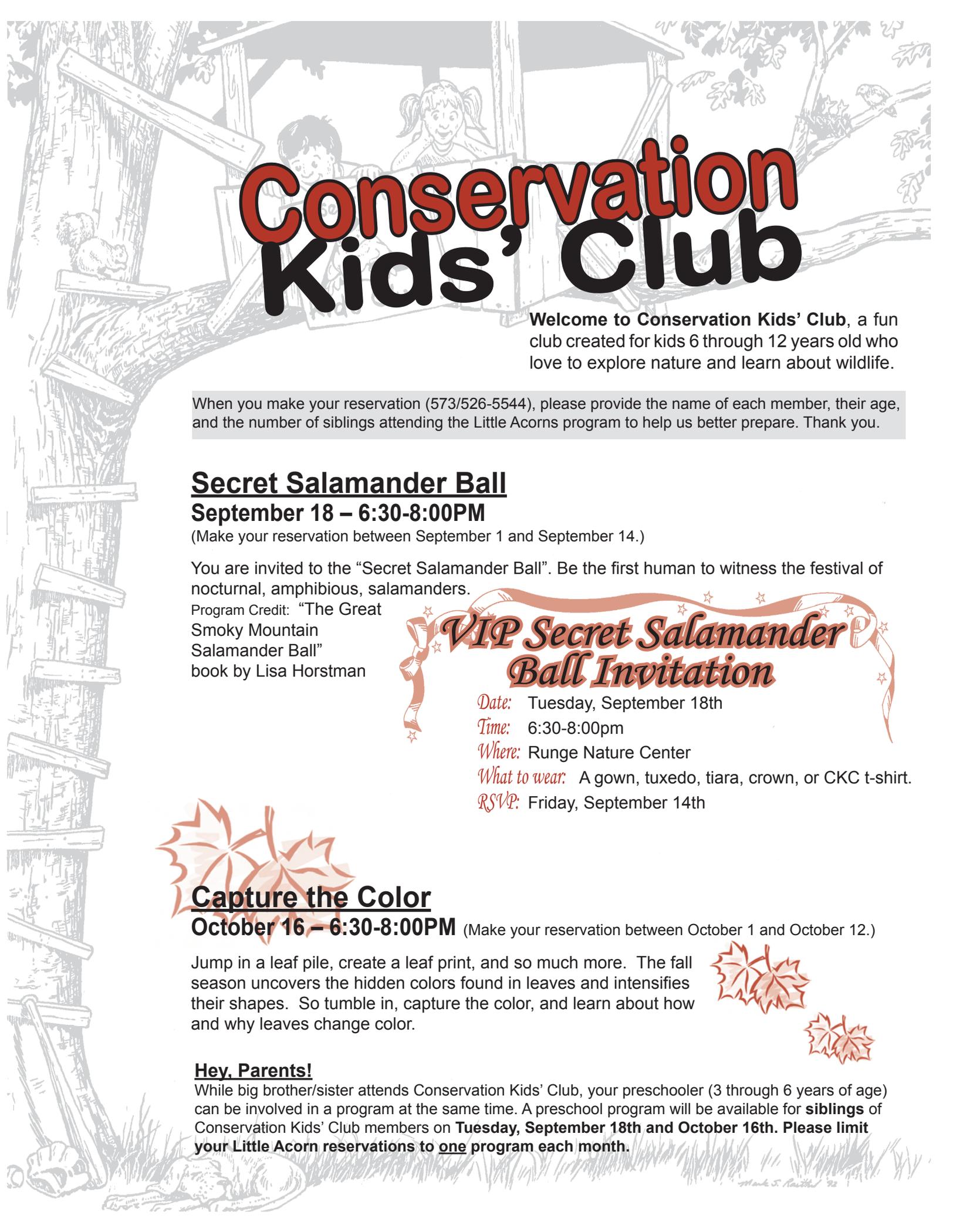
**SAVE 20%**  
SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 31

*Missouri Department of Conservation presents...*  
**GRANDIN**  
The Big Mill & Tall Timber  
**STAMP OF CHARACTER**  
... From Trees to Tracks  
FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE

*The Promise Continues*  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
75th Anniversary

Follow the Department's history of restoring Missouri's wild things and wild places, and discover its plans for keeping our conservation promise alive for generations to come.

**75 YEARS**



# Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

When you make your reservation (573/526-5544), please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

## Secret Salamander Ball September 18 – 6:30-8:00PM

(Make your reservation between September 1 and September 14.)

You are invited to the “Secret Salamander Ball”. Be the first human to witness the festival of nocturnal, amphibious, salamanders.

Program Credit: “The Great Smoky Mountain Salamander Ball” book by Lisa Horstman



*Date:* Tuesday, September 18th

*Time:* 6:30-8:00pm

*Where:* Runge Nature Center

*What to wear:* A gown, tuxedo, tiara, crown, or CKC t-shirt.

*RSVP:* Friday, September 14th



## Capture the Color

**October 16 – 6:30-8:00PM** (Make your reservation between October 1 and October 12.)

Jump in a leaf pile, create a leaf print, and so much more. The fall season uncovers the hidden colors found in leaves and intensifies their shapes. So tumble in, capture the color, and learn about how and why leaves change color.



### Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for **siblings** of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, September 18th and October 16th. Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.**

# Science=Conservation Success!



## Word Search



Fish  
Forest  
Wildlife  
Deer  
Elk  
Turkey

Prairie Chicken  
Burying Beetle  
Black Bear  
Cave  
Prairie  
Glade

Wetland  
Savanna  
Otter  
Science  
Conservation  
Research

Surveys  
Conserve  
Protect  
Manage