



Discovering Nature Through the Hunt

My curiosity was focused like a laser beam. Every “peep” from the darkening woods begged me to find the animal making it. A minute would pass before another peep. Close to dark a half dozen rapid fire peeps erupted. I tried to detect movement in the direction the sound originated. No success. This animal wasn’t interested in cooperating.

This all took place during a December hunt several years ago, so I was clothed head to toe in mossy oak camouflage, with a rifle on my lap. I was secluded in a brush covered, ground blind, with the intention of harvesting a deer. But, at that moment deer were not on my mind. That peeping noise was my only focus.

I tried to process this logically. It was well below freezing so it was clearly not a tiny frog known as a spring peeper. They call in the winter in association with warm, rainy spells. I knew their call and habits so well I was certain that wasn’t it.

Other than ruling out a frog, I concluded the hunt with no revelation.

That evening I consulted field guides in hopes of learning the true identity of this peeping critter. I later listened to bird identification CD’s and pestered every hunter and naturalist I knew. The CDs didn’t have anything similar. My mentors and confidants either hadn’t heard the call or couldn’t identify it.

For years I heard this call every winter and stayed vigilant to discover what it was. Each hunt was a new opportunity to discover the source of the peeps. I learned they only took place near dusk so this was clearly some kind of night time routine.

This wasn’t a frustration for me, it was invigorating. I loved the experiences that came with the hunt. I have collected countless memories over the years on my hunts and most don’t have anything to do with the harvest. I have observed squirrels running, chasing one another in and out of dens, crows harassing owls, and coyotes searching for mice in a field.

These are wonderful memories I wouldn’t have experienced unless I was hunting. My time in the woods has filled me with knowledge too.

I have learned through experience that specific blue jay calls announce “visitors” to the forest like deer, turkey, coyotes or people. I discovered turkey flocks always have a sentry watching for danger as the others feed. They switch off this duty. Frequently, I have also come to know intimately the feeding behavior of brown creepers as they spiral up a tree in their search for insects hidden in the bark every winter.

Hunting has helped me discover nature in ways I never would have experienced indoors. Sitting in the woods with the express purpose of harvesting wild game required me to sit still for hours at a time and pay

attention to my surroundings. This provides ample time to absorb, enjoy, and learn about life in the woods. Some lessons are quick and easy, others take time to learn, like my peeping noises.

Last winter I cracked the mystery of my peeping noise.

Dusk advanced and the peeping started up. A squirrel advanced into a hole, resulting in a dispute with a downy woodpecker. It flew out of its hole and landed on a tree near my blind. Then in clear view it opened its beak to emit a soft “peep”. Ah-ha! I know now. I know what makes that sound, it was a satisfying victory for a discovery that took years to learn. The peep was part of the woodpeckers’ night time routine. Although I didn’t know the call’s purpose I was closer to understanding. I owe this and so many other nature lessons to my time hunting. It keeps me coming back for more.

-A.J. Hendershott,
Regional Supervisor for
Outreach & Education



Come to the Fair!
Visit the Conservation Department’s
building at the
SEMO District Fair and
“Enjoy the Harvest.”

Tadpoles

(Shared nature experiences for 0-2 year olds and an attending adult.)



September

Saturday, September 27-9 AM or 10 AM

Busy Spiders

Spiders are very busy! Some spiders set a special trap to catch their food. Some spiders travel on safety lines they make. Some spiders wrap up their prey in tight packages. Spiders are busy spinning silk! We'll get busy learning more through stories and activities.

Ages 0-2. Registration begins September 2.

October

Saturday, October 25-9 AM or 10 AM

Awesome Autumn

Changing colors and cooler weather tell us it's the awesome season of Autumn! We'll discover what else is going on right now through stories and activities and have fun finding fallen leaves on the trail.

Ages 0-2. Registration begins October 1.

November

Saturday, November 22-9 AM or 10 AM

Hide and Seek

Now you see them, now you don't! Animals of all kinds can blend in and hide in their habitats. How do they do that? Parents engage your little ones through stories and activities about camouflage.

Ages 0-2. Registration begins November 1.

September

Saturday, September 6

10-11:30 AM

Snake for a Day

Can you shed your skin or unhinge your jaw? Check out these amazing snake talents and more. Experience what it would be like to be a snake as we meet some of the snakes that call Missouri home.

Ages 7-11. Registration begins August 15.



October

Saturday, October 4

10-11:30 AM

Fall Canoeing

Come learn basic canoe strokes as we paddle around the lake. We'll provide the canoes and safety equipment, you provide the enthusiasm!

Ages 7-11. Registration begins September 16.

November

Saturday, November 15

10-11:30AM

Outdoor Cooking

Take your cooking out of the kitchen to the great outdoors! Here's your chance to make some delicious treats using a variety of outdoor cooking methods. Make sure you come hungry and ready to cook!

Ages 7-11. Registration begins November 1.

We work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish and wildlife.

Mudpuppies

(45-minute programs for 3-6 year olds and an attending adult.)



September

Saturday, September 6-10 AM or 11:30 AM

Tuesday, September 9-9 AM or 10:30 AM

Spider Spree

Spiders aren't so bad! Scurry in to learn what spiders eat, where they live, and why they're good to have around. *Ages 3-6. Registration begins August 15.*

October

Saturday, October 11-10 AM or 11:30 AM

Tuesday, October 14-9 AM or 10:30 AM

Cool Caves!

Caves are dark and cool places, but who would want to live there? Missouri is home to some very unique animals that have adapted to the cave's climate. Crouch down and crawl on in to learn more about this cool habitat.

Ages 3-6. Registration begins October 1.

November

Saturday, November 8-10 AM or 11:30 AM

Tuesday, November 11-9 AM or 10:30 AM

Crafty Camouflage

Lots of animals use camouflage to hide and stay safe. Come learn all about crafty creatures and how they stay hidden.

Ages 3-6. Registration begins October 15.

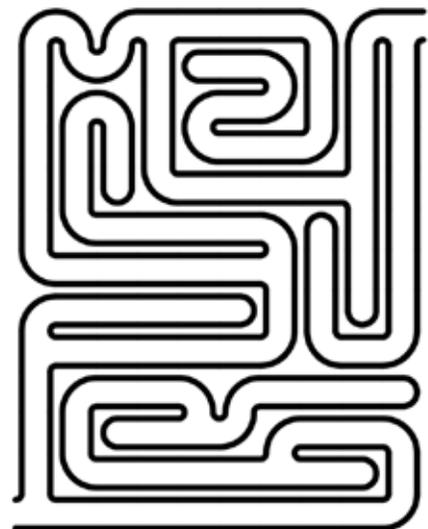
Kids' Club Program Information

KIDS

ORNER

Fall is a great time to go out and look for spiders and their webs!

Can you help this spider get to his web?



Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

2289 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 • mdc.mo.gov/node/297

SEPTEMBER

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 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.

Art Gallery-September

Visit the nature center's gallery during the month of September to view "Caterpillars With Character" by Kelly Hughes. This fascinating artwork captures some of the most interesting caterpillars found in Missouri.

Women's Hike at General Watkin's CA

September 10 • Wednesday
5:30-8:30 PM

Registration begins September 2 (ages 14+) Enjoy the crisp evening air on a hike at General Watkin's Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Hike is 1.5 miles and rated moderate. This program is for women only. Girls ages 14-17 accompanied by an adult female are welcome.

Feeding Frenzy

September 11 • Thursday • 1-2:30 PM
No registration required (all ages)

Ever wonder what it takes to keep all of the nature center reptiles, amphibians, and fish happy? Thanks to some amazing animal care volunteers, they are fed a delicious smorgasbord of crickets, worms, minnows, and more! Drop by to visit with the volunteers and staff as they feed the hungry critters. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Leaving the Station: The Last of the Passenger Pigeons

September 12 • Friday • 6:30-7:30 PM
No registration required (ages 8+)

Once the most abundant bird in North America, Passenger Pigeon flocks were heard for miles and stretched from horizon to horizon, darkening the skies. Unregulated hunting and habitat loss drove them to extinction. During this first-person presentation, experience "first-hand" perspectives from the mid 1800s from a son of market hunters making his way by rail back to his Ozark home. He'll bring passenger pigeons to life through storytelling as you learn about this incredible chapter in history. This month marks the 100th anniversary of losing the last Passenger pigeon. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Garden Tour: Seed Collecting

September 13 • Saturday • 9:30-11 AM
No registration required (ages 8+)

Collecting wildflower seed from your own garden is a great way to increase plants in other areas and can be a great gift for others. While collecting seed at the nature center, you'll learn how to clean and prepare seeds for planting as nature does. During this one-time opportunity, participants will be allowed to collect seed from the nature center gardens to take home with them.

Nature Center at Night: Endangered Species

September 18 • Thursday • 5-8 PM
No registration required (all ages)

Two hundred years ago our state had two very different and common birds, the Carolina parakeet and the Passenger pigeon. Enormous flocks of these birds could be seen in North America; Passenger pigeon flocks were said to be able to block out the sun as they flew over! Since that time these two birds have become extinct. Come learn about the extinct species of our state, how you can help the endangered species here, and fold an origami pigeon! Youth and adult groups welcome.

Indian Pipe
(*Monotropa uniflora*)



Strikingly unusual, the Indian pipe is a flower that often causes people to take a second look.

This ghostly looking plant lacks chlorophyll, the pigment that gives plants their green color. Translucent white to cream colored stalks of this plant rise from the forest floor, often in clusters.

The flower head droops until the seed within ripens, at which point the flower head rises. These plants are often mistaken for mushrooms due to their appearance. They do have a relationship with fungi; the roots of the Indian pipe connect with mycorrhizae located on tree roots. The plant, lacking chlorophyll, cannot create its own food and instead steals nutrients through its fungal connection with nearby trees.

Nature Art: Clay

September 18 • Thursday • 6-8 PM
Registration begins September 2 (ages 16+)

Would you like to learn a technique to take your two dimensional art up to 3D? Join us as we explore using clay to put some depth into your nature-inspired art. All materials will be provided.

Film Premier: "From Billions to None"

September 18 • Thursday • 7-8:30 PM
No registration required (all ages)

From Project Passenger Pigeon comes an incredible film that brings history to life, telling the story of the most abundant bird in North America that is now absent from the planet. "From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction" provides information about these incredible birds, insight into their demise, and hope for future bird species. A discussion will be held afterwards. For more information about the film, visit www.passengerpigeon.org/thefilm. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Day on the River: A National Hunting and Fishing Day Event

September 20 • Saturday • 9 AM-4 PM
No registration required (all ages)

Celebrate this year's National Hunting and Fishing Day by spending "A Day on the River." Hands-on activities will teach you the importance of the Mississippi River and surrounding wetlands. Fun for the entire family featuring crafts, live animals, and boat rides on the Mississippi. Boat rides will take place every half hour (except from noon - 1pm) at Riverfront Park. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Conservation Destination: Castor River

September 27 • Saturday
8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Registration begins September 2 (ages 16+) Experience one of this area's marvelous trails as we hike to Blue Pond Natural Area, home of the deepest sinkhole pond in Missouri. Approximately five miles. Trail rated moderate.

Discovery Table: Monarch Magic

September 27 • Saturday • 2-4 PM
No registration required (all ages)

Drop by to see live Monarch butterflies and caterpillars. This temporary display will teach you about the amazing journey that the monarch butterfly makes each year, their miraculous life cycle, and what you can do to help them. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

2289 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 • mdc.mo.gov/node/297

Art Gallery-October

Visit the auditorium to view entries from the "Mingo Swamp Flora and Fauna" photography contest sponsored by the Mingo Swamp Friends Association. This annual contest showcases the best of the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and the local photographers who cherish it.

Fall Family Canoeing

October 4 • Saturday • 1-3 PM

Registration begins September 16 (ages 7+)

Bring your family out to the nature center to learn basic canoe strokes as we paddle around the lake. We'll provide the canoes and safety equipment, you provide the enthusiasm!

Field to Freezer

October 7 • Tuesday • 6-9 PM

Registration begins September 16 (ages 16+)

Wondering why the "wild game" taste is tainting your catch? Proper processing techniques will be discussed and demonstrated from the moment you bag your game in the field to the final product you put in the freezer.

Nature Photography with Noppadol Paothong

October 8 • Wednesday • 6:30-8 PM

No registration required (ages 8+)

Missouri Department of Conservation wildlife photographer Noppadol Paothong's unique photographs are compelling to all who view them. Listen as he shares his passion for wildlife photography, as well as the many joys and trials he experiences in the field. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Nature Center at Night: Nature on the Hunt

October 9 • Thursday • 5-8 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Hunting seasons come and go for us, but nature is always on the hunt or being hunted! Some animals stalk their prey while others lie in wait. Come on in where camouflage is always in vogue. Short presentations at 6 pm and 7 pm with come and go displays. Youth and adult groups welcome.

MDC
DISCOVER
nature

Nature Art: Imagine a Perfect Fall Day

October 9 • Thursday • 6-8 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 16+)

Just imagine what you will do on these perfect fall days. It might be hiking, camping, fishing, bird watching, exploring a new Conservation Area, or hundreds of other activities. We know it will make new memories that need to be recorded so join us as we make a two-page scrapbook layout. It will be the perfect place to put those perfect memories. All materials will be provided.

Birding By Canoe

October 11 • Saturday • 8:30 AM-3 PM

Registration begins September 16 (ages 8+)

Join us as we canoe the open marshlands of Duck Creek Conservation Area in search of wetland species. Frank Nelson, MDC Wetland Ecologist, will lead the excursion. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Please bring your lunch, water, bug repellent, water shoes, binoculars, and a willingness to paddle.

Missourians care about conserving forests, fish and wildlife.

Garden Tour: Tree Planting

October 11 • Saturday • 9:30-11 AM

No registration required (ages 8+)

Trees provide a variety of environmental, social, and economic benefits. Learn proper planting techniques from members of our naturoscaping team as we plant a tree. Discover tips for tree care to increase their health and longevity.

Conservation Destination: Hawn State Park

October 18 • Saturday • 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 8+)

One of the most beautiful trails in this area is Whispering Pines. We'll hike a six-mile loop enjoying the sights and sounds of fall in this Ozark woodland. Trail rated moderate.

Fall Festival

October 18 • Saturday • 5-8 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Come on out for a fantastic fall festival. Join us to hear all about who's who in the owl world as we enjoy live owl presentations. Take a stroll down our trail on one of our naturalist-led hikes. Sit outside, enjoy a fire, and enjoy a few fall treats or come on in for crafts and games. Bring the whole family for the fun!

OCTOBER

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 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.

Homeschool Special: Tools of the Trade

October 22 • Wednesday •

9:30-11 AM or 1-2:30 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 6+)

Hone primitive skills and get a glimpse of the past. Learn about tools primitive people used to survive, how they were made, and the natural resources that were used. You'll also get a chance to make some cordage to take home.

Feeding Frenzy

October 23 • Thursday • 1-2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Ever wonder what it takes to keep all of the nature center reptiles, amphibians, and fish happy? Thanks to some amazing animal care volunteers, they are fed a delicious smorgasbord of crickets, worms, minnows, and more! Drop by to visit with the volunteers and staff as they feed the hungry critters. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Hawk Watch at Knob Lick Towersite

October 25 • Saturday • 7 AM-1 PM

No registration required (ages 8+)

This is the height of hawk migration when thousands of hawks are moving through this area. At this great vista, we'll watch as they rise up in the morning and make their way south. Viewing is available from the tower as well as the ground. Experts will cover identification; binoculars are available for viewing. Bring a snack and drink. Dress for the weather. Carpool from nature center parking lot at 7 AM. Contact sbirthing@yahoo.com for details.

Art Gallery-October

Visit the nature center's gallery in October to view "A Fascination with Nature," a photography exhibit by Aaron Horrell.

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

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Scoutin' Around

November 1 • Saturday • 9 AM-4 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 5+)

Attention kindergarten through sixth grade scouts! Join us for a day of Scoutin' Around where we'll focus on badges related to outdoor skills, forestry and plants. Hikes, discovery tables and a variety of activities will be offered to help connect you with the land and assist you in meeting your goals. For a list of the badge requirements that will be covered, contact the nature center. Youth groups are welcome.

Duck Decoy Carving

November 7 • Friday • 6-10 PM and

November 8 • Saturday • 8 AM-2 PM

Registration begins October 15 (ages 8+)

Make a beautiful cork decoy to use for waterfowl hunting or as unique art. Learn duck identification, duck ecology and decoy history as you sculpt and paint your own decoy. Cost for materials is \$15. Children under 12 must be accompanied by adult.

Nature Center at Night: Who Goes There?

November 13 • Thursday • 5-8 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Can you solve the animal mysteries? People often find evidence of animals but don't always get to see them up close. Drop by anytime between 5 and 8 pm to piece together clues we've found on the White Oak Trace and solve some real animal mysteries to find out who lives at the nature center. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Nature Art: Nature Shadow Boxes

November 13 • Thursday • 6-8 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 16+)

Make shadow boxes with nature as the theme! Use found objects, pictures, or writings as the background. Bring your own supplies or pick through ours. Be sure to bring a shadow box.

Women's Fall Trout Fishing

November 15 • Saturday • 8 AM-NOON

Registration begins November 1 (ages 12+)

Rainbows are just around the corner at Rotary Lake in Jackson City Park! Bring your own pole or use one of ours as you learn some tricks and techniques to catching the beautiful rainbow trout, which are stocked annually in the lake, and are catch and release only. Everyone must have a valid Missouri fishing permit.

Art Gallery-November

Betty Gracyus's exhibit, "Wildlife As Close As Your Own Backyard," showcases the variety of wildlife she finds in the woods near her Cape County home.

Women's Orienteering

November 15 • Saturday • 1-4 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 12+)

Ladies, if you are interested in learning to use a compass, this class is for you. You will learn the parts of a compass, how to find a bearing, how to orientate yourself and your compass on a map, and how to navigate a short course.

Feeding Frenzy

November 20 • Thursday • 1-2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Ever wonder what it takes to keep all of the nature center reptiles, amphibians, and fish happy? Thanks to some amazing animal care volunteers, they are fed a delicious smorgasbord of crickets, worms, minnows, and more! Drop by to visit with the volunteers and staff as they feed the hungry critters. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Outdoor Treasure Hunting- Geocaching Basics

November 22 • Saturday

9:30 AM-NOON

Registration begins November 1 (ages 18+)

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 hit the trails to find some "treasure." GPS units provided. Dress for the weather.

Family Treasure Hunting

November 22 • Saturday • 1-3:30 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 8+)

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 hit the trails to find some "treasure." Dress for the weather. GPS units provided. Ages 8 and up with an adult mentor.

Thank You

Those purchasing paving stones for the
Conservation Nature Center walkway:

William Clark

for

"Grandpa Bill" Clark

Melissa Schilling

in memory of

Shailyn Raine

and **Shayden O'Brian**

NOVEMBER

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

BUILDING HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday: 8 AM-5 PM

Closed Sundays, Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas

AREA HOURS

Daily: Sunrise-10 PM in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages.

The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

Phone: 573/290-5218

Fax: 573/290-5566

We help people discover nature.

Holiday Closings

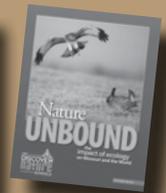
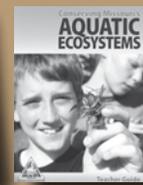
The nature center will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27-28 but the White Oak Trace trail will be open. The nature center will be open Saturday, November 29.

Educators' Niche

Discover Nature Schools

The Discover Nature Schools (DNS) program provides new and interesting curriculum that incorporates hands-on outdoor activities featuring Missouri ecosystems. Teaching students outside has been shown to help improve test scores and help with behavior issues. Each unit comes with excellent teacher and student guides. These materials are free to public, private, or homeschool educators. Grant monies are also available for field trips and supplies for K-12 teachers in the public or private school sectors.

A DNS training is being offered at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center on September 13 from 9am-4pm. Please contact Bridget Jackson for training information at bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov or call 573-290-5858 ext 4464.



*Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply

What's HOT in the NATURE SHOP!

September/October

Trees of Missouri Field Guide

Based on Don Kurz's original Trees of Missouri, this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood, or natural area.

- 174 species described
- Range map for each species
- Full-color illustrations
- Easy-to-understand descriptions

Discounted price:
\$6.00 plus tax



Fiddles and Forests

Hear the story of the Scots/Irish settlers of the past. This collection shares their struggles and determination as they settled the wilderness of Missouri's Ozark country. Living was hard; but these hardy folk carved out a life and a character of their own. In a large part, it was music that saw them through difficult times. This is their story in words and song.

Discounted price:
\$7.20 plus tax



The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

20% Off*
these monthly specials!

November/December

Cooking Wild in Missouri

Whether you hunt, fish, or forage, Bernadette Dryden's collection of recipes offers imaginative, fresh ideas for turning your harvest into a mouth-watering feast. With an emphasis on local, seasonal ingredients and a scope encompassing a variety of cultures and cuisines, Cooking Wild in Missouri is sure to earn a trusted spot in your kitchen.

Discounted price:
\$12.00 plus tax



Bluebird Notecards

A male eastern bluebird perches on a tree branch after an ice storm. Missouri's state bird favors rolling grassland with scattered trees and shrubs. Eastern bluebirds are common statewide except for the Mississippi Lowland. Cards are 4 1/2 by 6 inches. Set includes 12 cards and envelopes.

Discounted price:
\$6.40 plus tax



Nature Deficit Tidbit

Harvard physician Eva M. Selhub compares a drop of nature to a drop of morphine for the brain. Selhub says, "nature stimulates reward neurons in your brain. It turns off the stress response which means you have lower cortisol levels, lower heart rate and blood pressure and improved immune response." When the stress response is lowered the result is increased concentration, improved memory, greater creativity and productivity, and reduced mental fatigue. Here are some easy ways to incorporate nature into your workday:

1. Take meetings outside
2. Take your laptop outside
3. Add nature to your office nature to your classroom in the next newsletter.

For more information, please join the Children & Nature Network Newsletter at www.childrenandnature.org. The information above is from the March 23, 2013 issue.

Nature Shop Sale December 9-13

Last minute shopping got you flustered? Escape the hustle and bustle and relax while completing your gift list in the nature shop--and receive 20%* off all nature shop items!

*Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply.

HOLIDAY SALE

Volunteer Corner

Getting Paid to Play in the Dirt

Ever have one of those job duties that is so enjoyable you think, "Wow, I'm getting paid to do this?" Some may think spending time on their hands and knees, working the soil, pulling weeds, and scooping mulch is more work and not so much "playing." But not to the individuals of the volunteer Naturescaping Team. Often, when referring to their weekly plans for volunteering, they call it "coming to play in the dirt."

These individuals give of their time, energy, and expertise throughout the year to maintain the garden beds and have worked exceptionally hard this year conducting a lot of renovation. Why do they do it? They're volunteering; how can they get paid for "playing" in the dirt? Their payment comes in different forms. They're paid in smiles and comments such as "I love the nature center's butterfly garden – it's so beautiful!" and "You all do such an amazing job with the gardens." These are comments heard often. Our Naturescaping Team is also paid in the satisfaction of watching life develop and grow, whether it's their new plants sprouting, hummingbirds visiting their flowers, an array of plants in blossom, or insects pollinating their plants. Joy is also found in seeing children walk on the animal track pathways and in helping people discover the immense value of using native plants.

Although "playing" in the dirt can be fun, it's still a lot of hard work and our heartfelt thanks goes out to these dedicated people. Next time you visit and see these wonderful garden beds, pay these individuals a compliment for "playing" in the dirt.

--Steven Juhlin



Debbie Gregory working as part of the Naturescaping Team to renovate the hummingbird garden.



Debbie Gregory recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce for her commitment to naturescaping at the nature center.

Volunteer Milestones

100 Hours
Roxane Magnus

300 Hours
Jamie Koehler
400 Hours
Debbie Gregory

1500 Hours
Carolyn Huter
2000 Hours
Patricia Wells

Day on the River

A National Hunting and Fishing Day Event

September 20, 9am - 4pm

**RIVERFRONT PARK
CAPE GIRARDEAU**



- Free boat rides
- Live aquatic animals
- Games and crafts
- Fun for all ages!

NATIONAL
HUNTING AND FISHING
DAY®

For more information, please contact the Cape Girardeau
Conservation Nature Center at 573-290-5218.

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 18

5 - 8pm

- Live owl presentations
- Naturalist led nature hikes
- Crafts and games
- Refreshments around the fire