



KANSAS CITY

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2012

Nature & You

News and Events from Missouri Department of Conservation

Science makes nature thrive in Missouri

Children grasp surprising facts about ecology as they play the deer habitat game at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center. A hiker pauses to admire native grasses growing near oaks in restored woodlands near the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center. Hunters attending classes at Parma Woods and Lake City shooting ranges get current updates on wildlife populations.

Science makes those scenarios possible and upholds modern conservation. Our state's voters approved science-based natural resource management on Nov. 4, 1936, when they overwhelmingly approved creation of the Missouri Conservation Commission and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). A celebration for the 75-year anniversary of that vote began last autumn.

Much of what visitors enjoy at MDC's public lands and education outreach sites in the Kansas City area is rooted in science. This autumn begets another informal 75th anniversary, what voters approved being put into action.

Missouri's natural resources were ravaged by overuse and mismanagement by the early 1900s. But the newly approved Conservation Commission – citizens appointed by the governor to set policy – were appointed and organized in July, 1937. In September of that year, wildlife experts met to help outline the future. By October's end, MDC's first director, Irwin T. Bode, was hired to build and lead the department.

Legislatures and the governor



MDC Fisheries biologists collect data to aid the survival of the endangered pallid sturgeon.

had set natural resource policy before. But after the 1936 election, with Conservation Commission guidance, professionals with training and experience were assigned to manage fish, forestry, wildlife and all the state's natural ecosystems. Three-quarters of a century later, Missouri is a great place to enjoy the outdoors. Game species such as white-tailed deer and wild turkeys are restored. Bald eagles build nests and raise young. Public lands help protect unique and rare habitats such as unplowed prairie.

Facts gathered by science guide wise choices to nurture the outdoors. For example, MDC biologists have studied white-tailed deer extensively. Deer returned from near extinction to where deer hunting is among the most popular forms of recreation, puts meat on many Missourians' tables and gives

a more than \$1 billion economic boost to the state.

The viewpoint is different for young children playing the deer game when they visit the Discovery Center for nature classes. They see deer simply as wondrous creatures from the mysterious wild forest. But they also learn from the game a relationship between deer herd population size and sustainability for the food and shelter that nurtures wild creatures. Perhaps most important, they're introduced to the far broader wonder of nature's interconnectedness. Yet facts are the key, as the numbers and examples used in the deer game about herd size and habitat carrying capacity are based on years of science.

Missouri's open prairies, or the woodlands where trees mingle with native grasses and wildflowers, have

both dwindled to tiny remnants. The prairie meadows and grassy woodlands at the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center are restored examples to preserve and showcase the region's natural legacy. But managers and naturalists at Burr Oak Woods do not use a hunch to decide when to use prescribed fire, what trees to thin and what native seeds to plant. Science guides the way.

Several MDC staffers and volunteers in the KC metro area recently assisted Urban Wildlife Biologist Joe DeBold with the annual roundup of giant Canada geese at Smithville Lake. Though common now, they were once considered an extinct sub-species. A wildlife biologist in Minnesota using science determined that some survived. Missouri biologists doing the same found a surviving population in this state. Geese were also introduced near MDC's Trimble Wildlife Area, and scientific management of that flock helped restore the sub-species throughout Missouri.

The annual goose roundups, catching flightless geese and reading or attaching ID leg bands, gives biologists a way to track population trends. That information guides decisions on providing hunters with opportunities. Nuisance populations in urban areas can be reduced when necessary. But sustainable numbers of wild geese remain for the future.

Visitors and volunteers at our nature centers and classrooms often help with science. Banding songbirds and tagging butterflies are activities that assist a scientific process underway across America.

Nature created a wondrous web of life. Science is the best tool people have to conserve nature, and Missourians have earned national and world-wide renown for ground-breaking support of fact-based conservation.

– Bill Graham, Media Specialist

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, day after
Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's

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 SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

CATERPILLAR QUEST

SEPTEMBER 1 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
No registration required (All ages) This is a great time of year to spot caterpillars munching on leaves before they disappear into their chrysalis or cocoon for the winter. Explore and learn about these magically transforming insects up close.

DISCOVER NATURE WOMEN: CANOE ORIENTATION AND FLOAT TRIP

SEPTEMBER 6 / THURSDAY / 6:00–8:30 PM
Registration required (Women; girls ages 14–17 are welcome to attend with an adult woman participant) Have you always wanted to learn how to canoe and plan a float trip of your own? Come to Burr Oak Woods for an evening of orientation and learning strokes that will help you to navigate any stream in our beautiful state of Missouri. You will then play a role in planning a weekend float trip for Sept. 28–30.



FAMILY FISHING

SEPTEMBER 8 / SATURDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Families) Don't miss out on the fun during the final Family Fishing program of the season at the Burr Oak Woods catch and release education pond. We will teach the basics of fishing, provide equipment and worms and then let you and your family try your luck. Kids who attend will be entered in a drawing for a Zebco 33 Spincast Rod and Reel Combo and tackle box!

NATURE SCAVENGER HIKE

SEPTEMBER 8 / SATURDAY / 1:00–2:30 PM
Registration required (Families) What can you find in the forest? Wonders abound when we stop and take a closer look. Join us as we search the forest for the interesting and unusual colors, shapes and textures that exist all around us.

BABES IN THE WOODS: CREEK CRAWL

SEPTEMBER 11 / TUESDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Babes under 36 months) Let's make a splash together in Burr Oak Creek! Exploring the water is a perfect way to enjoy and discover nature with your child. Bring your little one and be ready to get your feet wet!

CONSERVATION KID'S CLUB: GOES WILD

SEPTEMBER 11 / TUESDAY / 6:30–8:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 7–13) The Kid's Club goes wild as we learn about a few wild edible plants that can be found in our own backyard (and on our pizza). Learn how to identify these plants, how they can be used and how we can help to conserve them for the future.

LITTLE ACORNS: BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES

SEPTEMBER 12 / WEDNESDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
OR 1:00–2:00 PM *Registration required* (Ages 3–5) So many colors floating by on the wings of butterflies. They look as if they haven't got a care in the world with nothing to do. We'll learn about these beautiful insects and what they really are up to as they flutter by.

HOME SCHOOL: REPTILES ROCK!

SEPTEMBER 12 / WEDNESDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM
FOR AGES 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 OR 1:00–2:30 PM FOR AGES 6–8 *Registration required.*



Slither on into the nature center for a scaly good time! Students will experience the unique and often surprising adaptations of this amazing group of animals during this hands-on program.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: MONARCH TAGGING

SEPTEMBER 15 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM
OR 12 NOON *Registration required* (Families) Monarch butterflies are now migrating to their winter home in central Mexico, and we are ready to tag them! Become a scientist for a day



by capturing, tagging and releasing these unique butterflies. *Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults to mentor their children while exploring nature and mastering outdoor skills together.*

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: CANOEING

SEPTEMBER 18 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Registration required (Families with children ages 7 and up) Observing nature from a canoe can be a breath-taking and exhilarating experience, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned pro. Learn the basic techniques so you may embark on your own canoeing experience. It is sure to be an adventure your family will remember for years to come. Program will be held at Prairie Hollow



Lake, James A. Reed Wildlife Area. *Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults to mentor their children while exploring nature and mastering outdoor skills together.*

NATURAL TIE DYE

SEPTEMBER 22 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (All ages) Many of nature's wonders are more beautiful than the priceless works of art man can create. Experience firsthand some of the arts of nature, learn how to use plants and other natural materials for dyes and crafts and take a wearable nature project home with you.

WILD EDIBLES: PERSIMMONS AND PAWPAWS

SEPTEMBER 29 / SATURDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Adults) Come out for a taste of nature's autumn bounty during a stroll along the trail in search of these native fruit trees. The folklore and shared recipes will delight you.

NOTICE: Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area will be closed for the following Managed Hunts: Archery Managed Hunt: Oct. 31–Nov. 2. Muzzleloader Hunt: Nov. 28–30. The Nature Center building will remain open during these hunts, but the trails, road and off-trail areas will be closed.

NATURE OBSERVED

SEPTEMBER 29 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM
Registration required (Ages 12 and up) Paint your appreciation and observations of nature onto canvas! Some may spy a bird skipping from limb to limb while others notice a tiny insect strolling on a leaf. You don't have to paint like Van Gogh. Just provide the inspiration and we'll provide the materials.

ROCKIN' & READIN' NATURE TALES

SEPTEMBER 29 / SATURDAY / 11:00 AM–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.

A STORY IN THE STONE

SEPTEMBER 29 / SATURDAY / 1:00–2:30 PM
Registration required (Ages 8 and up) Some people are great storytellers, but did you know that rocks also have stories to tell? Come take a walk with Volunteer Naturalist Richard Webster to the Bethany Falls limestone formations and learn how an ancient sea came to be connected with wildlife survival and famous outlaws.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BURR OAK WOODS

OCTOBER 5 / FRIDAY / 4:00–7:30 PM
No registration required. See description below:

Happy Birthday Burr Oak Woods!

For the past 30 years, Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center has played a very important role in the Kansas City metropolitan area forging connections between our citizens and the natural world. Join us on Friday, Oct. 5, to learn more about the discovery programs offered at the Nature Center for all ages. Also, bring your lawn chairs or blankets and join us in the woods for a special evening of celebration and fun. Your entire family will tap their toes and sing along with the award winning wild music of Lucas Miller! We'll need your help to blow out 30 candles and enjoy some birthday cake and punch during the birthday celebration!

Matinee performance: 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Birthday Celebration: 5:00–6:30 p.m.

Evening performance: 6:30–7:30 p.m.

30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT: CHARLOTTE'S WEB OF LIFE

OCTOBER 6 / SATURDAY / 6:00–9:00 PM
No registration required. Please see the back page for a full description.

BABES IN THE WOODS: OH DEER . . . HIKE

OCTOBER 9 / TUESDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Babes under 36 months) We'll hike out across one of our prairies and scan the forest edge for white-tailed deer. The trail will be a little bumpy so an all-terrain stroller is best. We'll wander on to the Bethany Falls trail a bit and stop at the limestone outcroppings. Bring a camera and a sense of adventure.

CONSERVATION KID'S CLUB:

NATURE'S CLEANUP CREW

OCTOBER 9 / TUESDAY / 6:00–7:30 PM
Registration required (Ages 7–13) Vultures, cockroaches and millipedes, Oh my! They may seem gross, but decomposers and scavengers are essential for keeping nature clean. Join us as we learn about these unique critters and see some of them up close!

LITTLE ACORNS: EEK - BATS!

OCTOBER 10 / WEDNESDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
OR 1:00–2:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 3–5) Mysterious and misunderstood are just a few words that describe this flying misfit. Let's enter the private world of this unique critter and discover its amazing secrets.

HOME SCHOOL: CREEPY, WEIRD, BUT COOL

OCTOBER 10 / WEDNESDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM
FOR AGES 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 OR 1:00–2:30 pm for ages 6–8 *Registration required*
A shriek or a gasp comes from fright, or being startled. Through knowledge and direct experience, our response to some of the creepy, weird but cool animals that live in Missouri can change to oohhs and aahhs of curiosity.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: SHOOTING SKILLS

OCTOBER 11 / THURSDAY / 5:30–7:30 PM
Registration required (Families with children ages 8 and up) Target shooting is a great way for a family to spend time outdoors together. Archery and air rifles are easy and fun for nearly everyone. Join us as we learn the basics of shooting safety and take aim with arrows and pellets! *Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults to mentor their children while exploring nature and mastering outdoor skills together.*



Families programs are designed to help adults to mentor their children while exploring nature and mastering outdoor skills together.

INTRODUCTION TO DEER HUNTING

OCTOBER 13 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 11 and up) Have you thought about hunting, but just don't know where to start? Deer hunting is a challenging, yet



exciting tradition here in Missouri. Come out to Burr Oak Woods and learn the basics of pursuing white-tailed deer. We will cover everything from scouting locations to hunting methods and processing your own deer.

BATS AND US

OCTOBER 20 / SATURDAY / 11:00 AM –12 NOON
Registration required (All ages) Do you have the facts straight about bats? Whether they make you feel unsettled or you marvel at their aerial acrobatics, bats are creatures that stir emotion. Join a naturalist to learn about the role that bats play in nature and how humans have impacted them.

WILD EDIBLES: SOUP AND FABLE

OCTOBER 25 / THURSDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Registration required (Adults) The autumn leaves and the boundless stars will be our canopy. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience as we savor the bounty of a wild autumn harvest, share a warm and wild native tea and listen to stories around the campfire.

ROCKIN' & READIN' NATURE TALES

OCTOBER 27 / SATURDAY / 11:00 AM–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.

THOSE SENSATIONAL SPIDERS

OCTOBER 27 / SATURDAY / 1:00–2:00 PM
No registration required (All ages) Eight legs,



creeping and crawling along...it's enough to give you the shivers! Come learn about these resourceful, reclusive but also essential animals. You may just find yourself getting over your arachnophobia.

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>

on non-toxic shotgun ammunition, how to judge distances and properly patterning your shotgun.

TRAPPING EDUCATION

OCTOBER 6 / SATURDAY / 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 10 and up)

Interested in trapping but not sure how to get started? This is an introductory course to the outdoor activity of trapping. The students will learn about furbearer management, trapping regulations, different types of traps for different applications and much more.

HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS

OCTOBER 16 / TUESDAY / 6:00–10:00 PM
OCTOBER 17 / WEDNESDAY / 6:00–10:00 PM
OCTOBER 18 / THURSDAY / 6:00–10:00 PM
Online registration only at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/9720> (Ages 11 and up)

The goal of hunter education classes is to produce safer, more knowledgeable, responsible and involved hunters. Discover the joys of hunting in this three night class designed to meet all requirements for those who wish to hunt using firearms. Registration is required.

DISCOVER HUNTING:

WOMEN'S FIREARM SAFETY – Phase II

OCTOBER 20 / SATURDAY / 8:00–11:30 AM
Registration required (Women ages 18 and up)
After completing Phase-I: Let's learn more about handguns. This course was designed for women who are interested in gaining more information about firearms. Topics discussed include storage of firearms, different types of handguns and calibers. Build your marksmanship skills with more range time and how to clean your firearm.

CABLE RESTRAINT CERTIFICATION

OCTOBER 26 / FRIDAY / 6:00–9:30 PM
Registration required (All Ages) If you are a trapper looking for another tool to help you on the trapping line; then you might want to explore cable restraint. The course of instructions includes general history of cable restraint, rules and regulations, length of season and more. This class is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique and certification will appear on your Resident Trapping Permit. This class will fill quickly!

NRA COURSE: REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM

OCTOBER 28 / SUNDAY / 9:00 AM–12 NOON
Registration required (Ages 18 and up) **Refuse To Be A Victim** is a nationally recognized crime prevention program, developed by the National Rifle Association that promotes awareness and prevention of criminal attack. Topics covered include: home, automobile, phone, technological, travel and personal security.

Tom Knapp brings fancy shooting to Lake City Range

Who knew how easy it was to pluck a pheasant or make potato salad with just one finger and a shotgun? Earlier this summer, shotgun exhibition shooter Tom Knapp showed crowds of over 300 these skills. Knapp, sponsored by CZ-USA, wowed the crowds by shooting a total of seven clay targets before they hit the ground. Then there was the egg-toss. Several participants from the crowd threw eggs for Knapp to shoot while their "supervisor" and the crowd "egged" them on. Everyone went away smiling with no egg on their faces.

On Friday, June 1, over 120 International Hunter Education Association Conference attendees participated in field day at the Lake City Range. They watched Knapp's amazing



Exhibition shooter Tom Knapp

exhibition shooting, visited with vendors and tried out firearms at the pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges. Helping make this field day a success were CZ-USA, Savage Arms, Ten Point Crossbow Technologies, Promatic, Huckleberry

Targets and several more. Members of the Rocky Branch Rangers Cowboy Action Shooting Club from Lafayette County, MO, were on hand with their single action rifles and pistols for the participants to shoot. Participants could learn to use an atlatl, learn about tree stand safety and shoot black powder shotguns at clay targets.

On Saturday, June 2, the Tom Knapp exhibition was open to the public. About 200 fans attended this fun event. Later, CZ-USA and Savage Arms provided shotguns, rifles, pistols and ammunition for attendees to shoot. Promatic used their Huntsman thrower to simulate a flurry of game for shooters. Lake City Range volunteer Richard Dale and his helper Tim Brazzell, both dressed in period clothing, provided 8-gauge, 20-gauge and 12-gauge black powder shotguns to shoot at clay birds.

A great time was had by all, especially the "night crew," who cleaned up the potato, cabbage and eggs slain by Knapp's trick shooting and left in the field overnight!

– Steve Elliott, Range Supervisor

PROGRAMS & EVENTS SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

BASIC SHOTGUNNING

SEPTEMBER 4 / TUESDAY / 6:00–9:00 PM
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, gauges of shotguns, shot shells, patterning your shotgun and shooting techniques. Class includes range time.

DISCOVER HUNTING:

EFFECTIVE WING SHOOTING

SEPTEMBER 29 / SATURDAY / 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 12 and up) Would you like to improve your wing shooting skills? Join us in learning the proper way to select the best ammunition and choke combination for different migratory and upland game bird hunting. We will discuss the latest technology

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: May 1 – September 20

Friday – Sunday: 10 AM – 4 PM
Monday & Tuesday: 2 PM – 8 PM
October 1 – April 30
Friday – Tuesday: Noon – 4:30 PM
Closed all state holidays

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for indi

- 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 SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

BOW HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS

SEPTEMBER 4 / TUESDAY / 6:00–10:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 5 / WEDNESDAY / 6:00–10:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 11 and up) Many municipalities allow hunting using archery methods as a way to help manage populations of urban and suburban wildlife, but most require hunters to pass a bow hunter education course.



Don't wait until it's too late to take the class if you haven't been certified. Attend this class to learn more about hunting safely and responsibly with a bow and arrows. Certification is provided upon successful completion.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: AIR GUN FUN

SEPTEMBER 22 / SATURDAY / 8:00–10:00 AM
Registration required (All ages) Spring-piston, gas-powered and pneumatic airguns have a lot of differences, but they are all fun for the whole family to shoot. To learn more about airguns and how to shoot them safely you should set your sights on attending this event. You can bring your own or use ours; I guarantee it will be an air blast.



DISCOVER HUNTING: FALL TURKEY HUNTING CLINIC

SEPTEMBER 30 / SUNDAY / 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 11 and up) The month of October offers hunters a crack at harvesting their own turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. But few turkey hunters take advantage of the opportunity. Turkey habits change throughout the year making fall turkey hunting much different than spring turkey hunting. Attend this clinic to learn the differences and what it takes to get your turkey dinner.



DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: INTRODUCTION TO TRAPPING

OCTOBER 6 / SATURDAY / 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
Registration required (All ages) Successful trapping requires patience, attention to detail and a solid understanding of animal behavior. These factors combine to make trapping a challenging and rewarding outdoor activity enjoyed by all ages. Bring your family out to discover nature and what it takes to make a trapper.



DISCOVER HUNTING: SQUIRREL HUNTING CLINIC & HUNT

OCTOBER 7 / SUNDAY / 1:00–7:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 11 and up) Hunting squirrels may just be the perfect way to enjoy a crisp fall afternoon. Unfortunately, this is an experience foreign to many. Clinic topics will include squirrel biology and habits, hunting regulations, selecting the right equipment and basic squirrel hunting techniques. All hunt participants must meet state requirements regarding permits and hunter education certification.



CABLE RESTRAINT TRAPPING CLASS

OCTOBER 20 / SATURDAY / 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
Registration required (All ages) Missouri regulations require that trappers wishing to use a cable restraint device must first successfully complete a training course taught by a certified instructor. This course is designed for just that. Our certified instructors will teach you how to use cable restraint devices in a way that is effective, selective and legal.

National Hunting and Fishing Day

Here's one more good reason to enjoy the outdoors at Parma Woods Shooting Range. National Hunting and Fishing Day is Sept. 22. This national event started when President Nixon signed the first proclamation of National Hunting and Fishing Day in 1972. He stated, "I urge all citizens to join with sportsmen in the wise use of our natural resources and in insuring their proper management for the benefit of future generations."

This day is set as the fourth Saturday of every September. Again this year, we are celebrating this event at the range by offering one free hour of shooting to users. We will also offer free instruction in shooting skills for rifles, handguns, archery and muzzleloaders. Come to the range to take your stand with the rest of the nation as we support the hunters and anglers that have provided so much for wildlife conservation. If you have any questions regarding this event, feel free to contact the range office at 816-891-9941.

Shooting Ranges extend hours for deer season

Parma Woods and Lake City Shooting Ranges & Outdoor Education Centers will be providing additional opportunities for hunters to get sighted-in this year. Beginning on Oct. 19, **Parma Woods Shooting Range** will remain open to the public Friday through Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. The range will remain closed for maintenance on Wednesday and Thursday. These hours will remain in effect through Nov. 11.

On Sept. 19, **Lake City Shooting Range** will return to its seasonal hours of 12 noon to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Extended hours for sighting in firearms for the white-tailed deer season will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, Oct. 24 through Nov. 9. On Nov. 10, 2012 Lake City Range will return to its seasonal hours which are 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 816-249-3194.

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>

PROGRAMS & EVENTS SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

THE ART OF GROWING

SEPTEMBER 1 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Gardens are full blooming fun that attract visitors from everywhere. Join us as we add style to your outdoor experience by creating artwork to be displayed in your landscape. Like flowers in your garden, your art will bud and grow with this great fun for the whole family.

CAMO T-SHIRTS

SEPTEMBER 1 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
No registration required (All ages) Webster's dictionary defines camouflage as concealment by disguise to make the wearer indistinguishable from the surrounding environment. Blend in to your environment by creating a wearable work of art as we use leaves, grasses and textile inks to print your own camo-wear t-shirts just in time for the hunting season. All materials provided.

WEAVING WITH NATURE

SEPTEMBER 4 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Walk-in (Ages 8 and up) Nature abounds with color and texture. Many of these elements can be combined to make permanent displays that can reflect our personalities and what is going on in our lives. Join us to learn what some of these native materials are and how they can be woven to create tapestries of all sizes.

HOME SCHOOL: SKILLS DAY

SEPTEMBER 11 / TUESDAY / 10:00 AM–1:00 PM
Walk-in (Ages 5–14) The school year is back in session and students focus on developing a variety of academic skills. Join us for a day of developing outdoor skills and integrating those with your school knowledge. Everyone will have the chance to investigate what lives in the water and compare your age to the age of a tree. Participants ages 8 and older may join in fishing, learn to use GPS and go canoeing with a parent. Bring your lunch. Program will be held at Prairie Hollow Lake, James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area.

AUTUMN DECOR

SEPTEMBER 15 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Fall is almost upon us and with it comes nature's pallet of rich earth tones and textures. Just imagine how much beauty can be added to your home by using simple objects found in the great outdoors. Join us as we explore and experiment with the many options to decorate your home available right outside your door.

HUNTER EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 15 / SATURDAY / 8:00 AM–5:00 PM
AND SEPTEMBER 18 / TUESDAY / 6:00–9:00 PM
Online registration only at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/9720> (Ages 11 and up; ages 11–13 must be accompanied by an adult) Were you born after 1966 and want to hunt in Missouri? If so, then you need to be a part of this hunter education class at the Discovery Center. The course's goals are to develop hunters who demonstrate: safety with firearms, respect people and property, compliance with laws and regulations and awareness of hunting as a management tool. It is mandatory to attend both days. Please plan on bringing your own lunch on Saturday. For assistance with registration call 816-759-7300.

GOING BATTY SENSING NATURE

OCTOBER 2 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Creatures of the night, bats are often misunderstood and feared. We invite you to come along for an adventure as we uncover secrets about the only true flying mammal. Learn about their amazing echolocation abilities, and create fun bat crafts.

AUTUMN WILD EDIBLES

OCTOBER 6 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Foraging the fall forest for wild foods is fun and rewarding when you know



what to eat and where to look and this is a great time to stock up on nature's bounty. Many fruits and nuts are ripening this time of year and they may be easier to find than you think. Pawpaws, persimmons, hickory nuts, wild grapes, and

an assortment of wild foods will be on display to identify and sample. You might discover some tasty treats from your own backyard.

ART AND NATURE:

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF DAVID STONNER

OCTOBER 6 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–1:00 PM
No reservation required (Ages 10 and up) Conservation Department Wildlife Photographer David Stonner's images have captivated readers of the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine and others who have



seen his work. David will share tips on nature photography and offer advice to participants in this workshop. Participants are encouraged to bring any camera (cellular phones are acceptable). We will walk the grounds so bring a snack and water bottle.

CREEPY CRITTERS

OCTOBER 16 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Do spiders, snakes or bats cause you to cringe in fear? Discover how each of these critters plays an important role in the natural world. There will be crafts to make, hands on activities and even live animals to get up close with. So put your fears aside and come join in the fun.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

DISCOVERY CENTER CLOSED

OCTOBER 20 / SATURDAY
The Discovery Center is closed Saturday, Oct. 20 due to the Kansas City Marathon route along 47th Street and Troost Avenue.

*We help people
discover nature!*

Junior Federal Duck Stamp Art on Display

The Junior Duck Stamp is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service each year to recognize the talents and environmental stewardship of young people throughout the United States. This competition is open to students in kindergarten through high school to create artwork depicting North American Waterfowl. First place winners from each state advance to the national competition. The winner will be produced as the National Junior Duck Stamp for 2012. Take a few moments this September to view the artwork of these talented youth on display in the Burr Oak Woods auditorium. The exhibit will move to the Discovery Center for the



Scout Day planned for the Discovery Center

Mark your calendars and save the date – Scout Day is **Nov. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** at the Discovery Center. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, Cadets, Cub Scouts and Webelos join us for hands-on activities designed for fun and rank achievement. We'll have activities and exhibits



to provide opportunities to help meet skill and knowledge requirements for assorted conservation related badges focused on outdoor skills and nature. Explore the life cycles and habitats for animals native to Missouri and try your hand at new skills including: pellet guns, knot tying, tree identification, compass, fire starting and more. Both individual scouts and troops are welcome. Don't miss out on this day created especially for Scouts!



Rangers on the River

The biggest event for the Discovery Center education staff this summer was hosting a three-day float trip on the Current River for the Urban Rangers. The Rangers are a summer youth group dedicated to performing community service work in Kansas City. For most of the kids, the camping, canoeing and fishing activities were all firsts. After a day of swamped canoes, tangled fishing lines, and missing tent poles, the kids caught on fast, and learned to become real outdoorsmen by the end of the 12-mile float trip.



Pawpaws: wild fruits of the forest

If the stars of popular television shows such as “Survivorman” or “Man vs. Wild” found themselves lost in a Missouri forest this fall, they could survive for weeks on the wild fruit of the pawpaw tree. Lewis and Clark did it 200 years ago. As the expedition descended the Missouri River in dugout canoes, they came to the mouth of the Kansas River where Captain Clark recorded: “We landed one time only to let the men gather pawpaws or the custard apple of which this country abounds, and the men are very fond of.” Days later, Clark wrote, “Our party entirely out of provisions subsisting on pawpaws.”

The edible fruit of the pawpaw tree looks like an oblong pear and is often

Long, elliptical leaves give the tree an exotic look, like a tree you might expect to find in a tropical rain forest.

described as a “wild banana” with a sweet taste and a custard-like texture. Pawpaws can be eaten raw, baked or used to make pies and breads. Opossums, raccoons and squirrels are also fond of pawpaws. That’s probably a reason the fruits are sometimes hard to find in the fall. The trees are fairly common, but do not always produce fruit. The pawpaw is a small tree that grows in colonies along streams and rivers where the conditions are moist and shaded.

Everything about the tree is kind of odd. The long, elliptical leaves give the



tree an exotic look, like a tree you might expect to find in a rain forest. The term “pawpaw” is a Caribbean name for tree. The leaves smell like green peppers when crushed. In spring, the maroon-colored flowers give off a fragrance that smells like fermenting grapes. The soft wood is useless for making anything, yet Native Americans stripped the bark for weaving baskets and rope.

In Kansas City, you can find pawpaws near the Blue River in Swope Park or along Blue River Parkway. The hiking trails at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center in Blue Springs are another good place to look. Or you could come to the Discovery Center where pawpaws have been planted in the butterfly gardens. Zebra swallowtail butterflies use the plant as a host for their eggs and caterpillars. Discovery Center is offering a program on Saturday, Oct. 6, featuring autumn wild edibles and nature’s bounty. Learn about hickory nuts, butternuts, chestnuts, walnuts, acorns, pawpaws, persimmons, wild grapes and more. Discover tastes from the wilds of a Missouri forest.

–Pat Whalen, Education Specialist

Burr Oak Woods 30th Anniversary Special Event: Charlotte's Web of Life

On Saturday, Oct. 6, you can meet some of Missouri's creepiest characters in a fun-filled play along the trail as they are introduced to you by Charlotte A. Cavatica, the famous barn spider and other cast and characters based on the award winning novel, *Charlotte's Web*.

John Arable is one of those characters. He has contracted a bad case of ecophobia, a condition that begins to occur if one doesn't spend enough time in nature. When John finds himself at Burr Oak Woods, he is disgusted by some of the wildlife he discovers there. He pledges to "clean up" the woods by killing the bats, snakes and other "dreadful" creatures. His eight-year-old daughter Fern begs him to let the animals live so he gives them to her as pets. But the wild animals become sad and lethargic in captivity. One day, they hear the soft voice of Charlotte pledging to help John and Fern Arable understand the important role these amazing animals play in the web of life!



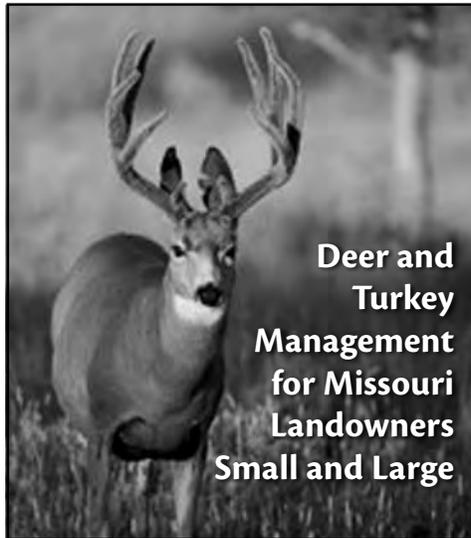
Charlotte Cox — who helped all of us understand the importance of life-long discovery, of family and spending time together outdoors.

While waiting for your family's turn to head out on the trail, meet a few of these creepy residents of Missouri. Special guests from Lakeside Nature Center will do a live animal presentation about one of Nature's most "ghastly" creatures, the turkey vulture! Discover the incredible role they play!

It is suggested that families read the story of *Charlotte's Web* together before they come out for the event.

Play performances on the quarter hour from 6 to 9 p.m. Hope to see you there!

— In Memory of Volunteer Naturalist, Charlotte Cox, who helped all of us understand the importance of life-long discovery, of family and spending time together outdoors.

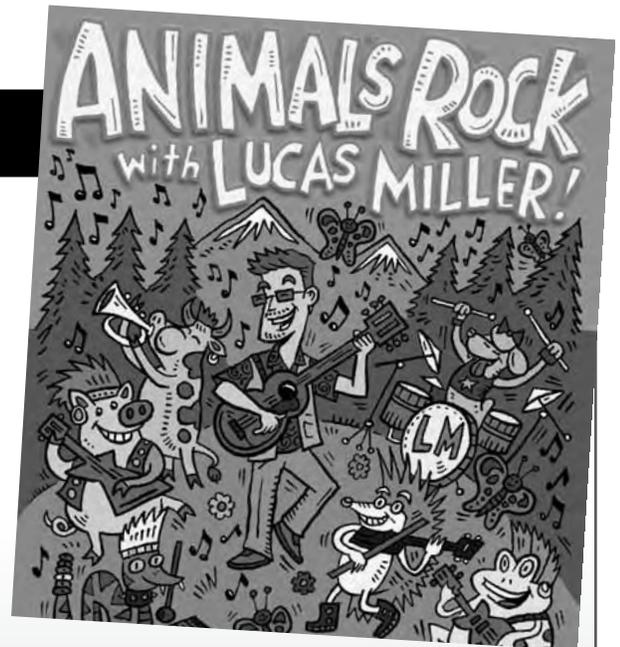


Deer and Turkey Management for Missouri Landowners Small and Large

Are you a deer or turkey hunter seeking to improve habitat on your property? Come to our management workshop 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Blue Springs, Mo.

Topics covered will include creating a natural food plot using woodland thinning methods to enhance plant diversity and cover; establishing and maintaining native grasses; edge management; food plots; invasive species control, and deer population and herd health. The workshop will begin in the nature center and conclude with a 1 ½ mile management hike through restored woodlands, savannahs and prairie plantings. The workshop is free, but you must register by October 1. For more information or to register, call 816-228-3766.

Happy Birthday Burr Oak Woods!



Have you ever sung like a bat? No? Well, come to a special Burr Oak Woods Nature Center 30th Anniversary Performance on Friday, Oct. 5, and Lucas Miller, the "Singing Zoologist" will teach you how at his multi-media family concert.

The National Endowment for the Arts has dubbed Miller an "American Masterpiece." He blends music, puppetry, projected images and "zoological stand-up comedy." His performances teach about monarch butterflies, wetlands, animal defenses, endangered species, symbiosis and other nature-related topics. He delights children and parents alike with his dynamic stage presence and songs.

Miller has authored two children's books and released three award-winning CD's. He also hosts the award-winning DVD series "Animals Rock with Lucas Miller." With song titles like "I Don't Wanna Be Part of the Food Chain" and production styles ranging from bluegrass to rap, Miller's music has an appeal beyond the Nickelodeon crowd.

Visit www.lucasmiller.net to learn more about this unique artist and hear samples of his songs. For more information call 816-229-3766.

BURR OAK WOODS NATURE CENTER • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5