



Winter Trees

Looking out my patio doors into the wooded lot behind my house is one of my favorite ways to relax – even in winter! I love the seasons and appreciate the trees throughout the year. In the winter, they paint a very different picture.

Not long ago, the morning sun through the patio doors framed a new woodland scene for me. The beautiful colors of fall and the fullness of the leaves on the trees had been replaced. Now there was a more linear and stark design in the woods created by the dark colors of the trunks and the bare branches of the trees against the blue sky.

I enjoyed this new picture and wanted to capture it. I grabbed the nearest design tool which happened to be a pen and a piece of paper towel and began scribbling words to paint my picture of the woods on that morning.



Winter trees provide a magnificent view for all to enjoy. Walk a trail at Runge Nature Center and see the beauty for yourself.

Winter trees are especially captivating because of their nakedness. Without the leaves we become more aware of the other parts of the trees.

I invite you to relax this winter and take a fresh look at the trees in your world. Enjoy the seasonal picture and if it suits you, create your own picture. I hope you enjoy “seeing” my woods.

Winter Trees

*Lines against blue sky
Gnarly fingers reaching up
Summer’s leftovers*

This form of writing is called a haiku. If you have a pen or pencil handy and something to write on, try your hand at creating a haiku. Haiku writing comes originally from Japan. The basic structure has just three lines; the first line consists of a series of words with five syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has five syllables.

—Robin Grumm, Assistant Nature Center Manager

Volunteer News

Volunteer Open House.

If you are interested in joining this wonderful group of people, come to our Volunteer Open House on Thursday, January 10 at 6:30 PM to learn more about our program. If you are unable to make it then, please feel free to contact Robin Grumm, Volunteer Coordinator at 573-526-5544 ext. 3405 or Robin.Grumm@mdc.mo.gov.

Nature's Needlers

What is Nature's Needlers?

Nature's Needlers is a program offered by Runge volunteers for people ages 18 and over who are inspired by nature to create unique pieces of needle work. Each month, Needler participants observe and learn about something specific in the natural world and use that as the focus of their project. Volunteer naturalists teach, instruct, and guide participants while readily admitting to learning something new themselves each time.

This year's focus for the Nature's Needlers group will be *Missouri's Wetlands*. Traditional and contemporary block patterns will be presented each month to represent something from this natural community.

You are invited to learn more about wetlands this year and capture it in this unique way. Please review the Calendar of Events and sign up now for one of these programs.



2009 Nature's Needlers group displays their handiwork in the lobby of the nature center for visitors to view.

Volunteer Milestones

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

200 hours

Samantha Luttrell

400 hours

Nelson Dunn, Janet Ruse

1000 hours

Larry Young

Lobby Exhibit

January/February

Mary Lou Corn Watercolor Exhibit

Mary Lou Corn is an artist who paints in watercolor. Her home and studio are in St. James, Missouri, in a scenic part of the Missouri Ozarks. She attended William Woods College, in Fulton, MO.

Since the 1960's she has been in the professional mode of constant production with many shows and patrons. Her medium is transparent watercolor. Her paintings are in the realist style, hand-drawn, without the use of slide projectors, computers or digital enhancements. Her vivid color is a trademark, as are her beautifully designed and traditionally composed still-life works. One of her strongest series has been of flowers, painted in larger than life dimension, as well as smaller botanicals of Missouri wildflowers. Her most numerous landscapes come from the Ozark rivers, woods, and hills around her.

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located on 97 acres in the heart of central Missouri. Come discover and enjoy the wonders of Missouri's habitats and its array of fish, forests, and wildlife. Runge CNC is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179 (330 Commerce Dr.).

HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Thursday 8 AM–8 PM

Closed Sunday, Monday, and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

TRAIL HOURS:

Open 6 AM–9 PM

For the Little Ones..

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.



Robin Grumm showing children a snake up-close and personal. These programs encourage parent and child participation in experiencing the outdoors.



discover nature programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

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 caregiver.

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 caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes program **AND** one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver. Please provide the ages of your children when making your reservation.

January Events

Registration begins January 2nd
573-526-5544

A Tale of Tails

They can be furry, scaly, long, or short, and can be used for balance, warmth, or to warn of danger. An animal's tail is an important part of its body and many animals depend on it for survival. Join us this month as we tell you some tales of animal tails.

Little Acorns

January 8 • Tuesday • 10 AM
January 19 • Saturday • 10 AM
January 24 • Thursday • 10 AM

The Babes In the Woods and Little Acorns PLUS programs are taking time off. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April issue of *Habitat Happenings*.

February Events

Registration begins February 1st
573-526-5544

Winter Backyard Birds

Backyard winter birds are fun to watch. Fly in to learn and view these feather fluffing friends.

Little Acorns

February 8 • Friday • 10 AM
February 9 • Saturday • 10 AM
February 26 • Tuesday • 10 AM



Check out January 4th for the **Bundled up Babes** program in the Events section of this newsletter.

Runge Calendar of Events - January

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided to you.



January Events

Registration begins January 2.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Aquarium Feeding

January 4 • Friday • 11 AM

No registration required (all ages)

The fish and snapping turtles are hungry. Stop by and watch these critters being fed.

Bundled Up Babes

January 4 • Friday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (0-2 years of age with caregiver)

Bundle your babes up to take a nature stroll into Missouri's wonderful winter world.

Puppet Show: A Fungus-Among-Us Tree Dwellers

January 5 • Saturday • 1 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Things are happening in Runge's puppet forest. Fungus worries that night noises mean disaster. Watch *A Fungus-Among-Us Tree Dwellers* and see if you solve the mystery before Fox Squirrel and Eastern Bluebird do.

Eagle Adventure

January 12 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Eagle activities and crafts will be offered in the lobby at the nature center. Staff from Dickerson Park Zoo will be offering live eagle presentations at 10AM, 11AM, and 1PM. Stop by and participate. Then, pick up a map to two wild eagle viewing sites. These locations will be staffed and you will be able to use high-powered scopes and binoculars to view eagles (weather permitting). Bundle up and come on out.

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents:

A Day at the Museum—Natural History Museums at the University of Missouri (especially insects!)

January 10 • Thursday • 7–8 PM

No registration required (adults)

Have you ever roamed the museums at the University of Missouri? If not, Kristin B. Simpson, Collections Manager of Enns Entomology Museum, will take you on a tour with her presentation. Simpson will tell about the various museums found on campus. She will explain their holdings—the items they have—and tell some fascinating stories. Her talk will particularly focus on the Enns Entomology museum and its displays. If you like insects, you may need to make a trip to the Enns Museum in person.

Midweek Trekkers: Canaan Conservation Area

January 16 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

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.

Canaan Conservation Area is located in Gasconade County near Bland. The area contains 1,435 acres mostly forested or woodland and glade. The area also features a scenic north-facing slope adjacent to Sulphur Branch Creek and a glade/woodland complex. We'll hike 8 miles exploring the area (****). Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

Nature's Needlers

January 17 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–12 PM • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18+)

2013 will find us visiting the *Wonderful Wetlands*. The tall, stately cattail will be the focus in January. Did you know the cattail is edible? Join us and learn more interesting facts and how we can create a related quilt block.

Story Tree

January 19 • Saturday • 10 AM

Registration required (all ages)

Trees are terrific. Stay warm inside around our Story Tree and enjoy hearing about trees large and small. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

Owl Prowl

January 24 • Thursday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Whooooo's there? Missouri owls! Explore the fascinating lives of these winged nighttime hunters. Following the indoor program, we will take a short walk to look and listen for owls on our trails. Dress for the weather.

The Runge Hiking Club: North Cedar Creek National Forest

January 26 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

The Runge Hiking Club 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.

The Cedar Creek Trail provides an excellent opportunity to view the restored lands of the 16,500 acre Cedar Creek Ranger District just south of Columbia. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service since 1953, this area has a variety of wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities in the transition zone between oak-hickory forests and tallgrass prairies. We will hike approximately eight miles, ****. Bring water and wear hiking shoes.

This will be a Geocache hike. Hikers will be provided with GPS units and given coordinates and a simple clue for finding a hidden geocache along the trail. If you wish further information on geocaching, please go to <http://www.geocaching.com/guide/>.

Winter Tree Walk

January 26 • Saturday • 2–3 PM

Registration required (ages 8+)

Trees are awesome in winter and fun to identify. Learn some techniques for identifying Missouri's trees in winter as we walk the Towering Oak Trail. This will be a great time to get some fresh air and enjoy a part of nature many people miss.

February Events

Registration begins February 1

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

What's Going On? Groundhogs

February 2 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Celebrate Groundhog's Day! Stories, predictions, shadow games, and more will help you enjoy this midwinter day.

Aquatic Relatives of the Dinosaurs

February 7 • Thursday • 6:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1990, have had population trends that once only moved in a downward direction. Research and management continues to improve our understanding of the endangered pallid sturgeon. Like the American bald eagle, the pallid sturgeon is anticipated to be another species that will someday be removed from the endangered species list.

Come hear about the pallid sturgeon and its incredible journey from a path of extinction to increasing abundance in Missouri's large rivers.

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents: Avian Alaska: Nest Site Selection in Arctic-breeding Shorebirds

February 7 • Thursday • 7–8 PM

No registration required (adults)

Come learn about the Alaskan Arctic's landscape and ecology, and enjoy gratuitous photos of shorebird chicks! Millions of shorebirds migrate to the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska each summer to breed. Jenny Cunningham, from the University of Missouri, will report on a study of six common shorebird species and their nest site selection strategies in the harsh tundra environment.

Cardinals & Coffee - A Bird Walk

February 14 • Thursday • 8–10:30 AM

Registration required (adults)

Join a naturalist for bird watching and shade-grown coffee. We will walk Runge's trails looking for sights and sounds of birds. A few binoculars and identification books will be provided.

Homeschool: Winter Tree I.D.

February 15 • Friday • 1–2:30 PM

Registration required (8 years and older)

Think winter is a bad time to learn about trees? It couldn't be more exciting! You'll learn how to identify trees without leaves by using the three "B's" (buds, bark, and berries). Come dressed for the weather.

Story Tree

February 16 • Saturday • 10 AM

Registration required (all ages)

Trees are terrific. Stay warm inside around our Story Tree and enjoy hearing about trees large and small. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

Midweek Trekkers: Lake Ozark State Park

February 20 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

With over 17,000 acres, **Lake Ozark State Park** is Missouri's largest state park. We'll hike the north loop of the **Trail of Four Winds** (approximately 8-10 miles, ****), which wanders through oak-hickory forests, an old quarry, and provides a glimpse of the Grand Glaize Marsh. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

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)

Nature's Needlers

February 21 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–12 PM • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18+)

The second in the series *Wetlands*, we focus on the aquatic turtles that prefer swamps, small ponds, and wet pastures. Join us as we delve further into the *Wonderful Wetlands* and receive instructions on how to create a related quilt block.

The Runge Hiking Club: Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

February 16 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

Because of the desire to keep human impact at a minimum at Gans Creek, this trail is not maintained at the same level as the other trails in the park (approximately 8.5 miles, ****).

The solitude and beautiful vistas of the 750-acre Gans Creek Wild Area allows you to forget that the bustling city of Columbia is only a few miles away. Small streams dissect the hills and flow into Gans Creek, which is bordered by high bluffs. Basswood and walnut trees grow on moist, shaded hillsides. Scattered white oaks grace more open forested area. The rocky bluff tops have small glade openings filled with grasses and wildflowers. Coyote and Shooting Star bluffs provide vistas of hills and trees as far as the eye can see. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

Save the Date

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, March 23

10AM–3PM

Can you live in a world without native plants? Do you know how much your daily life depends on plants?

This is an event you should not miss! Buy native plants for your yard while learning how they impact our lives.

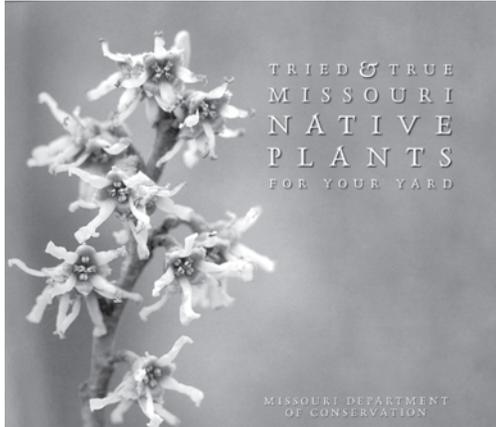
Gift Shop

Featured 20% off item

Tried and True Missouri Native
Plants for Your Yard

\$4.80 plus tax

*Heritage Card discount
does not apply.*



Native Landscaping for Wildlife
and People

\$14.40 plus tax

*Heritage Card discount
does not apply.*



Calling All Photographers

What have you seen at Runge?

20th Birthday Photo Exhibit

Runge will be celebrating 20 years of being a part of the Jefferson City community this July. Many of you have spent time here over the years; walking the trails, enjoying a program, and exploring through the seasons. If you have captured some of your outdoor excursions on film, now is your chance to share them with us and others in the community.

You are invited to submit up to three photographs taken at Runge any time between July 1993 and June 2013. We will pick the best of the best and exhibit them in our lobby during the month of July 2013.

Entries need to be printed on quality 8" x 10" photo paper. We will mount them. Please put your name and contact information on the back of your photos. It would be fun to title your photograph so we know where it was taken at Runge. You have until June 1, 2013 to submit photos. Drop them off at Runge Conservation Nature Center or mail them to Runge Nature Center, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

We look forward to seeing your pictures.

Regional Workshops

Training Opportunities

Pond Workshop

Learn about fish and wildlife management, pond construction, fish stocking, and aquatic vegetation. Space is limited so make your reservation now by calling 573-815-7900. Sponsored by MDC, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Callaway County SWCD.

March 5 • Tuesday • 6:30-9 PM

Location: Callaway County Electric Cooperative building in Fulton located off Hwy. 54 and Hwy. H exit. (7 miles South of I-70)

March 7 • Thursday • 6:30-9 PM

Location: Central Regional Office, 3500 E. Gans Road, Columbia.

Hunter Education

Responsible, ethical behavior and personal involvement are essential to the survival of hunting.

Register online for all Hunter Education courses at

[<mdc.mo.gov/node/3477>](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3477)

A complete listing of courses is included on this website.

These free 10-hour courses are required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. Students ages 11 and up must pass a test at the end of the course to be certified. Students under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult and show proof of age. If you have any previous Missouri hunting or fishing permits or a Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, bring them to class.

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years 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.



Inspector Gadget

January 15 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (January 2 through 11)

The character Inspector Gadget uses a variety of “tools” to complete his job (saving the world an episode at a time!). Naturalists use a variety of interesting tools as well to help us be better at our job...connecting YOU to nature! Come try some of our “gadgets” that will help you “inspect” the outdoors like a pro.

Food Chain

February 19 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (February 1 through February 15)

Starting with the sun, all living organisms are linked together. Food Chains are constantly in motion around Missouri. Find out how YOU are connected!

Parents/Guardians! 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, January 15 and Tuesday, February 19. **Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.**

Holiday Happenings



Mark your calendars now for our annual open house event. This year it is **Holidays for the Birds!** Visit Runge Nature Center during the December holidays for special bird activities inside and outside. Each day will have games, stories, refreshments, and walks. See below for special guests, times, and projects. No reservations required.

December 27 • Thursday • 10 AM–3 PM & 5–7 PM

11AM • Bluebird Houses - Learn about bluebird habitats and make a box to take home. One per family and reservations are required. (Call 573-526-5544 now to reserve your spot.)

5PM • Calling All Wildlife - Enjoy an energetic and down-home approach to game calling, combined with stories about growing up in the outdoors in the river hills of southern MO. Jake Hindman, Outdoor Education Center Supervisor at the Jay Henges Shooting Range will be our guest presenter. Jake performs over 50 animal calls with his natural voice. Everyone has a calling in life, Jake's is calling wildlife!

December 28 • Friday • 10 AM–3 PM

11AM and 1PM • Midwest Express Band - Enjoy the music of a hammered dulcimer, guitars, fiddles, vocals, and more as you participate in various bird crafts and activities.

December 29 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

1PM • Missouri Raptors - A program by the MU College of Veterinary Medicine Raptor Rehabilitation Project. Meet owls and other raptors up close and personal. Hear their stories and learn more about these magnificent creatures living in our fields and forests.

Eagle Adventure

January 12 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

- Activities in the Nature Center lobby
- Live Eagle Presentations at 10AM, 11AM, & 1PM
- Eagle Viewing Sites with high-powered scopes
 - Marion Access on Hwy. 179
 - Heisinger Bluffs on their balcony (1002 W. Main, Jefferson City)

