

Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • November/December 2016



Seeing my sport through new eyes

After almost four decades, pursuing Missouri's abundant game and fish resources is "old hat" to me. I go through the rituals of each hunting or fishing trip because it is ingrained in my being. But I don't have butterflies in my stomach as when I was younger and every outdoor adventure was new. Because of this,

I seek opportunities to see my sport through new eyes by introducing others to outdoor pursuits. I have mentored youths on hunts for deer, squirrels, and waterfowl. Those hunts are ones I cherish the most these days. However, introducing an adult to hunting brings on another new set of amazing experiences that help me to truly appreciate the finer aspects of each trip to fields, woods, or wetlands.

Most hunters are introduced to the sport at a young age by a close relative that is a hunter. If a youth does not have a close relative that hunts, they are unlikely to be introduced to the sport and are equally unlikely to take up hunting on their own accord. Being a mentor hunter for adults is a great way to introduce hunting to people who were not fortunate enough to start the sport at a younger age.

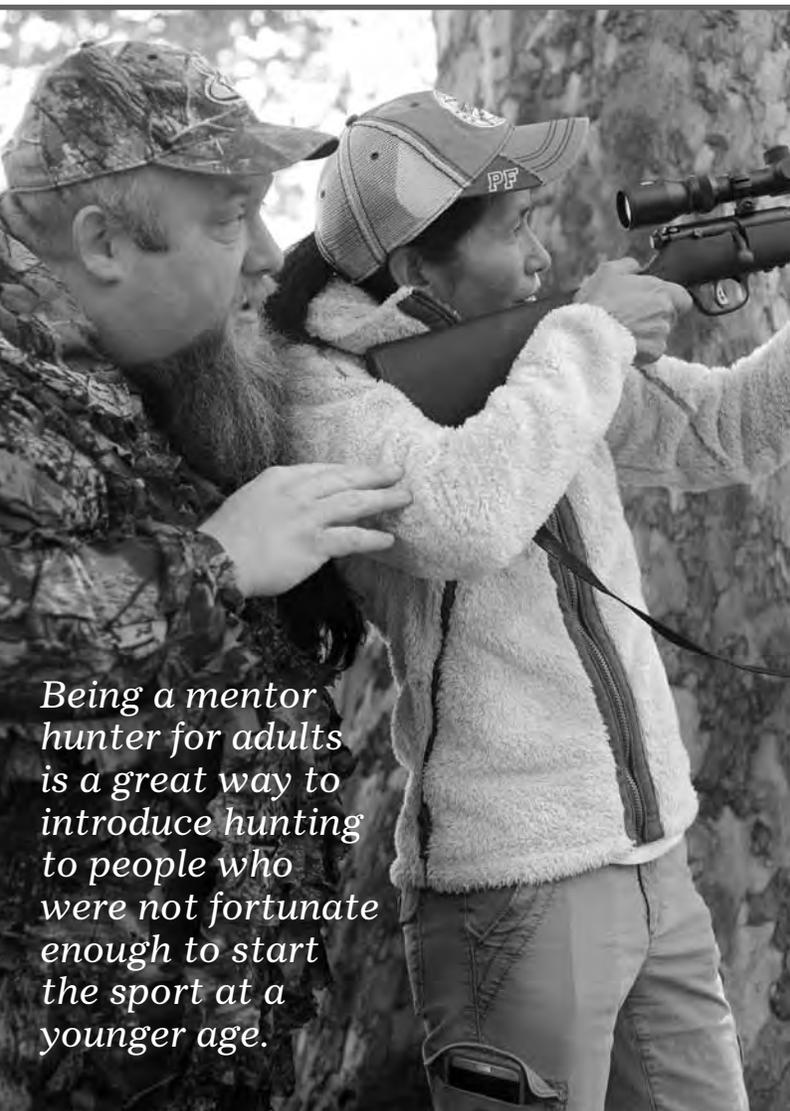
It takes a lot of time and equipment to go hunting. Adults who are unsure of whether or not they want to invest the time and money

to try hunting can take advantage of the Apprentice Hunter Program. By purchasing the \$10 Apprentice Hunter Authorization, an adult may hunt in the immediate presence of a licensed, hunter education certified adult hunter without themselves having to be hunter education certified. This authorization allows a person to purchase hunting permits without having to have hunter education certification. The apprentice hunter can then go hunting with an experienced hunter.

As a mentor of an adult apprentice hunter, you teach them about firearms safety, hunting regulations and hunting ethics. A trip to the local range is a great idea to teach them the fundamentals of safety and to improve shooting skills. Make sure you choose hunting trips that will provide opportunities for the apprentice hunter to be successful in seeing and hopefully harvesting game. When they are successful in taking a game animal, spend time teaching them the proper methods of handling and cleaning the game. Then spend time in the kitchen showing them some easy recipes to make the game delicious table fare.

If you are an adult that is interested in hunting, seek out a friend, co-worker or family member that hunts. Let them know about the Apprentice Hunter Program and work with them to learn an exciting and enriching new sport. For more information on the Apprentice Hunter Program, visit <http://on.mo.gov/2cVMUio>.

— James Worley
Education Specialist, Discovery Center



Being a mentor hunter for adults is a great way to introduce hunting to people who were not fortunate enough to start the sport at a younger age.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO www.mdc.mo.gov/burroakwoods



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays · 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes are fed every other week. (Thursday, Nov. 10 & Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Dec. 9 & 23).

Fall Hike

November 5 · Saturday · 10:30 AM–Noon

No registration required (families with children ages 5+)

Join a Naturalist to explore a fall day at Burr Oak Woods. Dress for the weather. We will leisurely walk through a forest and across a prairie to experience the sounds, smells and sights of autumn.

Babes in the Woods: Crunching Leaves

November 8 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 months)

There is nothing quite like the scent of fall when shuffling through autumn leaves. Join the fun as we play in a forest blanketed by colorful fallen leaves. This adventure is sure to help connect you and your little one to nature.

Conservation Kids Club: Kids vs. Wild

November 8 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Can you survive in the wilderness? Join us as we explore the skills it takes to make it if you become lost in the forest. We will learn the basics of food, water, fire and shelter, and even get to try some of these skills!

Little Acorns: Whoooo Goes There?

November 9 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM

or 1–2 PM

November 10 · Thursday · 10–11 AM

November 12 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5 with an adult)

Mysterious nocturnal owls have some secrets they are hiding from you. Put your nature detective skills to the test in this hands-on learning program.

Home School: Creepy Wildlife

November 9 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8, 9–11

Registration required

There are some animals in Missouri that seem somewhat creepy to us, but that is usually because these animals are very different than we are. If we take the time to get to know them, we find that they are truly fascinating and all of them play a key role on this planet.

Gifts of Trees

November 15 · Tuesday · 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

Come and find out the amazing gifts trees provide for life and health. They aren't just shade, shelter and food! They have remarkable medicinal properties.

Time to Talk Turkey

November 19 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Learn how to talk turkey just in time for the holiday season. Impress your relatives at the dinner table with all the fun facts you will learn about wild Missouri turkeys.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

November 26 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

December 31 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! Our imaginations are the only limits.

Soaring Eagles

November 26 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Some bald eagles stay in Missouri year-round, but many more come to our state during the cold winter months to find food. Find out more about this powerful force in nature and discover where you can go to see bald eagles in the wild.

Holiday Nature Crafts Smokey Bear Photos

December 3 · Saturday · 9 AM–Noon

Walk-in (all ages)

Craft up some fun using nature-made materials! Walk-in anytime between 9 am and noon to complete two on-your-own



crafts. Pose with Smokey Bear for a holiday photo and we will print one free for you (one per household please).

Recycled Bird House

December 3 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Create a twig-embellished bird house from recycled materials for some feathered friends (wrens, chickadees, etc.) and learn how they raise their little flyers.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area will be closed for a Youth Managed Deer Hunt Oct. 29–30 and Dec. 3–4. The Nature Center will remain open on Saturday, October 29 and Saturday, December 3, but the trails, roads, parking lots and all off trail areas will be closed. There will be managed archery deer hunts on Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area. The Nature Center, area, and trails will remain open during the hunt. All hunts are Monday through Friday. Dates include: Oct. 31–Nov. 4, Nov. 7–11 & Nov. 14–18.

SPECIAL EVENT:

Missouri River Eagle Day

LaBenite Park, Sugar Creek, MO
(just east of MO 291 bridge)
December 10 · Saturday · 10 AM–3 PM
Registration required for Missouri River Boat Tour only (ages 8+ with an adult)
Walk in for Live Eagle Program and Eagle Discovery Stations (all ages)

Join in on the fun as we bundle up on a pontoon boat and launch onto the magnificent Missouri River for the chance to view bald eagles in their own habitat. Your family will love to visit the discovery stations as you wait your turn

on the river to learn more about one of America's greatest natural wonders and these magnificent raptors that call it home.



Wreath Making

December 10 · Saturday · 10–11:30 AM
or 1–2:30 PM

Registration required (adults)
Celebrate the season by crafting a natural artisan wreath! Evergreens, pine cones and many other natural trimmings will be provided. Learn how to assemble and take home your creation.

Little Acorns: Big Black Bears

December 14 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM
December 15 · Thursday · 10–11 AM
December 17 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5 with an adult)
We are “Goin’ on a bear hunt” but not like you think! We are hunting for Missouri black bear knowledge. Grrrrrrrrrr!

Conservation Kids Club: Night Prowl

December 14 · Wednesday · 6:30–8 PM
Registration required (ages 7–13)

A cold winter's night is a great time to explore the wonders of nature. Learn about nocturnal adaptations and strategies for coping in this dark and mysterious world.

Nature Film Festival

December 24 · Saturday · 10 AM–3 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Join us once again for an end of the year film festival! This year we are featuring the wonderful fish, forests and wildlife found right here in Missouri. We will also be showing other nature movies and short documentaries throughout the day. Sit back and enjoy these spectacular films.

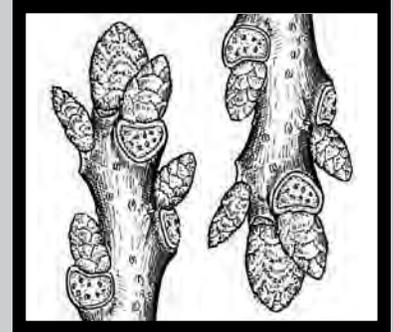
Leaf Print Art

December 31 · Saturday · 10 AM–Noon
Walk-in (all ages)
Splash some color into your winter by making a unique leafy print! Using rubber leaves and printing ink, acrylic, or tempura paints finger painters to skilled artists will create a frame-worthy leaf print to take home. Play games to discover what trees do for you and wildlife.

Burr Oak Woods offers volunteer training in February

Do you have a love of nature and want to share it with others? If so, Burr Oak Woods is looking for you! We will host a Volunteer training course beginning in February 2017. This 30 hour class will help prepare you to assist with many different opportunities at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center including interpretive programs, special events, outdoor skills, animal care, native landscaping and more.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2017 training course for youth ages 14 and up and adults. To apply, please stop by Burr Oak Woods or contact Rebecca Miller at 816-228-3766 no later than December 31st 2016.



Winter Dendrology Workshop

December 14 · Wednesday
8:30 AM–Noon
Registration required by calling 816-228-3766 (adults)

Any outdoorsman can ID trees with their leaves on, but bona fide tree nerds can even identify them in the winter. Join Community Forester Chuck Conner as he teaches how to identify trees when they're “naked”. Participants in this workshop will learn the basics of tree identification including leaf shapes, arrangements, buds, twig, fruit, bark, form, position in the landscape and other characteristics used to identify trees. Students will learn how to use reference books and keys to help identify trees in both a classroom setting and in the field. Special emphasis will be given to the identification of native deciduous trees in their “leaf-off” or dormant condition using species specific characteristics and keys. Workshop will be presented at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All facilities will be closed for these state holidays:

- Veteran's Day, November 11**
- Thanksgiving, November 24**
- Christmas Day, December 25**

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO www.mdc.mo.gov/lakecity



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/Pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Shotgun pattern: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Introduction to Skeet

November 12 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

December 10 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

Introduction to Paracord Weaving

November 16 · Wednesday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 8-17 and parents)

Students will learn to weave paracord into bracelets, friendship bracelets and other articles using the following types of weave: cobra, s-weave, half hitch, four strand and back cobra. All materials are supplied and everyone will go home with a new keychain!

Basic Fire Starting and Camp Side Cooking

November 18 · Friday · 5–8 PM

December 8 · Thursday · 5–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Come join our staff in a fun filled camping adventure! Learn multiple techniques in fire starting and how to safely set your fire circle up. Once successfully starting our fires



we will start with the preparation and cooking of some delicious camp side food. After we thoroughly enjoy our feast of homemade

food, we will sit around the campfire, sharing stories and enjoying some s'mores.

A novice turkey hunter receives pointers and help with a turkey call from a more experienced hunter.



Getting started as a hunter

Having not grown up around hunting is probably the most common obstacle for those who are interested in learning about the sport. It certainly was for me. While finding a mentor is very beneficial and highly recommended, don't let not having a mentor stop you from learning hunting safety and skills. Nor do you need to have access to private property to hunt. As a Missourian you have access to hundreds of public use areas that offer great hunting opportunities. Remember that hunting is a continuous, lifelong learning process and you will gain new knowledge every time you venture out into the woods. However, there are some things you must know before you start your journey into the outdoors for your first hunt.

Among the most important things, you must understand and follow the hunting regulations outlined in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*. Another is to verify that your hunting equipment and firearms you are using in the field are in good working order. You also must know how to use them safely and effectively.

Scout the area in which you are preparing to hunt to see how the land lays. It's helpful to know where the water and food sources are for specific game. You should know the boundaries of the area you are hunting and whether it is public or private land.

Many would-be hunters without a mentor come to a stop when they realize that they must also know how to make responsible use of the animal's meat and process the

harvest. This information is widely available online. But you may also take advantage of the Missouri Department of Conservation's no-cost outdoor skills courses that cover all of this information and much more. MDC has many other resources available to assist you in gaining more knowledge about hunting. Only you can determine when you will become a hunter, so let this year mark the start of your journey.

– Juan Acosta, Lake City Resource Assistant

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO www.mdc.mo.gov/parmawoods

Hunters are key to Missouri white-tailed deer success story

The white-tailed deer is one of the most popular game animals pursued by Missouri hunters. In fact, just over half a million deer hunters take to the fields and forests of Missouri each fall. With current population estimates of 1.4 million deer in the state, you would think that it would be pretty simple to harvest a deer. Surprisingly, one of the draws is how challenging it truly is. The challenge is just one reason that people hunt.

Wildlife management is also a very important part of deer hunting traditions in Missouri. Most people like to see deer, but if left uncontrolled, deer numbers can increase often leading to human and wildlife conflicts. Biologists rely upon hunters to keep those populations at a healthy balance for the habitat. Hunters also provide wildlife biologists with important information.

Hunters provide harvest data. They participate in surveys. Also, through the purchase of permits they help provide additional funding for the management of both game and non-game species. Without hunting, biologists would struggle to get information info they need to manage the state's deer herd.

People also hunt deer for food. The average white-tailed deer yields about 40 pounds of lean red meat. Deer are an important resource for those looking for a healthier alternative to farm raised protein sources. As importantly, venison is tasty on the table.

Regardless of your reasons for hunting deer, MDC supports you. MDC personnel at the ranges and nature centers are trained to teach and assist. Both the Parma Woods and Lake City shooting ranges have knowledgeable and highly trained staff available to assist you with learning to hunt or becoming a better hunter. Check out our full lineup of upcoming programs in the Events tab at <http://mdc.mo.gov>.

– Nathan Woodland,
Parma Woods Range Supervisor



Introduction to Trapping

November 16 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 8+; ages 8–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Proper use of traps and trapping techniques is an important tool for wildlife management and nuisance wildlife control. Join us for a short two-hour introduction to modern trapping equipment, regulations and some basic trapping techniques.

Basic Archery

November 19 · Saturday · 8–11 AM

Registration required (ages 8+; ages 8–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Shooting archery is a popular way to spend leisure time for millions of people. It requires patience and discipline to excel. Attend this introductory level workshop to learn about the equipment, techniques and archery safety in a safe controlled environment.

Creating Cartridges: Metallic Reloading Basics

November 23 · Wednesday · 6–10 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Reloading cartridges is a great way to enjoy your firearms even after the season is over. Whether your goals include squeezing out additional accuracy or shooting more for less money, this class will give you the foundation needed to start making safe cartridges right away.

Introduction to Muzzleloading

December 3 · Saturday · 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Shooting a modern muzzleloader is safe, fun and can help extend your hunting season. In this class, our certified instructors will teach you everything you need to know to get started using them today. Course topics will include the various equipment options, muzzleloader safety, shooting fundamentals and more.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun/Range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 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.

Targeting Whitetails with a Handgun

December 7 · Thursday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (ages 21+)

Sometimes the firearms deer season just doesn't seem long enough. Each year more and more hunters are turning to the handgun as a means to extend their season. Join us in this evening workshop as we discuss and learn about the fundamentals of hunting deer with a handgun. Topics of discussion will include methods to help you get close to game, choosing the right handgun and appropriate ammunition, accuracy requirements and handgun hunter responsibilities.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 www.mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–7 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Scout Program

November 1 · Tuesday · Evening
November 15 · Tuesday · Evening

Registration required (Scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center and education staff will provide a program to help Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov

Nature Nuts Storytime

November 5 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

November 19 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Nuts about Missouri Trees

November 5 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

We have amazing trees in our state. Did you know that Missouri leads the world in black walnut production? Another member of the walnut family, the pecan tree, can grow over 100 feet tall. While Missouri's hazelnut shrubs are much smaller and only grow up to about 10 feet. Walnuts, pecans, hickories and hazelnuts, Missouri's native edible tree nuts can be enjoyed by all this time of year. Come learn about Missouri's native nut producing trees, how to identify them and try some tasty samples too.

Atlatl: An Alternative Form of Hunting in Missouri

November 19 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Primitive skills enthusiasts use atlatls as an alternative form of hunting deer, turkey and fish in Missouri. Others use this Native American hunting tool for sport, throwing for distance or accuracy. Step outside with us if you are looking to find a challenging new sport in today's modern world, test your skill as you attempt to hit



the target using this unique spear-thrower! Then join us inside as we learn more about alternative hunting tools, furs, tracks, skulls, scat and more!

Field to Fork: Venison

November 15 · Tuesday · 6:30 PM–8:30 PM
Registration required beginning October 18

(adults) Deer season is underway and tonight is the night to learn how to skin and butcher a whitetail deer. We'll turn the best cuts over to Chef Jasper Mirabile of "Jasper's Ristorante", and Chefs Rick Mullins and Mickey Priolo of "Soil Collective." They will show you how to take backstrap and shoulder roasts to a whole new, scrumptious level. A \$20.00 per person refundable deposit is required to hold your spot.

Nature Nuts Storytime

December 3 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

December 17 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Geese in Missouri

December 3 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

The fall goose migration is in full swing! Canada, white front and snow geese fly over our skies and into the rivers, lakes, marshes and fields across Missouri. Learn about each species and their unique characteristics as we explore their goosy world. We'll



make some goose art using goose feathers and learn how to use goose calls and decoys to get their attention and bring them in close.

Scout Program

December 6 · Tuesday · Evening
December 20 · Tuesday · Evening

Registration required (Scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center and education staff will provide a program to help Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov to learn more about how we can help and to schedule a program.

Nuts about Missouri Trees

The cool weather of late fall leads to a wonderful time of year. Many trees have been working hard all summer to grow their harvest of seeds. Lucky for us, some of the seeds, or nuts, they produce are delicious. Pecan and black walnut are two well-known native Missouri trees that produce delicious nuts.

Pecan trees were once only in the southeastern part of the state and it is thought that Native Americans cultivated and helped spread it farther north. Pecans are a large nut with a thin-shell making it easy to remove.

Black walnuts on the other hand have a thick hull surrounding a very hard shell. Getting to the walnut meat is a bit trickier but well worth it. Black walnut is so popular in our state that it is Missouri's official state tree nut.

Hickory and hazelnut are two lesser known native trees that also produce tasty nuts. There are eight species of hickory in Missouri and a few are tastier than others. Shellbark hickory bears the best tasting hickory nut and if you find a shellbark hickory tree, watch it closely and harvest quickly or

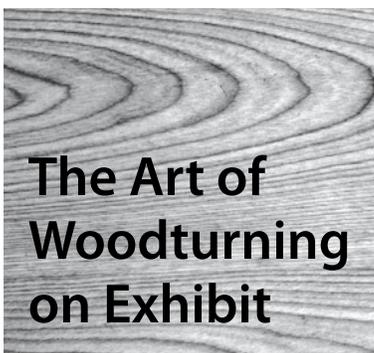


the squirrels will beat you to it.

The same is true of American hazelnut, many animals enjoy it so it can be tricky to beat them to harvest. Hazelnut shrubs grow up to 10 feet tall with nuts growing singly or in groups of two to five. Now is the perfect time to head out and collect some of these nuts for yourself.

Many conservation areas permit gathering nuts, berries and fruits for personal consumption, but some do not. Be sure to check the online Conservation Atlas at <http://mdc.mo.gov/atlas> for the regulations. Once you have your harvest, use your favorite nut recipe and create something delicious to enjoy.

— Heather Shellenberg,
Education Specialist



The Art of Woodturning on Exhibit

The Discovery Center will be showcasing the work of the Kansas City Woodturners during the months of November and December. The public is invited to stop in and appreciate beautiful and unique pieces made from many native woods.

The art of woodturning has been practiced from at least the sixth century BC. This unique craft utilizes a machine called a lathe to spin the wood while a stationary tool is used to cut and shape. Woodturners often are able to create unique bowls and cups.

The Kansas City Woodturners (KCWT) is a non-profit chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Members are able to gain knowledge, learn how to use lathes and tools and get to see demonstrations from professional turners.

KCWT has been in existence for over 20 years and meets monthly on the second Monday of the month at 3189 Mercier. The organization has open turning on every Saturday morning and Thursday evenings. For more information on KCWT you can visit their website at <http://www.kcwoodturners.org>.

Buck, Buck, Moose – Big Game Cooking with Hank Shaw

December 12 · Monday · 7–8 PM

Walk-in (adults)

Are you a hunter or curious about how to prepare wild game if you were to try hunting? Then this is the program for you. Hank Shaw, 2013 James Beard Award winner for best food blog and author of *Buck, Buck, Moose: Recipes and Techniques for Cooking Deer, Elk, Moose, Antelope and other Antlered Things* will present a colorful program on how to get the most out of your big game animals. From how to properly handle the animal in the field to getting the best tasting dishes out of every last morsel, Hank captures it all in his laidback style. Copies of his book will also be on sale the evening of the event.

Holiday Greenings

December 17 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Thinking of making the holidays a little greener this season? Then join us for one of the Discovery Center's holiday traditions. Learn to decorate using native plants and trees. Fashion a festive holiday swag to hang using red cedar, prairie grasses, wild nuts, berries, seeds and your imagination.

Field to Fork: Waterfowl

December 20 · Tuesday · 6:30 PM–8:30 PM

Registration required beginning November 15 (adults) Learn how to pluck a duck and break it down to manageable pieces. Chef Martin Heuser of "Affäre Restaurant" will then be preparing our birds in delectable ways that will make you want to learn how to use a duck call! A \$20.00 per person refundable deposit is required to hold your spot.

Tracks and Sign

December 27–30 · Tuesday–Friday · 10 AM–3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Have you ever wondered what animal left tracks in your yard? Do you know what scat is? During the holiday break the Discovery Center will help you learn how to identify wildlife based on their tracks as well as other signs they leave behind. There will be hands-on activities like sawdust track prints, the scat challenge and much more.

Burr Oak Woods Photography Contest



Photo by Dale Edsen (third place 2012)

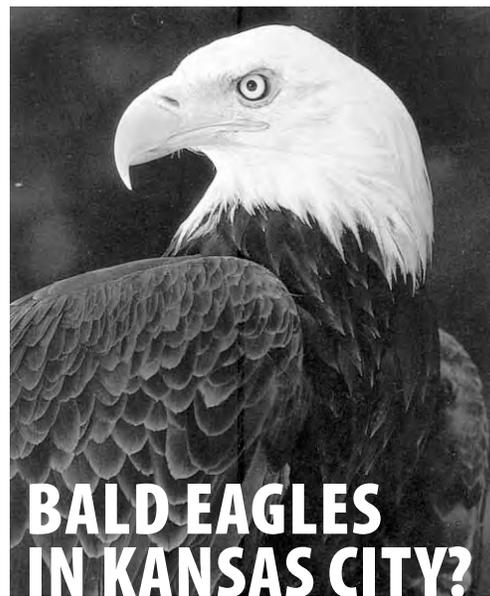
Did you capture something beautiful at Burr Oak Woods this year? Each year our visitors take thousands of wonderful photographs highlighting the beauty and diversity of our site. If you have a photo you'd like to share, Burr Oak Woods is hosting its annual photography competition and would like to include you! Please visit <http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/burr-oak-woods-ca> or contact Burr Oak Woods for details. Submissions are due by Friday, Feb. 24. Good luck!

Master naturalist's artwork on exhibit at BOW



The artwork of Leslie Limbergh will be on display at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center during the months of November and December.

Leslie has adored nature since she was a youngster, traipsing through fields with her dad hunting dove and quail. For ten years, she has been a Certified Missouri Master Naturalist and Master Gardener, volunteering with habitat restoration, water quality monitoring and outdoor education. Her five acres in rural St. Charles County is a platinum certified Audubon habitat.



YES! Although still a spectacular sight, viewing bald eagles in the wild is once again becoming a more common occurrence today. Did you know that Missouri is a leader in bald eagle populations within the lower 48 states? Early winter finds them migrating south into Missouri to hunt. In 2012, 2,661 eagles were counted during the annual winter eagle count. The eagles follow the migrating duck and geese and are attracted to the big rivers, lakes and wetlands of our state. Bald eagles find the habitat they need, open water, tall trees for spotting prey along the water's edge and a sheltered place to roost at night. MDC hosts Eagle Day events around the state each year. Local events are listed below:

Squaw Creek Wildlife Eagle Days

December 5 & 6

Includes visitor center eagle displays, live eagle programs, an eagle viewing station and auto tour.

Missouri River Eagle Day

December 10

LaBenite Park, Sugar Creek
Includes eagle discovery stations, eagle viewing and Missouri River boat tours (by reservation, see page 3).

Smithville Lake Eagle Days

January 7 & 8

Includes live predatory bird program, kid's crafts and eagle viewing stations.