SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

Tupelo Times

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • Sept/Oct/Nov 2016

Serving nature and you®

Ready For Fall, Ready for Change

Change is one of those words you can get excited about or absolutely dread. My wife would say that I'm a creature of habit and can be a stick in the mud. I'll have to agree because, well, she is usually right. However, when it comes to nature and seasonal changes, I think this dried up twig rather enjoys the cyclical variations that occur around him.

One of my favorite times of year is the change from late summer to early fall. It is wonderful time to get out and explore nature. I have a personal bias towards wetlands, which might be explained by the amount of color, life, and potential that this time of year brings.

Along the higher edge of wetlands in September you can see yellow expanses of flowers as bidens, also known as beggar ticks, bask in the late summer sun. As your boots begin to sink in softer soil, you often run into various shades of pink and white as the clustered columns of smartweed flowers emerge from sea of summer plant growth. If you progress further down to the remaining muddy, wet edges, the color of vegetation shifts to a crimson red as the stems and leaves of toothcup begin to expire.

At this time you can actually hear and feel the life of the marsh if you pay attention. The activity of busy bees taking advantage of the flowering plants creates a steady and reverberating hum. These yellow and black striped insects aren't the only bugs buzzing around. Dragonflies also dart around, temporarily find perches, and then take off again to defend their territories or feast on the abundant bug life.

As September slips into October you can experience the initiation of fall migration. On the right September day a cool front might blow in a flock of feathered jet-fighters, which are more commonly referred to as blue-winged teal. These aren't the only long-distance journeymen passing through the marsh. You can also hear the cat-calls and chuckles of sora, marking the presence of rails underfoot that are fueling up on seeds to power them through to the next stop south. A few more cool fronts and you should be able to see northern shovelers and pintails begin showing up in the recently flooded fields of moist soil to officially kick off the fall waterfowl migration.

As November nears, there is a lot of potential. Walking around the marsh you can actually see the food stores. Shattered, moist soil seeds litter the ground and are waiting to be flooded and become available for fall foraging ducks. Where shallow water is already spreading out along the flats you can see tiny bugs moving about the watery mud clods and decomposing stems. These packs of proteins will help the birds replace their feathers and become the visual show-offs we all enjoy watching fly and bank over the marsh. And that brings me to the potential of waterfowl season.

No one knows what this year's hunting season will bring. What kind of weather will we have? When will there be flight days or if and when we will freeze up? That uncertainty is part of the annual cycle, too. Each year is different, but there is always a load of potential for some great days outdoors. As long as you know what to look for and realize that things are more likely to change with time, perhaps you don't need to know much else. Perhaps, that is why this "stick in the mud" actually enjoys the changes of late summer and early fall. I know what to look for, but realize variations will happen, so I'm ready to just see how it unfolds. I hope you can do the same this season.

--Frank Nelson
Wetland Ecologist

SEMO District Fair
September 10-17

Come to the Fair!

Visit the Conservation Department's building at the SEMO District Fair.

MO Conservationist Magazine App

Available on the App Store

Download for Android

Volunteer Corner

Harvesting Memories

Autumn is a time to harvest the bounty of nature, enjoy it at the moment or put it away for later. Memories are much like that created in the moment and put away for later enjoyment. I asked our nature center volunteers what memories they have harvested while serving here.

Roxane Magnus shared, "In my 2.5 years as a volunteer at the Nature Center, I have gained a lot of knowledge about plants, animals and wildlife in general as well as crafting, being creative and learning to have fun. Through the programs that I have helped with to doing animal care or to just working with the other volunteers, my experience there has been such a positive experience. I truly enjoy every minute I get to spend there because I know I'll learn something new."

Karin Pelton has other memories she has collected. "I have been blessed with new friends from the nature center and what makes this so awesome is that we share the same likes. Like nature, hiking, doing projects together. I have also learned a lot of things about the outdoors. One is wild flowers. There are so many beautiful and native wild flowers and plants that are good for health and eating which I never knew before. Also just to go out and find them they are so beautiful. Learning which snakes are venomous and which are good along with lots of other stuff. "

Karin mentioned making new friends as one of the wonderful things we harvest at the nature center. Recently one of our volunteers passed away. Carolyn Huter was the foundation of our Naturescaping Team. Her passion and knowledge of native plants was endless. She organized the volunteers, the garden beds and trained us all. Her smile was always dazzling and her energy boundless. She will be missed by all of us but remembered every time we see a Shining Blue Star, her favorite plant.

Debbie Gregory remembers Carolyn, "As a new volunteer, several years ago, Carolyn showed me the ropes of naturescaping at the nature center. She was not only an avid naturescaper but an avid student of native plants. She possessed a wealth of information on native plants and always took the backpack full of books and information out to the garden with us. Never in too much of a hurry to stop and look something up that we might have questions about. We spent many hours together at the nature center planting, transplanting, and WEEDING and sweating!! One of my favorite memories was of her getting in the middle of and under the buckbrush to eradicate some tenacious weeds. She put in many hours here in the Nature Center gardening, setting up displays, and guiding wildflower walks. She did all this and more because she felt that the choices we make as gardeners impact our life that we make on earth."

"I did not get the opportunity to work with her much in the naturescaping but the 5 or so months I did, I learned a great deal. One thing she told me about the native plant seeds that I will never forget is that the "1st year they sleep, the second year they creep and the 3rd year they leap." (I think I got that right). And I have passed that knowledge on to others who have been interested in planting the seeds. Even though there were days you knew she didn't feel well, she insisted on getting something done in the beds. I truly enjoyed working with her. She was a wealth of knowledge on those plants", remembers Roxane Magnus.

--Jamie Koehler, Assistant Nature Center Manager

Carolyn Huter
9/13/49-4/3/16

Tadpoles

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

September

Saturday, September 24 - 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 1.

October

Saturday, October 29-9 AM or 10 AM

Going Nutty

Nuts are falling from the trees! Inside each one is a baby tree seed. Find out through stories and activities what will happen to the seeds. We will also explore the nature trail to find different types of nuts.
Ages 0-2. Registration begins October 1.

November

Saturday, November 26-9 AM or 10 AM

Building like a Beaver

Do beavers actually use their tails to build? What do they cut down trees with? We will hear from a beaver puppet about how he's always busy building. Then we'll get busy with activities to answer those questions and discover even more! ***Ages 0-2. Registration begins November 1.***

Mudpuppies

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

September

Saturday, September 10-9:30 AM or 11AM

Spider Spree

Spider man, spider man (or ladies) doing whatever a spider can... Join us as we learn all about spiders and their amazing skills!
Ages 3-6. Registration begins September 1.

October

Saturday, October 8-9:30 AM or 11AM
Tuesday, October 11-9 AM or 10:30 AM

Whooooo's Awake at Night?

Whooo's making all that racket? Lots of animals are awake at night. We'll discover which animals prefer the night time and how they're able to survive in the dark. ***Ages 3-6. Registration begins October 1.***

November

Saturday, November 12-9:30 AM or 11AM
Tuesday, November 15-9 AM or 10:30 AM

Whitetail Tales

Hear a tale of a young whitetail deer. We'll learn about deer from birth to adulthood. ***Ages 3-6. Registration begins November 1.***

Kids' Club Program Information

September

Saturday, September 24
10-11:30 AM

Missouri Mammals

Missouri is home to many mammals, including you and I! Get a close-up look at our furry family as we discover their interesting lives. We will also learn how to identify mammals by looking at their skulls.
Ages 7-11. Registration begins September 1.

October

Saturday, October 29
10-11:30 AM

Spectacular Spiders

Spiders aren't scary, they are spectacular! From the intricate webs they weave to helping us keep pesky insects under control they really are fascinating creatures. We will explore the life of a spider and learn how to identify some of our local spiders. ***Ages 7-11. Registration begins October 1.***

November

Saturday, November 5
10-11:30 AM

Natural Basketry

Before the age of plastic, people were harvesting their own natural resources to make the containers they needed. Find out which native plants can be used to weave baskets. Then, try out the ancient art of basketry by making a simple, basket to take home. ***Ages 7-11. Registration begins November 1.***

December

Saturday, December 3
10-11:30 AM

Nature's Gifts

It's the time of year for gift giving! Use nature as an inspiration to make a few gifts for your loved ones. To keep it a surprise, parents won't be allowed to join. Parents may drop participants off at 10 AM and should return by 11:30 AM.
Ages 7-11. Registration begins November 15.

Kids! Catch a fish and a boat ride at Day on the River!

September 17th 9-4pm.

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

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

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 lobby in September to view "Fish: Fantasy & Fun," which features an artistic flair with Missouri fish species by local digital artist Louise Bodenheimer.

International Vulture Awareness Day

September 3 • Saturday • 1–3 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Join us in celebrating vultures! Often overlooked or misunderstood, the vulture is an important player in human health! Enjoy our vulture day crafts as you learn more about these helpful birds. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Flowing with Nature: Yoga Walk

September 6 • Tuesday • 7–8 AM
Registration begins August 16 (ages 16+)
Morning is the perfect time to enjoy a walk in nature while stopping occasionally to move through gentle yoga poses. Breathe in the scents of the woodland as we stretch our bodies and our senses. No yoga experience necessary.

Nature Center at Night: The Grand Ole Opossum

September 8 • Thursday • 5-8 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Often sneered at for their looks, these amazing animals are North America's only marsupial. Don't know what a marsupial is? Come on in to learn more about the "possum". Youth and adult groups welcome.

Nature Art: Fishing Lure

September 8 • Thursday • 6–8 PM
Registration begins August 16 (ages 16+)
The weather's cooling off which means it's a good time to go fishing (but any time's a good time to fish). Join us and carve a wooden fishing lure that you can take home to paint, and then hit the water.

Day on the River

September 17 • Saturday • 9 AM–4 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Discover what the river has to offer you. Hands-on activities will teach you the importance of the Mississippi river and surrounding wetlands. This event is fun for the entire family featuring live river animals, Asian carp samples, and free 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.

Homeschool Special: Acorns, Helicopters and Hitch Hikers

September 21 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM or 1–2:30 PM
Registration begins September 1 (ages 10-15)
Seeds are amazing! Some fly, some stick, while others roll; all are headed for a nice spot to grow. In this program we will make a seed collection and learn about how different seeds get from place to place.

Homeschool Special: Acorns, Helicopters and Hitch Hikers

September 22 • Thursday • 10–11:30 AM or 1–2:30 PM
Registration begins September 1 (ages 6-10)
Seeds are amazing! Some fly, some stick, while others roll; all are headed for a nice spot to grow. In this program we will make a seed collection and learn about how different seeds get from place to place.

Feeding Frenzy

September 22 • Thursday • 1–2 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.

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

Autumn's Bounty – Fall Wild Edibles

September 24 • Saturday • 1 –2:30 PM
Registration begins September 1 (ages 12+)
The woods are beautiful in autumn and full of yummy things to eat. We will learn about the fruits and nuts growing all around us and how we can use them. Afterwards we will be going for a short hike around nature center grounds to learn to identify the trees and plants we just learned.

Meet the Artist

September 24 • Saturday • 2–4 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Visit with local graphic artist and professor Louise Bodenheimer as she works to create fish digitally. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Catfishing Basics in the Evening

September 24 • Saturday • 6-7:30 PM
Registration begins September 1 (ages 7-15)
Evening is the perfect time to wet a line and try to catch a catfish! Not sure what bait to use or how to avoid those barbs? We will begin inside with a little "catfishing how-to" and then try our luck at the Kids Fishing Pond. Equipment will be provided, but you may bring your own.

Making a Longbow

September 29 • Thursday • 6:30-9:30 PM, September 30 • Friday • 8 AM-5 PM and October 1 • Saturday • 8 AM-4 PM
Registration begins August 1 (ages 15+)
Explore the history of archery in North America from raw material harvest to bow design and performance. Then, using only hand tools and patience, craft your own hickory longbow work of art. Cost for materials is $100.

Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum)

A delight to see, the Cedar waxwing is a winter resident, showing up around October. Their name refers to the waxy tips of their wing feathers and their habit of eating cedar fruits. These birds have a silky appearance with tan, buttery yellow, white and black. They are easily recognized by their bold black mask and yellow to orange tail feather tips. Waxwings are one of the few birds that specialize in eating fruit and they can survive on fruit throughout the winter. Their song is cheerful hissing/buzzy whistle. Look for them in medium sized flocks as they pick the berries from all sorts of trees.

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

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

Art Gallery-October

Visit the nature center gallery in November to view "Drawings and Conversation from a Missouri Artist's Nature Journal." This exhibit of graphite sketches with journal entries by Margaret Randol Dement is a must see display this fall!

Women's Overnight

October 1 • Saturday • NOON –
October 2 • Sunday • 4 PM

Registration begins September 15 (ages 12+)

Fall is a wonderful time to go camping; the days are warm and clear while the evenings are cool and crisp. We want to share the joys of fall camping with you! We'll learn how to build a fire, cook outdoors, paddle a canoe, and cast a line. We'll camp out weather permitting (there is other shelter if necessary). Girls 12-17 welcome with a female adult.

Dutch Oven and Campfire Cooking

October 1 • Saturday • 1-3:30 PM

Registration begins September 15 (ages 12+)

Autumn is the perfect time to enjoy cooking around the campfire. What better to include on the menu but some of our local wild edibles!! Learn some techniques and recipes to make family meals both fun and tasty. We will be using cast iron for some recipes but will be using some other methods also. This will be a hands-on course, so be prepared to lend a hand in the kitchen and get a little smoky at the fire pit. It will be worth it when we taste our finished dishes.

Feeding Frenzy

October 6 • Thursday • 1–2 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.

Night Hike

October 7 • Friday • 7-9 PM

Registration begins September 15 (all ages)

Being a nocturnal animal means having special features that help you get around and find food in the dark. We'll hit the trail for a night hike to uncover the mysteries of Missouri's secretive night time animals. After the hike, we'll enjoy some s'mores by the campfire.

Field to Freezer

October 8 • Saturday • 10 AM–NOON

Registration begins September 15 (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.

Meet the Artist

October 8 • Saturday • 11 AM-2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Artist Margaret Randol Dement, a native of Cape Girardeau, designed the 500' Missouri Wall of Fame mural in downtown Cape Girardeau. She also designed and painted the 250' Red House Interpretive Center mural and the 35' mural in the Cape Girardeau Veterans' Home. She is known for her realistic portrait style and collage images. This month's nature center exhibit is in the form of sketches with journal entries about each subject. Subjects include wildlife, dogwood trees, catfish, cone flowers, hummingbirds and river scenes. Youth and adult groups welcome.

Nature Art: Flower Wreath

October 13 • Thursday • 6–8 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 16+)

The trees are joining with the fall flowers to provide a beautiful display of color. Let them inspire you to use our scraps of paper to make a pleated flower wreath to remember the flowers of summer.

Birding by Canoe

October 15 • Saturday • 8 AM–3 PM

Registration begins October 1 (ages 10+)

Join us as we canoe the open marshlands of Duck Creek Conservation Area in search of wetland species. Ages 10-17 welcome with a participating and registered adult.

Fall Festival

October 22 • Saturday • 4–8 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Come on out for a fantastic fall festival. Join us to explore the world of nighttime flyers. Meet magnificent owls in our live bird presentations at 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30. Take a stroll down our trail on one of our naturalist-led hikes to discover more about whooo's awake at night. Sit outside, enjoy a fire and a few fall treats or come on in for crafts. Bring the whole family for the fun! Youth and adult groups welcome.

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.

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.

MDC DISCOVER nature

Missourians care about conserving forests, fish and wildlife.

American Beech (Fagus grandifolia)

The only native beech to the United States, this species is a relict. Relict species are plants or animals that were previously widespread but are now limited or cutoff due to severe changes in range or habitat. In the case of the American beech they only occur naturally on the lower slopes and ravines of Crowley's Ridge, stop by Holly Ridge Conservation Area in Stoddard County to see this tree in abundance. You can also find it in moist woods, sloping hillsides, and valleys near streams and springs. The fruit of these trees, a three-sided nut, comes in small prickly husk. Birds and mammals eat the nuts. The trees have smooth grayish bark which stands out in the forest. The leaves are glossy green and toothed; during the fall they turn to amber orange and many stay on the tree through the winter.

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

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

Fireside Fun: Wildlife Stories

November 4 • Friday • 7-8 PM *Registration begins October 15 (ages 5+)*

Bring a lawn chair and gather around the fire for some stories about the fish, forests, and wildlife of Missouri. Tall tales and legends of colorful characters will entertain us for the evening.

Women's Hike At General Watkins CA

November 5 • Saturday • 9 AM-12:30 PM

Registration begins October 15 (ages 14+)

Enjoy the crisp air on a hike at General Watkins Conservation Area. We'll see American Beech mixed in among the trees along the ridge, and might even see a few other rare plants. **Hike is 3 miles and rated moderate.** This program is for women only. Girls ages 14-17 accompanied by an adult female are welcome.

Nature Art: Nature Card Set

November 10 • Thursday • 6-8 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 16+)

When you think of gift giving, why not think about nature inspired gifts? Join us as we make a few cards and learn how to make a nice folder in which to present them.

Homeschool Special: Who's for Lunch?

November 16 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM or 1–2:30 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 10-15)

Hungry for a little sunshine? All life starts with the sun! Become familiar with consumers,producers, and decomposers as we explore all the roles in the food chain. We'll learn how biomagnification affects a food web and take a hands-on approach as we dissect an owl pellet.

Homeschool Special: Who's for Lunch?

November 17 • Thursday • 10–11:30 AM or 1–2:30 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 6-10)

Hungry for a little sunshine? All life starts with the sun! Become familiar with consumers,producers, and decomposers as we explore all the roles in the food chain. We'll learn how biomagnification affects a food web and take a hands-on approach as we dissect an owl pellet.

Wild Animal Yoga

November 18 • Friday • 9-10 AM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 4-8 with adult)

Come play with us as we learn about wild animals and stretch our bodies. We'll have fun as we try out various nature related poses. No yoga experience necessary.

Feeding Frenzy

November 17 • Thursday • 1–2 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.

Conservation pays by enriching our economy and quality of life.

"Treasure" Hunting with GPS

November 19 • Saturday • 1–3:30 PM

Registration begins November 1 (ages 8+)

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. Ages 8-17 with an adult mentor.

Coming in December

Duck Decoy Carving

December 2 • Friday • 6-10 PM and December 3 • Saturday 8 AM-2 PM

Registration begins November 15 (ages 18+)

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.

Conservation Destination: Ketcherside Mountain CA

December 3 • Saturday • 8 AM–4 PM

Registration begins November 15 (ages 12+)

Join us for a rugged hike at Ketcherside Mountain Conservation Area. We'll hike along Royal Gorge Natural Area and stop by Taum Sauk Mountain (Missouri's highest point). **Hike is 4 miles and rated moderate to difficult.** Adult supervision required for ages 12-17.

Nature Art: Nature's Decor

December 10 • Saturday • 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM or 3 PM

Registration begins November 15 (ages 18+)

Deck the halls with boughs of holly. . .the holidays are just around the corner and we're in the mood to decorate! We'll use nature's resources to create wonderful winter wreaths, swags, and garlands. You provide a grapevine wreath (you choose the size and shape you want) and we'll provide everything else to do your decorating.

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, and all state holidays.

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.

Art Gallery-November

Enjoy "Hidden Treasures of Our Natural Community," a photographic journey exploring natural history treasures off the beaten path by Lance Merry. Within this exhibit, one can dive underwater to witness fish interactions rarely seen, wade through bogs to see the best of our orchid fauna, and muddy their boots to discover the complicated lives of salamanders.

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. Please contact Bridget Jackson for training information at bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov or call 573-290-5858 ext 4464.

Nature Deficit Tidbit

Aristotle is credited with the traditional "five senses" model (sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch). Modern research is discovering that we have many more senses than those five. While some conservatively say 10, others say we may have as many as 30. One example is proprioception, or the awareness of our body's position in space. Using low to medium tech devices, like a map and compass, can help you fine tune your proprioception, but depending on a GPS can have the opposite effect.

Another sense is equilibrioception, or the ability to keep your balance and sense body movement in terms of acceleration and directional changes. Hiking through the woods, climbing over logs, and moving over varying terrain can help improve equilibrioception. Our senses are remarkable things. No matter which we are discussing, spending time in nature can help you develop them.

Vitamin N by Richard Louv. (2016)

Ask the Naturalist

I noticed a weird cluster of leaves growing on a goldenrod plant. Why is it growing like that??

Goldenrod, like many other plants, are susceptible to galls. Galls are just an abnormal, plant-tissue growth. This odd growth can be caused by different things including bacteria, fungi, mites, and insects. In the case of the goldenrod, an insect lays its eggs inside the plant which affects the plant's growth in different ways depending on where the eggs were laid. With the description you provided, "a weird cluster of leaves," I would say that a midge (small fly) in the genus Rhopalomyia is the likely culprit. This midge laid its egg in the top leaf bud. This caused the stem to stop growing but the leaves continued to grow. The leafy growth provides a nice shelter and a good food source to the young midge larvae. Upon adulthood, they will emerge from the gall and leave it behind.

***Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply**

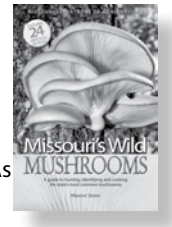
20% Off* these monthly specials!

What's HOT in the NATURE SHOP!

September/October

Missouri's Wild Mushrooms

A guide to hunting, identifying and cooking the state's most common mushrooms. A must-have for outdoor lovers, mushroom enthusiasts and cooks, the book features color photographs and detailed descriptions of 102 species. As a bonus, chanterelle quiche and 23 other simple and elegant recipes will awaken your foraging instincts!



Discounted price:
$11.20 plus tax

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

Thank You

Those purchasing paving stones for the Conservation Nature Center walkway:
Dan & Julia Piasecki, Bill Bourner, Jeff & Amanda Bourner family, Eric & Leslie Owen family, and Bob & Becky Dedert family: *in memory of*
Carolyn Huter
for donations of Time, Material, and Service
Natural Item: Betsy Boettcher
Bird Seed: Norman Hayden
Fishing poles: Denise Dowling

Nature Shop Sale

December 6-10

HOLIDAY SALE

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.

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

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 22

4 - 8 pm

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