



The Unlikely Giving Tree *The 75th Anniversary of Rockwoods Reservation*

Where were you on June 27, 1938, 75 years ago? Maybe you were a young child playing in the woods or like me... weren't even born. Rockwoods Reservation, on the other hand, was stepping into a whole new world. The forests that we know and love today weren't here and the land was just purchased by the newly formed Missouri Conservation Commission to be the first purchased land for the Missouri Department of Conservation. However, Rockwoods Reservation's future was not so easy to predict.

Much like Shel Silverstien's *The Giving Tree*, Rockwoods was a provider to the people who lived and struggled for survival here. Each era

of human use passed to the next as resources were exhausted and new resources exploited. Rockwoods' story began prior to the 1800's with fur trappers and Native Americans trapping game to trade fur pelts in St. Louis markets. The story changed over the years as Rockwoods saw different types of use: clearing and farming the valleys and ridge tops in the 1800's to 1830's, logging trees for railroads and St. Louis homes in the 1830's to 1850's, and then cutting and blasting limestone bluffs for brick mortar and agricultural lime in the 1860's to the 1930's. Rockwoods Reservation has quite literally been stripped of all its resources from a history full of human struggle, hard work and survival off the land.

Rockwoods Reservation's story turned a very drastic corner on June 27, 1938 when it was purchased for just \$30 an acre. The past 75 years have been a time of recovery, new growth and new beginnings for nature and for the people who come to visit. Instead of looking back at this early history and see sorrow, I look ahead and am inspired about the power of nature

I hope you will join us this June at Rockwoods Reservation; come to a program or view our new exhibits to celebrate 75 years, and take a closer look at the past human disturbance to find how nature can recover through conservation practices. We think you'll be surprised by what you find.

by KEVIN MCCARTHY, Interpretive Center Manager

Memories of Rockwoods - Photo Exhibit

We'd like to show off all the great memories that you've created with your family and friends at Rockwoods. All photos will be on display in June and at the anniversary event on June 27.

Submission Guidelines:

- Submit up to three photos per family.
- Family friendly content only.
- Include date and location of photo. We are looking for all eras of Rockwoods, all the way back to the 1930's.
- Size, no larger than 5x7 in.
- No photos will be returned. All photos will be archived following the closing of the display.
- Copies of prints can be dropped off or mailed to Rockwoods Reservation, ATTN: Memories of Rockwoods, 2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038
- Email and scanned digital images can be emailed to Kevin.McCarthy@mdc.mo.gov
- Please submit no later than June 19.



Many mine workers lived in small rental houses as they quarried for limestone, moving rock to the lime kilns in small cars on narrow gage rail

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis

I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over highway 44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka

I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 PM

Thursday–Sunday: 10 AM–4:30 PM

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 AM–4:30 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. If calling, leave a detailed message on ext. 21. Reservations will be accepted beginning at 12:00 AM on the day of registration. You will be contacted for confirmation. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Basic Shotgun

June 8 • Saturday • 1–3:30 PM

(Ages 11 and up)

This is for beginning shooters who want to learn the correct way to get started in shotgun sports. We will discuss appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, and vision. All participants will

have an opportunity to break some clay targets after the classroom portion of the program. The shooting portion of this program is not appropriate for children under 90 lbs. weight. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin 12 AM May 8.)

Introduction to the Atlatl

June 13 • Thursday • 6–8 PM

(Ages 11 and up)

Come join us for a fun and informative introduction to the atlatl, an ancient device that predates the bow and arrow. The atlatl can throw darts, which are several feet long, at speeds of almost 100 miles per hour. Ron Mertz, past president of the World Atlatl Association, will give a presentation on the history and use of the atlatl, and then everyone will get to try their hand at throwing darts with this unique device. Effort=Moderate (Reservations begin 12 AM May 13.)

Basic Handgun, Part 1 and 2

June 13 and 15 • Thursday • 6–8 PM

and • Saturday • 8–9:30 AM

(Ages 16 and up)

This two-part program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin 12 AM May 13.)

Trigger Time–Handgun

June 16 • Sunday • 8:30–9:30 AM

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. Participants are required

to provide their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin 12 AM May 16.)

Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

June 17–21 • Monday–Friday •

9 AM–3 PM

(Ages 11–15)

Youth Hunter Education day camp incorporates the Missouri Hunter Education certification course as well as shooting activities and other hunting and outdoor-related skills. A birth certificate is required for age verification. Participants will bring their own lunches Monday through Thursday. Thursday’s programs will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center. (Reservations begin 12 AM May 17.)

Women’s Shooting Sports Sampler

June 24 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM

(Ages 11 and up)

Are you interested in the shooting sports, but have no experience with guns or bows? Here’s your opportunity! Join us for a “try-it-out” evening at the range. We’ll offer you a chance to try different types of firearms as well as archery equipment. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin 12 AM May 24.)

Youth .22 Rifle

June 29 Saturday 8–9:30 AM

(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. Effort=Mild. (Reservations begin 12 AM May 29.)

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Introduction to Firearms

June 5 • Wednesday • 6–9 PM

(Ages 12 and up)

During this program we will discuss the serious issue of educating all people, especially children, about the importance of firearm safety. Each participant will have an opportunity to learn about a variety of firearms and how they work. The instructors will also discuss safe handling and storage in the home and explain the different uses for each type of firearm as they relate to target shooting and hunting. This class will have no live-fire session. It is intended for people with little or no experience with firearms. We will meet at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin May 6.)

Hunter Ed Day Camp

June 10–14 • Monday–Friday • 9 AM–3 PM

(Ages 11–15)

During this week long camp the students will complete the Missouri Hunter Education certification requirements along with additional training in the different firearms, rifle, shotgun and other activities. These activities will include indoor classroom activities and outdoor activities. Dress for the weather; bring a sack lunch and drinks. Insect repellent and sunscreen may be useful. Each morning we will meet at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin May 10.)



Basic Archery

June 11 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM

(Ages 10 and up)

This program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided for this Basic Archery class. This course will take place at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center broadhead pits. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Children ages 10–16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin May 13.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM and Tuesday: 2–8 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** Monday through Friday 8 AM–5 PM.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Women's Firearm Sampler

June 26 and 27 • Wednesday and Thursday • 6–9 PM

(Ages 12 and up)

This program is designed to teach new students to safely handle and shoot shotgun, rifle, revolver, and pistol. Wednesday, we'll meet at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. We will discuss safety, firearm actions, ammunition, grip, stance, and sight picture for target shooting and hunting. Thursday we will meet at Busch Shooting Range for live-fire practice. We will provide firearms and ammunition. This is a beginner class, and you must attend the clinic in order to participate in the live-fire session. Children ages 12–16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin May 28.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From Highway 44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Trails: Daily: 8 AM–8 PM DST

8 AM–6 PM CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Morning Hike

June 4 • Tuesday • 9–10:30 AM

(Ages 4–7)

Summer is almost here! Let's go outside to see what nature has to offer at this time of year. Join us for a 2/3 mile hike on the beautiful Broken Ridge Trail at Powder Valley. While on the trail, we can search for signs of the new season. We will meet at the nature center first, to discuss a few of the plants and animals that we may see. Binoculars will be provided. (Reservations begin May 21.)

Down and Dirty

June 5 • Wednesday • 9:30–11:30 AM

(Ages 3–6)

Remember the old days of mud pits and mud pies? Do you find yourself asking your child not to get dirty? Here is the chance to relive some of the joys of our childhood with your own children. We'll provide the dirt; you bring the clean clothes for the ride home!

In today's world, "screen" time has by far surpassed "nature" time. While we used to play outside until the street lights came on, or the sun sank below the horizon, children today are not experiencing these same interactions

with the natural world. "Nature Deficit Disorder," a term coined by author Richard Louv, attributes increases in obesity, attention deficit disorder and depression in children to our disconnect from nature.

Adults, separate from the children, will learn about the importance of unstructured play and nature exploration for the healthy development of young children. At the same time, children will be supervised by our naturalists as they use their imaginations to get down and dirty in our big pile of dirt! (Reservations begin May 21.)

Morning Hike

June 7 • Friday • 9–11 AM

(Ages 8–11)

Summer is almost here! Let's go outside to see what nature has to offer at this time of year. Join us for a 2/3 mile hike on the beautiful Broken Ridge Trail at Powder Valley. While on the trail, we can search for signs of the new season. We will meet at the nature center first, to discuss a few of the plants and animals that we may see. Binoculars will be provided. (Reservations begin May 24.)

Hallway Exhibit: Webster Groves Nature Study Society



With over 250 active members, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS) is one of the largest non-professional natural history organizations in Missouri. Members of WGNSS have a diverse array of interests including botany, ornithology, entomology and conservation, much of which is focused primarily on Missouri's natural communities. Founded in 1920 by naturalists living in Webster Groves, WGNSS retains its original name for historical reasons though its membership has expanded far beyond the St. Louis area.

WGNSS is a great place to meet others who are interested in natural history. The WGNSS newsletter "Nature Notes" has a full description of all the activities occurring each month. A calendar of events may be found at www.wgnss.org. Visitors and guests are welcome at all WGNSS events.

WGNSS held its first digital photo competition this year. Over 120 photos were submitted in four categories, Botany, Entomology, Ornithology and Habitat. Winning photos are on display this month at the nature center.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Getting Antsy

June 18 • Tuesday • 9:30–11:30 AM
(Ages 6 and up)

What kind of animal eats more insects than birds? What moves more dirt around than earthworms? What lives an even more structured social life than bees? Hint: it has 6 legs and lives underground. Yes! It's the ant! In this program we will discover more about ants and their astonishing variety of life styles. (Reservations begin June 4.)

Pond Study at Jay Henges Shooting Range

June 24 • Monday • 9:30–11 AM
(Families ages 8 and up)

What's a macroinvertebrate? How do we measure the health of a pond? Come and explore the pond at Henges and we'll discover the world of aquatic ecology! We'll meet at the Jay Henges Shooting Range Outdoor Education Center, located at Highway 44 and Beaumont/Antire Road. (Reservations begin June 7.)

Hummingbird Happenings

June 25 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 AM
(Ages 6 and up)

What a joy it is to see hummingbirds buzzing around! What amazing birds they are! Our familiar ruby-throated hummingbirds beat their wings about 75 times a second and can fly up to 60 miles an hour! Although they only weigh as much as a penny or two, they can fly hundreds of miles over the Gulf of Mexico to winter in Central America. Learn more about hummingbirds this morning, including how to attract and feed them. (Reservations begin June 11.)

You and Me under the Canopy

June 27 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM
(Ages birth – 8)

Families, meet for a "nature" adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won't be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the canopy. Registration is not required and siblings are welcome! (In case of inclement weather the program will be shortened to 30 minutes.)



mdconline

Missouri Department of Conservation

Discover Nature through Music with John Nilsen at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

June 7 • Friday • 7 PM



One of the Northwest's largest selling musical artists, John Nilsen began studying classical piano at age 6. Since then, his music has touched the lives of millions of listeners through his CDs, radio, concerts, and his record label, Magic Wing. John gains inspiration for some of his music through the beauty of nature, and comes straight from Oregon to perform for us. www.johnnilsen.com (Please call for reservations)

"As a performer, I like exploring beyond the boundaries of my recorded songs. It gives me the chance to offer something special, spontaneous and personal to my audience. The entire performance hinges on the connection not only between the players, but with the audience as well." ~ John Nilsen ~

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Saturday–Sunday: 8 AM–4 PM

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** 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. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



Twilight Bike Ride

June 21 • Friday • 6:30–9 PM

(Ages 10 and up)

Celebrate the first day of summer by biking to the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers at Columbia Bottom. The full moon rises over the Confluence as we bike from the Visitor Center, stopping at several of the exploration stations along the way. As the summer sun sinks in the west, we'll make our return trip. Total distance will be about 10 miles. All riders must have a bike helmet and a mounted light on their bike. (Reservations begin June 7.)

Day Camp:

Lights, Camera, Nature!

June 17–20 • Monday–Thursday •

10 AM–2 PM

(Ages 9–12)

Lights, Camera, Nature! Come and experience nature in a dramatic and thematic way. Our day camp will bring important nature themes from some of the best nature-related movies. Kids will practice outdoor skills while taking hints from some of our favorite movies. Be prepared to be tossed into the wonderful world of movies amidst Columbia Bottom's 4000+ acres. Participants must attend all four days and bring a sack lunch. Please ask for a waiver when signing up. The waiver must be filled out by a parent or guardian. Your child's reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of the completed waiver. (Reservations begin May 15 and end June 7.)

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Dr. to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Programs are free. Call 314-877-1309 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. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

program will meet at Picnic Island between the Grand Basin and the Dwight Davis Tennis Center. Participants should wear shoes that can get wet. Bring a water bottle, hat, sunscreen and snack to join in the fun! (Reservations begin May 14.)

What's In Your Watershed?

June 8 • Saturday • 9–11 AM

(All ages)

Water flows in powerful and mysterious ways, collecting and depositing much along its path. Visit our table top Enviroscape model for a demonstration to better understand our Mississippi River watershed. We'll look at point-source and non-point source pollution as well as erosion, sedimentation and how human activity can affect all of us. (No reservations required.)

Aquatic Adventures

June 4 • Tuesday • 12–2 PM

(Ages 6–12)

Games, activities and exploration will fill the afternoon as we splash away at Picnic Island in Forest Park. This shallow waterway is just the spot to dip our feet in. This

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



A company store (above) provided groceries and supplies for mine workers living and working the land. This same building was converted into an office and visitor center for Rockwoods Reservation in 1938. It was demolished in the 1950's when the current Visitor Center was built



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; turn left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; turn right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** 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. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

75th Anniversary of Rockwoods Reservation

June 27 • Thursday • 1–9 PM

Take a closer look at Rockwoods' history to find clues of past human disturbance and find how nature has recovered through 75 years of conservation practices. Celebrate the original purchase date of June 27, 1938, when Rockwoods became the first purchased Conservation Area for all citizens of Missouri to enjoy. Space is limited, so be sure to request your free tickets early. (Reservations begin June 3.)

Schedule:

1–5 PM

Naturalist Guided Programs: 45 minutes each, starting at 1, 2, 3 and 4 PM. Limited to 25 participants per session.

- Living in Rockwoods Wilderness
- Buried Treasures of Rockwoods
- Rockwoods Forest, Past, Present and Future
- Historic Farming

5–7 PM

Family Picnic: Nature Games and Rockwoods Scavenger Hunt – Leisure Time: Gather on the open lawn under the walnut trees for a family picnic. We'll provide the BBQ pits, you bring the food. The Rockwoods valley will be open to your family to spread out, eat and play nature games at your leisure. We'll also have a self-guided *Rockwoods Scavenger Hunt*, photos with Smokey Bear and photos with a historic MDC Forestry Truck.

7–9 PM

Ozark Mountain Concert in the Rockwoods Valley: An outdoor concert with authentic Ozark music from folk masters Barton, Para, Fraser and Hansen. The music is masterfully delivered whether it be a driving square dance tune or a soulful ballad re-created using authentic Ozark instruments. Flatpicking, frailing, sawing and singing on guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, and piano with tight vocal harmonies are all packed into the performance. (All ages, lawn seating.)

For more Rockwoods Naturalist Guided Programs , please see page 8

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

MTC Hike: Resident Birds and Other Animals

June 1 • Saturday • 7:30 AM–1 PM
(Adults)

Join us for an early morning, 5 mile hike at the Marais Temps Clair (MTC) Conservation Area. We will be looking for resident birds and other animals that make their home at MTC. Your MDC naturalist guides will provide spotting scopes to view wildlife from a distance. Birds are most active in the early morning hours when temperatures are usually mild and comfortable. Effort = Moderate. (Reservations begin May 17.)



Plan ahead . . .

Youth Frog Gigging Clinic

July 8 • Monday • 6 PM–12 AM
(Ages 11–15 accompanied by adult mentor)

In this clinic, we'll teach you how to hunt frogs at night using a technique called gigging. Gigging for frogs is an entertaining and unique summer pastime that can be enjoyed by all. Learn about frog habitat, the basics of frog gigging, necessary equipment, and gigging rules and regulations. When it gets dark, we'll head to the lakes to actually go frog gigging! Afterwards, we'll demonstrate how to clean and cook your frogs, and everyone will get to taste a sample of real frog legs! (Reservations begin June 1.)

Volunteer Milestones

Judy Huck	400 hours
Marilynn Motchan	500 hours
Mellanie Sandfort	500 hours



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Area: Daily: 4 AM–10 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** 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. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Rockwoods Reservation

Naturalist Guided Program Series

Living in Rockwoods Wilderness

May 26 • Sunday • 1–3 PM or June 3 • Monday • 5–7 PM
(Families ages 8 and up)

Experience what it was like to be a trapper exploring the forests of Rockwoods Reservation hundreds of years ago. We'll hike 2 miles to see if we have what it takes to survive in the wilderness. Please dress for the outdoors and bring a water bottle. Difficulty = Moderate. (Reservations begin May 12.)

Historic Farming at Rockwoods Reservation

June 6 • Thursday • 10 AM–12 PM or June 8 • Saturday • 10 AM–12 PM
(Families all ages)

Come learn about and be a part of Rockwoods history. We'll learn how and what early settlers grew and farmed on the land that is now Rockwoods Reservation. You will also do your own farming project to take home. (Reservations begin May 23.)

Rockwoods Forest: Past, Present and Future

June 12 • Wednesday • 9–11 AM or June 15 • Saturday • 9–11 AM
(Families ages 8 and up)

Join us on a 1.5 mile hike as we explore the past, present and future of one of Rockwoods' most beautiful features, its trees! Effort = Moderate. (Reservations begin May 29.)

Buried Treasures at Rockwoods

June 20 • Thursday • 9–11 AM or June 22 • Saturday • 9–11 AM
(Families all ages)

Dig deep into the world of mining. Learn how Rockwoods was shaped by miners and visit some historic structures that remind us of how the landscape once looked not too long ago. (Reservations begin June 5.)