

Nature Connections

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • September/October 2013



Serving Nature And You For 25 Years

While a lot can change in 25 years, some things remain the same. On a clear, beautiful fall day on October 6, 1988, the Springfield Conservation Nature Center was dedicated. Since that ribbon-cutting ceremony, many changes have taken place on this area originally dubbed "Springfield's Back Forty."

The most notable change is undoubtedly the growth that has occurred in southeast Springfield. When the nature center first opened, green space was common and the closest fast-food restaurant was located at Republic Road and National. Early visitors exited the area by pulling directly into south Glenstone traffic and turning left was not a feat for the fainthearted. A single wild turkey was occasionally spotted, viewing deer was not an everyday occurrence, and a road-killed armadillo was found near the entrance. Staff and volunteers have come and gone throughout the years and the faces of many of our visitors have also changed. Even the street name was changed to Nature Center Way by the requests of nearby merchants who now advertise their location as "on your way to the nature center."

Today, partly because of urban sprawl, deer and turkey abound and deer populations are now being managed by archery only hunts at nearby Lake Springfield Park. Armadillos have made their slow trek northward and now breed here.

Other things have remained unchanged. Nature Center Manager Linda Chorce (first hired as a naturalist), Maintenance Supervisor Eric McMillan, and Office Supervisor Debbie Baker have worked here since the center opened. Remarkably, three



Here to serve both nature and you today and into the future

volunteers have also volunteered for 25 years. Don Brink, Betty Johnson, and Amy Short are all active on a monthly basis and, together, have donated more than 9,600 hours of service! This group of six staff and volunteers, recently nicknamed the "nature center six-pack," represents only a small portion of the dedicated staff and volunteer corps. Both Short and Brink will be part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration program lineup (see flier insert) and Johnson will be active with her various behind-the-scenes roles. Despite the external changes, the dedication of the staff and volunteers to conservation and to helping people discover nature through programs and one-on-one interactions has stayed the same.

The faces of our visitors have also changed. For many of our "regulars," the changes are subtle because we have seen them on a nearly daily basis for 25 years. Today, a second generation of nature center visitors is coming—proof that the original seeds of planting an interest in conservation are now bearing fruit. Once as children attending programs, young adults are now bringing their

own kids to the programs they enjoyed. And the adults that faithfully brought their kids to the nature center on a regular basis are bringing their grandkids today. Through a 2011 visitor use survey, we also learned that more minorities are now visiting as Greene County has become more diverse.

Since that ribbon-cutting ceremony, nearly 2.4 million guests have visited the building and nearly double that number have enjoyed the three miles of trails traversing a variety of different habitats. More than 800,000 have learned about conservation directly by participating in hundreds of presentations offered annually. While these numbers are significant, the most important value is your individual experience. As communities continue to grow and green space shrinks, the need to connect with nature will be even more critical in the future. Your Springfield Conservation Nature Center will be here to serve both nature and you today and into the future. It's what we do and why we are here. That fact remains unchanged.

—Linda Chorce, Nature Center Manager

We help people discover nature.

Joplin Office in the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center

201 W. Riviera Drive, Suite B, Joplin, MO 64804 • mdc.mo.gov/node/292



The Joplin Conservation Office, located in the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, is your local connection to Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife. Stop by and purchase hunting and fishing permits, attend a nature program, go for a hike, enjoy a picnic, or access Shoal Creek. Within the 190 acres of Wildcat Park, you will find a diverse mix of wildlife habitats rich with flora and fauna. From I-44, take exit 6, and turn south on MO-86. Turn right on Riviera Drive to enter Wildcat Park.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
Closed all state holidays.
Audubon Center hours vary.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-629-3423 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.

Ask The Naturalist

How can we help monarch butterflies?

Monarchs used to be one of the most common butterflies but their numbers are dwindling due to habitat loss, use of herbicide, and natural causes like the unusual very hot and dry weather during the two previous summers. You can help! Plant milkweed plants in your yard. Butterfly weed is a compact plant with beautiful orange flowers. For a taller plant, the large, dusty rose blossoms of common milkweed make an interesting addition to any yard. If you carefully observe the leaves, you might spot the striped monarch caterpillars munching away. Don't forget to limit your use of herbicides and insecticides. Also, encourage any friends or family members in Gulf Coast states to leave strips of green vegetation and milkweeds for the returning butterflies (and migrating birds too). Support organizations that urge the preservation of the overwintering forest sites in Mexico, as well.

Learn more about monarchs at these websites: <xplor.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/monarch>, <monarch-butterfly.com>, <monarchwatch.org>, and <www.learner.org/jnorth/>.

—Cyndi Cogbill, Public Service Assistant

September and October Events

Family Fishing

September 5 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Walter Woods Conservation Area (Joplin)
Registration required (families)
Join us for a relaxing evening of catch-and-release family fishing. Bring your own poles or borrow ours. We will teach basic fishing and supply the bait. A fishing permit is required for Missouri residents ages 16 to 64 and nonresidents ages 16 and up.

Introduction To Trapping

September 10 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM
Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center (Joplin)
Registration required (ages 10 and up)
Do you have an interest in trapping? Join us to get the basics of trapping on land and in the water. The program will include an outdoor portion with some sets.



Introduction to Archery

September 26 • Thursday • 6–7:30 PM
Kellogg Lake (Carthage)
Registration required (ages 7 and up)
Learn the fundamental skills and safety of archery shooting. You will learn bow nomenclature, hand set, bow set, pre-draw, stance, and much more. You may bring your own bow or use the bows we have available.

Trapping Clinic

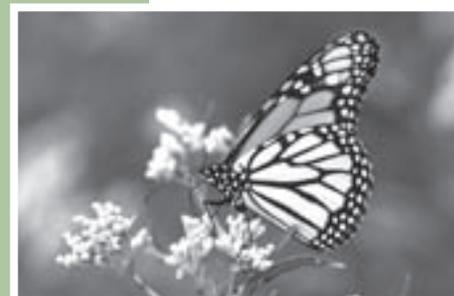
October 5 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM
October 6 • Sunday • 6 AM–12 NOON
Robert E. Talbot Conservation Area (near Mt. Vernon)
Call 417-629-3423 to register or 417-461-4586 for more information. (ages 10 and up)
Learn how to trap all species of furbearers in a dry land or water setting. The clinic will be conducted in a one-on-one setting with students working side-by-side with experts in the field. Students will have the opportunity to gain a fundamental knowledge of trapping through a hands-on approach. Skills developed will include trap setting, skinning, and complete fur handling.

Cable Restraint Workshop

October 6 • Sunday • 1–4 PM
Robert E. Talbot Conservation Area (near Mt. Vernon)
Registration required (ages 10 and up)
This course is required before you can use cable restraint devices. You will learn how to responsibly and effectively use cable restraints as a humane and effective tool for trapping.

Field To Freezer

October 18 • Friday • 6:30–8:30 PM
Wildcat Glades Conservation And Audubon Center (Joplin)
Registration required (ages 7 and up)
Don Scott, taxidermist and meat processor, will demonstrate techniques on field dressing your deer, preparing it for a taxidermist, and cutting and packaging deer meat for the freezer. A real deer will be used for the demonstration.



Monarch Butterfly

Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

4897 N. Farm Road 61, Ash Grove, MO 65604 • mdc.mo.gov/node/288

Tree Stand Safety

- Most tree stand accidents (75–80 percent) occur while people are climbing in or out of the tree stand. Most hunters injured were not wearing a fall restraint system.
- The severity of injuries tends to increase with distance of the fall; however, even short falls can cause spinal injuries, paralysis, or death.
- ALWAYS wear a Fall Arrest System (FAS)/ Full Body Harness meeting TMA (Treestand Manufacturer's Association) standards even during ascent and descent. Be aware that single strap belts and chest harnesses are no longer allowed as fall arrest devices and should not be used.
- ALWAYS inspect the tree stand and the Fall Arrest System for signs of wear or damage before each use. Contact the manufacturer for replacement parts. Destroy all products that cannot be repaired by the manufacturer and/or exceed recommended expiration dates or if the manufacturer no longer exists. The FAS should be discarded and replaced after a fall has occurred.
- Always use a haul line to pull up your gear and unloaded firearm or bow to your tree stand. Never climb with anything in your hands or on your back. Don't forget to secure your equipment in the tree before beginning your hunt. Before descending, lower your equipment on the opposite side of the tree.
- Always select the proper tree for use with your tree stand. Select a live, straight tree that fits within the size limits recommended in your tree stand's instructions.
- Always hunt with a plan and, if possible, with a buddy. Let others know your exact hunting location, when you plan to return, and with whom you are hunting.
- While climbing with a tree stand, make slow, even movements of no more than 10–12 inches at a time. Have proper contact with the tree and/or tree stand every time you move and follow the 3-point rule. (Always have 3 points of contact while climbing into or out of your tree stand.)
- Know your physical limitations. Don't take chances. If you start thinking about how high you are, don't go any higher.

For a free online tree stand safety course, visit this link: [<huntercourse.com/treestandsafety/>](http://huntercourse.com/treestandsafety/).

For more tree stand safety information, check out this link: [<tmastands.com/index.html>](http://tmastands.com/index.html)

Holiday Closings

September 2 • Labor Day
October 14 • Columbus Day

September and October Events

Rifle Shooting Basics

September 14 • Saturday • 8:30–11:30 AM
Registration required (all ages)

Join us to discover the joys of shooting one of the all-time favorite rifles—the .22 rifle. We will discuss rifle nomenclature, dominant eye, sight picture, sight alignment, breath control, trigger squeeze, shooting positions, and much more. You may use our rifles or plan to use your own. Please make sure your rifle is completely unloaded before you arrive at the range.

Basic Modern Muzzleloaders

September 21 • Saturday • 8:30–11:30 AM
Registration required (all ages)

Join us to learn the basics of safely loading and shooting a modern in-line muzzleloading rifle. We will discuss all aspects of loading, shooting, and cleaning.

Great Outdoors Day

September 28 • Saturday • 8:30 AM–3 PM
No registration required (all ages)

The 19th annual *Great Outdoors Day* will be held on the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area and at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center. This event encourages participation in the shooting sports of archery, rifles, handguns, and shotguns located at the range and fishing, camping, fly tying, and canoeing at the Aquatic Resource Education Pond located on the area. All firearms and ammunition are provided and no personal firearms are allowed.

Effective Wing Shooting For The Hunter

October 19 • Saturday • 8:30 AM–3 PM
Registration required (all ages)

Join us for this premier wing shooting program to learn about wounding rates in waterfowl, performance differences of steel and lead shotshells, and how to improve your wing shooting and distance estimation skills.

Invasive Species Shoot

October 26 • Saturday • 5–7 PM
No registration required (all ages)

We have gained special intelligence that some animals have caught the zombie disease! Come out and join us in practicing your marksmanship skills against these new threats to our wonderful wildlife. While the chance of encountering one of these new zombie threats in our native setting is slim, you still need to be prepared just in case! Firearms, ammunition, and special targets will be provided for this special, creepy program.



To get to the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center, take US Highway 160 west of Willard, turn south on Farm Road 61, and go 2.5 miles, facility on the west side of road. Facilities include an outdoor education center and archery, rifle, pistol, and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

September 14–April 14

Monday and Thursday: 9 AM–4:30 PM

Friday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

April 15–September 13

Monday: 9 AM–4:30 PM

Thursday: 9 AM–7:30 PM

Friday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and all state holidays. Hours are subject to change.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

Available for individual and group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range fee: \$3 per booth per hour
- Trap/skeet range fee: \$3 per person per round of 25 clay targets
- Shotgun patterning range: \$3 per person per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Group use fee: \$20 per hour plus \$3 per round of 25 clay targets

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-742-4361 or email [<DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov>](mailto:DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov) 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.

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, MO 65804 • mdc.mo.gov/node/287



The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). Indoors, 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 a variety of natural communities. Call to schedule a naturalist-led program for your organized group.

CURRENT HOURS:

March 1–October 31

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Sunday: Noon–5 PM

Closed Monday

Trails: Sunday–Saturday: 8 AM–8 PM

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-888-4237 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to others.

September Events

Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

September 11 • Wednesday • 11–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 2–6)

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

Babes In The Woods

September 13 • Friday • 10–11 AM

September 14 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 0–2)

Flutter in with your 0–2 year old and learn about beautiful monarch butterflies with Volunteer Naturalist Dana Tideman. Bring a stroller and join the fun.

Temporary Exhibits

September • Living Water

Nature Photography by *Becky Joseph*

October • 25th Anniversary Exhibits

September Events

Monarchs Rule!

September 14 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 5 and up)

Every fall millions of monarch butterflies wing over the Ozarks to their winter home in Mexico. Join Volunteer Naturalists Bob and Ruby Ball and Dana Tideman for an indoor/outdoor adventure to explore the fascinating behavior and life cycle of these beautiful travelers.

Hike For Homeschoolers

September 18 • Wednesday • 1–3 PM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 5 and up)

Join us for a naturalist-guided hike and learn about the plants and animals that live at the nature center. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and feel free to bring journals, cameras, and binoculars.

Conservation TEEN Club Missouri Snakes

September 18 • Wednesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 12–17)

Come and learn about both venomous and nonvenomous snakes that call Missouri home. You will get to see and touch (if you want) some of Missouri's nonvenomous snakes. Snacks and drinks will be provided after the program.

Backpacking For Beginners

September 19 • Thursday • 7–9 PM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 10 and up)

Join avid outdoorsmen Volunteer Specialist Don Brink and special guest Richard Donaldson for an introduction to backpacking. Learn about the types of equipment, things beginners should know, and places to go in the Ozarks. After attending this program, you'll be ready to venture out on your own.

Nature Art With A Chinese Brushstroke

September 20 • Friday • 1–2, 2:15–3:15, or 3:30–4:30 PM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 8 and up)

Art instructor and nature enthusiast Hing Wah Hatch will increase your powers of observation as she demonstrates, step-by-step, how to capture the essence of local plants and animals through Chinese-style painting. Participants will go home with more nature knowledge and their own artistic masterpiece. Stop by anytime between 1–4pm to observe. *The 3:30 class is for ages 15 and up.*

Conservation Showboat Outdoor Movie Night

September 20 • Friday • 7:30–9:15 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Bring the entire family to enjoy a night of nature movies under the stars projected from the Conservation Department's first public information vehicle—a restored 1946 Chevrolet panel wagon called the "Showboat." First launched in 1937, the Showboat was used to help educate Missourians about forest fires. After a short history of conservation programs, enjoy a nature movie for all ages. A feature presentation (geared more toward adults) will begin at approximately 8pm. Bring your own chairs and beverages (nonalcoholic) and we'll provide the popcorn and fun. Showing: *A Snakes' Tale* (20 minutes) and *Green Fire—Aldo Leopold And A Land Ethic For Our Time* (74 minutes).

Hiking Club

September 21 • Saturday • 8 AM–3 PM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 18 and up)

Explore the *Homesteaders Trail* on the Henning Conservation Area with Volunteer Naturalist Sandy Vaughn. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. **Hike is approximately four miles and rated moderate to difficult.**

Migrating Water Birds

September 25 • Wednesday • 9–11 AM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 6 and up)

Fall is a great time to view migrating water birds such as coots, pelicans, and many species of ducks. Join Volunteer Naturalist Myra Scroggs for an indoor introduction and an outdoor exploration. The group will carpool to Lake Springfield for viewing water birds in the wild. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Conservation Kids' Club—Archery

September 26 • Thursday • 6–7:15 PM

Registration begins September 3 (ages 7–12)

You don't have to be a hunter to become a skilled archer. Archery is a great family sport for all ages. Learn about archery equipment, shooting safety, and proper shooting techniques and practice your new skills during this outdoor meeting. No experience is necessary and all equipment will be provided. Please note earlier start time. Please, no younger siblings and only one adult per group of kids.

Conservation Showboat Outdoor Movie Night

September 27 • Friday • 7:30–9:15

No registration required (all ages)

See description on September 20 above. Showing: *Just Kiddin' Around* (23 minutes) and *A Sense of Wonder—An Evening With Rachel Carson* (55 minutes).

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, MO 65804 • mdc.mo.gov/node/287

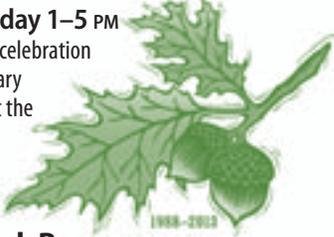
October Events

25th Anniversary Celebration

October 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–5 PM

October 6 • Sunday 1–5 PM

Join us for a two-day celebration and look for anniversary programs throughout the coming year. See the flier insert.



Missouri's Black Bears

October 8 • Tuesday • 7–8:30 PM

Registration begins September 17 (ages 10 and up)

Encountering a black bear in Missouri has become more common in recent years. These large mammals, once gone from the state, have created lots of questions and interest with their return. Conservation Department wildlife staff Tim Russell, Brad Jump, and Kevin Hedgpath share the latest research results along with information about how to avoid unpleasant encounters with black bears.

Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

October 9 • Wednesday • 11–11:30 AM

No registration required (ages 2–6)

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

Babes In The Woods

October 11 • Friday • 10–11 AM

October 12 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 0–2)

Introduce your favorite 0–2 year old to the wonders of the approaching autumn with Volunteer Naturalist Dana Tideman. Bring a stroller and join the fun.

Fall Hike For Families

October 12 • Saturday • 9 AM–2 PM

Registration begins October 1 (families, ages 10 and up with an adult mentor)

Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) for a naturalist-guided hike at the beautiful *Homesteaders Trail* on the Henning Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. **Hike is about 3.5 miles and is moderate in difficulty.**

WildHeart In Concert

October 18 • Friday • 5:30–6:30 PM or 7–8 PM

Registration begins October 1 (all ages)

Come sing-a-long with Emmy Award winning performers, *WildHeart!* Plan to paddle into the fun learning original songs about wild creatures and their habitats. *WildHeart* is the Parents' Choice Award winning duo of Jan and George Syrigos, conservation educators and entertainers who have performed throughout the Midwest.

Outdoor Treasure Hunting Geocaching Basics

October 19 • Saturday • 9–11 AM

Registration begins October 1 (Ages 18 and up)

Join us to learn a new outdoor skill. Geocaching is an outdoor "treasure" hunt using GPS units. We'll go over basic GPS use and then carpool to Lake Springfield to find some "treasure." You do not need a partner to attend. GPS units provided. Dress for the weather.

Nature Art With A Chinese Brushstroke

October 19 • Saturday • 1–2, 2:15–3:15, or 3:30–4:30 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 8 and up)

Art instructor and nature enthusiast Hing Wah Hatch will increase your powers of observation as she demonstrates, step-by-step, how to capture the essence of local plants and animals through Chinese-style painting. Participants will go home with more nature knowledge and their own artistic masterpiece. Stop by anytime between 1–4pm to observe. **The 3:30 class is for ages 15 and up.**

Family Treasure Hunting

October 19 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

Registration begins October 1 (families, ages 8 and up with an adult mentor)

Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) to learn a new outdoor skill. Geocaching is an outdoor "treasure" hunt using GPS units. We'll go over basic GPS use and then carpool to Lake Springfield to find some "treasure." Dress for the weather. GPS units provided.

Conservation Kids' Club–Timber!

October 24 • Thursday • 6:30–7:45 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 7–12)

Since the settlement of the United States, trees have provided jobs and material for the growth of the nation. A hundred years ago, many of the trees in the Ozarks were cut to make railroad ties. Meet Nathaniel "Stub" Borders, as portrayed by storyteller Alex Primm, to learn about his life as a railroad tie logger and then discover how forests are managed today. Please, no younger siblings.

Hiking Club And For Adults Only Hike And Float

October 26 • Saturday • 9 AM–12 NOON

Registration begins October 1 (ages 18 and up)

What better way to enjoy an autumn day than by a hike and a float trip. We'll hike two miles on the nature center and Ozark Greenways trails then float back to the nature center on Lake Springfield

Hike And Float For Families

October 26 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

Registration begins October 1 (families, ages 12 and up with an adult mentor)

See description above.

Conservation TEEN Club–Reunion!

October 26 • Saturday • 6–8 PM

Registration begins October 1 (all ages)

If you have ever attended a Conservation TEEN Club event, you and your family are invited to an anniversary reunion barbeque and program. Our get together will include photos that encompass TEEN Club outings since 1997. Come and help us celebrate and remember the good ol' days!

Little Acorns

Please limit to one per month.

Programs are 45 minutes in length.

September Events

Registration begins September 3 (ages 3–6)

Going Batty

September 5 • Thursday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

September 21 • Saturday • 11 AM

Go batty with us as we learn the truth about bats, how they survive at night, and why they are so important.

Mudbug Mystery

September 19 • Thursday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

Have you ever heard of a mudbug? Come and learn about these "crusty" creatures, also known as crayfish, and see some up close.

Spider Safari

September 27 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

Spiders aren't so bad! Scurry in to learn what they eat, where they live, and why they're good to have around.

October Events

Registration begins October 1 (ages 3–6)

Squirrel Scamper

October 16 • Wednesday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

October 19 • Saturday • 11 AM

Squirrels scoot, scurry, and scamper all year long, but are especially busy in fall. Learn what they are up to while scampering around.

Bear Tales

October 23 • Wednesday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

The black bear population is increasing. These interesting animals represent all things that are wild in the Ozarks. Join us as we learn about these amazing animals.

Valuable Vultures

October 31 • Thursday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

Vultures are often associated with grim situations, but they actually provide a great service to nature. Come learn about these big birds and how valuable they are.

Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center

483 Hatchery Road, Branson, MO 65616 • mdc.mo.gov/node/290



The Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center is located on 221 acres in Branson off Highway 165 next to Table Rock Dam. Outdoors, visitors will experience an active fish hatchery with 700,000 rainbow and brown trout in 30 pools with opportunities to feed the fish. Indoors, enjoy a 3,500 gallon aquarium and hands-on nature exhibits and purchase hunting and fishing permits. The area also features four hiking trails, a picnic area, a boat ramp, and access to Lake Taneycomo.

FACILITY HOURS:

Memorial Day–Labor Day

Sunday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

Remainder of Year

Sunday–Saturday: 9 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAIL HOURS:

4 AM–10 PM

The area is open to fishing 24 hours daily, but special permits and regulations do apply. Check the current fishing regulations or call for details.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-334-4865, Ext. 0, 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.

FISHING

LAKE TANEYCOMO:

Before fishing on Lake Taneycomo, become familiar with the regulations and restrictions. Come by for a free brochure of the entire lake including fishing accesses. For specific details about trout fishing here and across the state, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/5603.

September and October Events

Fly Fishing For Beginners

September 21 • Saturday • 10 AM–NOON

Registration required (ages 12 and up)

Here is the chance for beginners to learn the art of fly fishing. A portion of the program will cover equipment basics. The second half of the program will be devoted to learning to cast the fly rod. Fly rods and gear will be provided.

Finding Fall Colors

September 24 • Tuesday • 10–11:30 PM

Registration required

(Families with ages 3–6)

Join us for an active reading of *The Listening Walk*. There will also be a puppet play about finding fall using all of our five senses. Samples of apple cider will be included.

Aliens Among Us



October 25 • Friday • 7–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 6 and up)

Join us for a fun-filled evening hike as we try to help *Men in Black* agents identify various invasive nonnative species that live in our area. You will encounter various characters to help enlighten you on why some aliens are so difficult to control or damaging to our native landscape. After the hike, enjoy indoor games and refreshments.

Snagging

This fall marks the second round of the 2013 snagging season for nongame fish which begins on September 15 and goes through January 31, 2014. While snagging is not as popular as trout or bass fishing, there are lots of fishermen in southwest Missouri who proudly call themselves “snaggers.” Like it sounds, snagging involves a weighted treble hook on a heavy line that is quickly pulled in the attempt to “snag” a nongame fish. Although paddlefish—also known as spoonbill—are the most popular game fish taken by snaggers, they **cannot** be taken by snagging during this season. (An additional season for paddlefish runs from September 15 through December 15 on the Mississippi River only. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/10849.)

A variety of nongame fish can be taken by snagging. These include bluegill, green sunfish, carp, carpsuckers, suckers, buffalo, drum, and gar. The legal daily limit is 20 fish. However, there is no limit on goldfish, bighead carp, common carp, grass carp, and silver carp and their numbers do not count against your daily or possession limit.

Snagging allows an alternative method to typical hook-and-line fishing. In fact, without snagging, it would be difficult to catch some of the filter-feeding fish such as carpsuckers, silver carp, and bighead carp. Learning to snag takes patience and experience. When you think about it, you are trying to hook a moving fish deep under water. Spending time with a veteran snagger who knows their tendencies and feeding habits will help you to catch your daily limit.

Once off the water, your experience is not over. There are a variety of methods of cooking these nongame fish, so try recipes that you like. You can also find new cooking methods from friends or the Conservation Department’s website. Any way you cook them, you are in for a culinary treat thanks to the sport of snagging.

For more information about general snagging regulations, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/10858 and find cooking instructions at mdc.mo.gov/node/17974.

— John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Southwest Regional Office

2630 N. Mayfair Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803 • mdc.mo.gov/node/257

Cable Restraint Courses

October 5 • Saturday • 9 AM–12 NOON
Southwest Regional Office (Springfield)
Call 417-895-6880 to register

October 26 • Saturday • 11 AM–2 PM
Neosho National Fish Hatchery
Call 417-452-3879 to register

Upcoming Hunting Seasons

Archery	<i>Deer/Turkey</i>	September 15–November 15 November 27–January 15, 2014
Firearm	<i>Dove</i>	September 1–November 9
	<i>Turkey</i>	October 1–October 31
	<i>Rabbit</i>	October 1–February 15, 2014
	<i>Deer (urban portion)</i>	October 11–October 14
	<i>Quail (youth portion)</i>	October 26–October 27



The Southwest Regional Office is conveniently located just west of the intersection of US-65 and Kearney in Springfield. The public may obtain information on land management, nuisance wildlife, educational opportunities, river and pond management, and more, as well as purchase hunting and fishing permits and obtain area brochures for Conservation Department areas.

HOURS: Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
Closed all state holidays

PHONE: 417-895-6880

Archery Hunting

November is still the prime month for deer hunters, but more and more whitetail enthusiasts are circling September 15 on their calendars.

September 15 is the opening of Missouri's archery deer and turkey season. (Deer are the animal most bowhunters go after, but turkeys taken by archery methods are legal harvests during this season too.) The season has two segments—September 15 to November 15 and November 27 through January 15, 2014. These segments wrap around the November firearms deer season.

The season limit for an archery permit is two turkeys of either sex and two deer, which may be of either sex provided that before November 16 only one deer may be antlered. In addition to this, bowhunters can buy additional archery antlerless permits. These permits, which are for antlerless deer only, are only valid in specified counties. The map of where these permits are valid can be found in the *2013 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, a free publication available at all Missouri Department of Conservation offices and most sites that sell hunting permits.

Besides being an opportunity for hunters to bag deer, archery deer season is also a chance for landowners to alleviate deer problems they may be experiencing. People who do not have the time or interest to hunt whitetails might be able to solve their deer problems by asking for help from neighbors, friends, or relatives who bowhunt. Your acreage may be too small to be viable for firearms hunting, but archery—a method that consists of shots made from a much shorter range—is often a good solution to deer problems.

As landowners talk to people about hunting on their land, here are some questions to ask:

- ▶ When will you be hunting (morning, evening, weekday, weekend, etc.)?
- ▶ Will you be bringing anyone with you?
- ▶ Whom should I call in case of an emergency?
- ▶ What kind of vehicle will you be driving?
- ▶ Can you give me a courtesy call the day before you come to my land?

There are also questions hunters should ask landowners. These questions will help with this year's hunting and may pave the way for hunts in future years as well. Hunters should ask:

- ▶ Where are your property boundaries?
- ▶ Are there any restrictions on when or where I can hunt?
- ▶ How do your neighbors feel about hunting?
- ▶ Can I use tree stands, screw-in steps, etc.?
- ▶ Do you mind if I field dress deer on your land? (If the answer is "yes," ask where you can field dress deer so you'll be able to dispose of the waste parts in an out-of-the-way area.)

More information about this year's archery season or about other upcoming deer hunting opportunities can be found in the above-mentioned publication, at your nearest Missouri Department of Conservation office, or online at mdc.mo.gov.

—Francis Skalicky, Media Specialist



September 15 is opening day of Missouri's archery season

Missourians care about conserving forests, fish, and wildlife.



at the
Andy Dalton Shooting Range
and
Bois D'Arc Conservation Area

Saturday • September 28
8:30am–3pm

See page 3 for more information.

Nature Connections Newsletter

To begin receiving the newsletter by mail, call any of the offices listed in the newsletter and leave your name and address.

To begin receiving the newsletter electronically by e-mail, go to <mdc.mo.gov/node/257>, click the "Subscribe by Email" box on the right-hand side of the page, and scroll down to "Nature Connections."

20% Off
September
and
October

\$11.20

\$12

Available at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and Southwest Regional Office

Conservation Area Showcase:

Bois D'Arc Conservation Area

LOCATION: Bois D'Arc (pronounced "Bo-dark") Conservation Area is located in Greene County, one mile north of the town of Bois D'Arc, southwest of Willard, off Route UU at the junction of Farm Roads 59 and 94.

HISTORY: This conservation area was named after a species of tree that dominates the mostly open landscape of the region. The Osage Indians used the sturdy limbs of these trees to make their bows, thus the name Bois D'Arc, French for "arc of wood." Other local names for these trees are hedge apple, Bois D'Arc tree, bow wood, and hedge. Some of the trees on this area are more than 100 years old.

The Bois D'Arc Conservation Area is managed primarily for bobwhite quail, doves, and cottontail rabbits. Local farmers share-crop the area under contracts with the Conservation Department that also benefits the local economy. The contour strip-cropping practices reduce soil erosion and provide the habitat diversity attractive to wildlife species such as quail, rabbit, deer, dove, and many songbirds.

Bois D'Arc was purchased in 1985 in part with federal Pittman-Roberson Act tax dollars to be managed as a "Quail Emphasis Area." There have been several other land purchases throughout the years, the latest in 2001 that allowed the area to grow to its current size of 3,172 acres. Dry weather the past few years has helped yield good populations of ground-nesting birds including quail and turkey and they may be observed year-round. Hearing a bobwhite call in the spring and summer is common and is worth the drive to hear and observe. Spring songbird counts and fall covey call counts are conducted each year and provide indices that there are still good quail numbers on the area.

FISHING: The area has an Aquatic Resource Education Pond available for the exclusive use of groups under the regulations of an "Urban Fishing Program." This pond is not open to public fishing.

HUNTING: Bois D'Arc Conservation Area is open to statewide regulations for hunting except that firearms firing single projectiles are prohibited. Deer hunting is permitted only with archery methods. Deer hunting with firearms is prohibited. Frogs and other wildlife may not be taken with .22 firearms.

Dove hunting is good the first week of dove season and all hunters must check in at the manned headquarters station at 11094 W. Farm Road 94, Ash Grove. More than 300 hunters per day have checked in at the area headquarters in the past with several thousand doves harvested. Quail hunting has a shortened season from November 1 to December 15.

Deer hunting by archery methods is good as is turkey hunting in spring and fall.

HIKING AND CAMPING: The Osage Orange Hiking Trail is located on the east side of the area and may be accessed off County Roads 84 and 94. There are over 5 miles of grasslands, glades, and woodlands to explore along this trail. The trail is listed as moderate in difficulty so wear your good walking shoes. Trailhead signs and maps are available on site. Camping is prohibited on the area.

SHOOTING RANGE: Bois D'Arc Conservation Area is home to the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center. You can hone your shooting skills at the range prior to hunting season to insure the best bang for your buck. (Pun intended for those of you that have recently tried to purchase ammunition!)

For more information about Bois D'Arc Conservation Area, visit the website at <mdc.mo.gov/a8517> and for the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center <mdc.mo.gov/a3604>.

— Kevin Hedgpeth, Wildlife Management Biologist



The *Springfield Conservation Nature Center* is celebrating *Serving Nature And You for 25 Years*. Join us for a two-day celebration and look for special anniversary programs throughout the coming year.



Saturday, October 5

10 AM-5 PM

No registration required (all ages)

10 AM
or
11 AM

Fishin' Magicians



Family Month 1996 at the nature center included the premiere performance of the Fishin' Magicians. Since then, they have entertained outdoor enthusiasts from coast to coast performing their magic with a humorous fishing theme.

1 PM

Birds Of Prey

With the help of live birds of prey from Dickerson Park Zoo, staff and docents will share the important role these birds play in the ecosystem.



2 PM

Venomous Snakes Of Missouri



You've heard the tales about them, now's your chance to learn the truth. We'll explore the myths and realities of Missouri's misunderstood pit vipers.

2-4 PM

Venomous Snakes On Display

Come see live specimens of Missouri's venomous snakes on display courtesy of Finley Valley Serpenterium.

3 PM

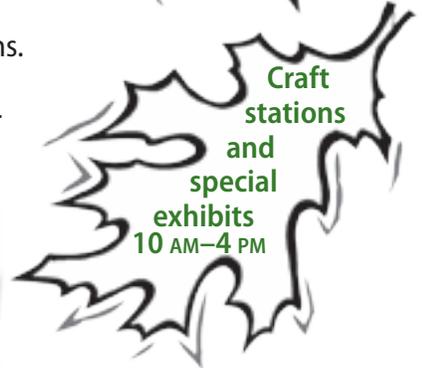
Birds Of Prey

4 PM

Venomous Snakes Of Missouri



Missouri Wildlife field guide
Free to first 200 families



Craft stations and special exhibits
10 AM-4 PM



25% off in the Nature Nook gift shop



Free shuttle from nearby Bryan University for overflow parking





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Sunday, October 6 1-5 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Outdoor Activities

1-5 PM

Primitive Skills Day Demonstrations



See demonstrations in flint knapping, bow and arrow construction, making cordage out of plant fibers, beadwork, and fire making from some of the Ozarks best primitive skills specialists. Try your hand at some of these age-old skills and enjoy Dutch oven cooking demonstrations.

Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstrations



Missouri Wildlife field guide

Free to first 200 families

Craft stations

and special exhibits

10 AM-4 PM

25% off in the

Nature Nook gift shop

Free shuttle from nearby Bryan University for overflow parking

Indoor Activities

1-1:30 PM

Native American Storytelling

Enjoy animated animal stories and drumming by Native American storyteller John Hernandez.



2-2:30 PM

Hunting and Trapping-Then And Now

Lewis and Clark found their way to the Pacific and back and kept their crew fed along the way. Learn how their hunting experiences compare with how we hunt today.

3-3:30 PM

Native American Storytelling

4-4:30 PM

How Native Americans Used The Bison

Learn the important role bison played in the survival of the Plains Indian tribes and to the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition.



Helping people discover nature for 25 years!