



Oh...the Anticipation!

“What I like about camping is you can get really dirty. Either you’re all by yourself so no one sees you; or everyone you’re with is just as dirty as you are, so nobody cares!”

—Anonymous

Spring has sprung and that means camping season is now open for the Matney family! With the approaching warmer days and cooler nights, we can start searching for a new campsite to visit. Along with the anticipation; we also have to think of preparation. Being prepared to camp is one of the most important aspects of enjoying this outdoor adventure. Here are a few tips from my camping experiences.

Get to your campsite before dark.

Too many times my family has made this mistake. We have arrived after sunset thinking “this is the best site” to waking up in the morning thinking “this is not a good site.” The Matney family’s ideal site has seclusion, shade, and is located near water (river, creek, etc.).

Tarps, tarps, and another tarp.

Tarps are important even if you checked in advance and did not see any rain in the forecast. Tarps have saved my family many times during spring pop up showers, and have provided needed shade. They’re not the most aesthetically pleasing piece for your campsite décor; but it sure is worth it! They also can be put UNDER your tent for added protection against a moist ground.



Being prepared when you go camping makes the experience an enjoyable adventure for everyone involved.

Flashlights (with batteries). Flashlights are a must for nighttime restroom visits. It’s really not fun tripping over sticks, logs, and rocks or getting attacked by briars. Another reason they’re needed? Nighttime hikes! Exploring nature at night is a great family pastime of ours as we search for toads, owls, and furry critters with glowing eyes.

And there is a whole lot more to be prepared for such as what to bring for meals or packing adequate clothing. Look through the newsletter for fun ideas and programs to help you and your family get excited about camping this season. I know I’m ready!

—Becky Matney, Naturalist

Check these websites for your next camping adventure.

Conservation Areas

<http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/applications/moatlas/>

Missouri State Parks

<http://mostateparks.com/activity/camping>

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

<http://www.nps.gov/ozar/planyourvisit/camping.htm>

US Army Corps of Engineers Lakes

<http://corplakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/states.cfm?state=MO>

Mark Twain National Forest Campground

<http://www.forestcamping.com/>

Volunteer News

2012 Awards Ceremony

Runge volunteers and staff celebrated the many programs, events, and projects that took place this past year at the annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony in early December.

Two volunteers were not present during the award ceremony. Janet Ruse who received the Grin and Bear It Award for the volunteer that will do anything asked of her and Andy Tribble who received the Ursa Major Award as the Volunteer of the Year.



Janet Ruse

Andy Tribble



The Three Bears Award was presented to the Nature's Needlers group— Anita Hammann, Sonya Hollingsworth, Gretchen Hanna, and Pam Muffi (award accepted by her sister-Shirley Hicks) for volunteers who work well together.



Judith Lambayan receiving the Care Bear Award for the volunteer who cares for our visitors and other volunteers.



Gabby Lehmuth was presented the Ursa Minor Award for the Teen Volunteer of the Year.

Lobby Exhibit

March/April

Tom Bose Wildlife of Missouri

Since retiring from the Missouri Department of Conservation, Tom Bose has steadily improved his skills as a watercolor artist. Over the years, he has come to cherish Missouri's outdoor treasures and strives to capture their color and variety in his art. Tom hopes his "Wildlife of Missouri" exhibition will inspire everyone to get out and enjoy the wonders of nature.



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

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

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

March Events

Registration begins March 1st
573-526-5544

Sensory Safari

Let's go outside! We will take a "safari" at the nature center this month and let the wonders of spring touch us through all of our senses.

Babes In The Woods

March 12 • Tuesday • 10 AM
March 22 • Friday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

March 8 • Friday • 10 AM
March 21 • Thursday • 10 AM

Little Acorns PLUS

March 9 • Saturday • 10 AM
March 13 • Wednesday • 10 AM

April Events

Registration begins April 1st
573-526-5544

Drip and Drop

Rain, rain, go away, come back another day! Who needs it? We all do! This month, we will have fun playing with rain and maybe even in the rain. It will be a damp, but exciting time.

Babes In The Woods

April 12 • Friday • 10 AM
April 17 • Wednesday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

April 25 • Thursday • 10 AM
April 25 • Thursday • 6 PM

Little Acorns PLUS

April 13 • Saturday • 10 AM
April 16 • Tuesday • 10 AM

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.

Runge Calendar of Events - March

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided to you.



March Events

Registration begins March 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.

Puppet Show: Critters Like Campers

March 9 • Saturday • 1 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Chipmunk is excited because she sees more campers in Missouri's woods. She and Crow remember finding delicious tidbits around campsites. Come listen to them chat with other puppets and discover why Toad, Cricket, and other critters like campers.

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents: Flying Asian Carp

March 14 • Thursday • 7–8 PM

No registration required (adults)

Have you ever seen flying carp? Asian carp can be found in numerous waters in Mid-Missouri. Learn more about this powerful fish, and how it can get in the boat with you! Duane Chapman, a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Columbia, will tell about his interesting studies of carp and other fish.

Story Tree

March 16 • Saturday • 10 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Gather inside around the story tree for fun and frolic with books. We'll let the March winds blow. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

Nature's Needlers

March 21 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18+)

Join us for the third in the *Wetlands* series as we explore the bright and colorful Sunfish. As spring approaches we will "warm up" with the Sunfish and create a quilt block.

Native Plant Sale

March 23 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Refer to back page for details.

Teen Club: Turtle Trapping

March 26 • Tuesday • 1–4 PM

Registration required (ages 12-17)

We would like your help with a survey of the turtle population at Runge. Plan on spending the afternoon learning how to trap and track aquatic turtles. Bring wading boots if you have them. Be ready to get down and dirty. Dress for the weather - it can still be chilly in March, especially if you get wet!

Take a SPRING BREAK at Runge!

March 27 • Wednesday • 10AM–2 PM

March 28 • Thursday • 10AM–2 PM

March 29 • Friday • 10AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

- Tangle with a tent.
- Learn how to build a camp fire (and eat, too!).
- Identify critters that love to visit camp sites.
- Find out what LNT means.
- Participate in games, activities, and more!

Woodcock Walk

March 28 • Thursday • 7 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Peent! Peent! What's that sound...an insect? NO, it's a bird – the woodcock! Join us as we walk the trails in search of the amazing American Woodcock and its unique courtship display.

Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

March 30 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon

Registration required (6-10 years old and accompanied by an adult)

Although 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.

Outdoor Cooking

March 30 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

Registration required (ages 8 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Thinking about going camping this year? Dutch oven cooking is a great way to spend time at your campsite. Participants will be actively involved in preparing and cooking a number of dishes using dutch ovens. We will provide all ingredients and necessary accoutrements.

Calling All Hikers

Runge Hiking Club, Midweek Trekkers, and Nature Walks are volunteer-led programs 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. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Nature Walks: Rockbridge Memorial State Park

March 9 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (8 years of age and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

These walks will be short in length and close to Jefferson City. The first nature walk will be the Devil's Ice Box trail (2 miles) at Rockbridge Memorial State Park outside of Columbia.

Midweek Trekkers: Mule Shoe Conservation Area

March 20 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

This month we'll travel to Mule Shoe Conservation Area located in eastern Hickory County and hike 6 miles (***). Bring lunch.

The Runge Hiking Club: Cuivre River State Park

March 23 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

Join us as we travel to Cuivre River State Park near Troy, MO to hike the Blackhawk Point Trail (6 miles, ***). This is the newest trail at the park. Bring lunch.

Trail rating system

*Easiest trail

**Moderately Easy

***Moderate

****Moderately Difficult

*****Difficult

April Events

Registration begins April 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.

Spring Symphony

April 11 • Thursday • 7 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Spring is here! Join us as we uncover the mysteries of the spring night. We'll start inside to learn about the sounds, then we'll head out on the trails to put our new skills to work as we listen and identify.

Puppet Show: Critters Like Campers

April 13 • Saturday • 1 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Chipmunk is excited because she sees more campers in Missouri's woods. She and Crow remember finding delicious tidbits around campsites. Come listen to them chat with other puppets and discover why Toad, Cricket, and other critters like campers.

Toddler Time

April 17 • Wednesday • 11 AM–Noon

No registration required (ages 0 through 6 years)

This morning we will offer continuous activities inside and outside for the youngest among us. Enjoy discovering nature with your young one.

National Association for Education celebrates the

Week of the Young Child (NAEYC)

www.naeyc.org/yoyc

April 14 – 20

This year's theme is *Early Years Are Learning Years*

Here at Runge, we couldn't agree more. Bring your young person to some of the programs at Runge this week and throughout the year. You are always welcome.

Nature's Needlers

April 18 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18+)

The fourth in the series *Wetlands*, we focus on the crayfish. Join us as we delve further into the *Wonderful Wetlands* and receive instructions on how to create a quilt block.

Story Tree on the Trail

April 20 • Saturday • 10 AM

No registration required (all ages)

For fun and frolic with books, find us **outside** on Naturescape Trail as the soft breezes of April blow. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

Worm Bin Basics

April 20 • Saturday • 10:30 AM–Noon

Registration required (all ages)

Learn to make your own worm bin. Feed your garbage to the worms, then put the resulting compost in your garden. Finally, use the little red wigglers for fish bait.

Cardinals & Coffee - A Bird Walk

April 24 • Wednesday • 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.

Story Tree on the Trail

April 25 • Thursday • 6 PM

No registration required (all ages)

For fun and frolic with books, find us **outside** on Naturescape Trail as the soft breezes of April blow. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

Discover Nature-Women: Camping Basics

April 27 • Saturday • 9 AM–Noon

Registration required (women ages 18+)

Are you interested in camping, but not sure where to start or what to take? Here's your opportunity to learn camping basics. Learn how to build a campfire, how to set up a tent, and find out what type of cooking style you prefer while out on your adventure. We will also give tips on what to pack and where to go.

Calling All Hikers

Runge Hiking Club, Midweek Trekkers, and Nature Walks are volunteer-led programs 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. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Midweek Trekkers: Cuivre River State Park

April 17 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

We will travel to **Cuivre River State Park** near Troy, MO to explore the thickly vegetated flood plain of Big Sugar Creek. We'll hike the north loop of Big Sugar Creek trail (6 miles, ***). Bring lunch.

Nature Walks: Three Creeks Conservation Area

April 20 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (8 years of age and older. Children must be accompanied by and adult.)

This month, our nature walk will take us to **Three Creeks Conservation Area** south of Columbia. There are numerous trails on this area and we'll be walking 1.5 miles of a trail on the south edge of the area.

The Runge Hiking Club: Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area

April 27 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

Located in Maries county, this area has become a must go place for spring and early summer wildflowers. The trail meanders along a creek with numerous bluffs and woodland areas to enjoy (5 miles, ****). Bring lunch.

Calling All Photographers

What have you seen at Runge?



Donna Wankum

20th Birthday Photo Exhibit

Runge will be celebrating 20 years as a part of the Jefferson City community this July. If you have captured some of your outdoor excursions at Runge 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.

Regional Workshops

Training Opportunities

Prescribed Fire Workshop

This informative workshop will help landowners improve their property by learning how to conduct prescribed burns. Topics include: burn planning, preparation, equipment needs and availability.

February 27 • Wednesday • 6:30-9 PM – Call 573-564-3715, ext 3 (Jamie Barton)
Location: Montgomery City Library, 224 North Allen Street, Montgomery City

Pond Workshops

Learn about fish and wildlife management, pond site selection, pond construction, fish stocking, and aquatic vegetation. Reservations are required.

March 5 • Tuesday • 6:30-9 PM – Call 573-815-7900
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 – Call 573-815-7900
Location: Central Regional Office, 3500 E. Gans Road, Columbia.

March 19 • Tuesday • 6:30-9 PM – Call 573-796-0286 ext. 24 (Scott Williams)
Location: Conservation Employees Credit Union Basement, 2901 West Truman Blvd., Jefferson City.

Discover Nature-Hunting: NRA-Pistol Orientation

Participants will learn the basics of pistol shooting safety, techniques, equipment and much more. This program will consist of classroom lessons followed by shooting exercises on the range.

March 16 • Saturday • 9AM-3 PM – Call 573-815-7901 ext. 3388 (Brian Flowers)
Location: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2727 Wesley Street, Jefferson City

Forest and Wildlife Workshop for Landowners

Learn about timber management practices to improve the forests and wildlife habitats on your land, meet forestry and wildlife professionals, see quail management using native plants, and learn about cost-share opportunities for private landowners. Lunch provided. Reservations are required by April 11.

April 13 • Saturday • 9AM-1 PM – Call 573-564-3715 ext. 3 (Jamie Barton)
Location: Bill and Margie Haag Property. (From Portland: from the intersection of Hwy D and Hwy 94, take Hwy 94 east 2.8 miles to a private drive to Little Tavern Creek. Take the private drive north for 1 mile to Haag property.)

What's Going On?

Programs and activities at Runge Nature Center

Every Saturday At Runge 10AM–2 PM *No registration required (all ages)*

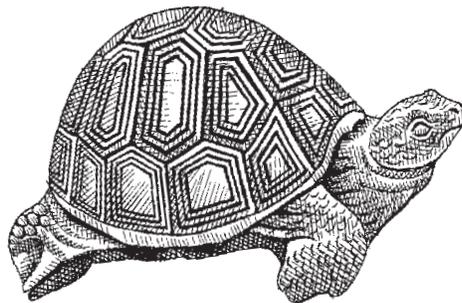
The Runge Nature Center offers exploratory tables, activities, and/or crafts every Saturday throughout the year. Stop in to see what adventure awaits you during our "What's Going On?" at the nature center.

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.



Turtle Time

March 19 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (March 1 through 15)

Calling all herpetologists! It is turtle time. It's your time to encounter and learn about turtles, the oldest living reptiles on Earth.

Bird Watching

April 16 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (April 1 through April 12)

It's a bird. No. It's a plane. No. It's a yellow-bellied Sapsucker! Want to learn how to better identify birds in your neighborhood? Birds of a feather flock together, so let's flock together and search high and low for our fine-feathered friends. Bring your own binoculars and a field guide or some will be provided.

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, March 19 and Tuesday, April 16. **Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.**

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, March 23

10 AM-3 PM

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.

Vendors

*Andy's Native Plant Company- Steelville
Missouri Wildflower Nursery- Jefferson City
Forrest Keeling Nursery-Elsberry*

Exhibitors

*Missouri Prairie Foundation: Grow Native
Lincoln University: Native Plants Program*