



Managing Your Woods for Wildlife

If you are lucky enough to own a piece of property in the Missouri Ozarks you may have noticed that there are some areas on your property where the trees don't grow as well. These areas are usually found on southern and western facing slopes. We refer to these areas as glades or woodlands and they are an important habitat for many wildlife species.

The first step to restoring a glade or woodland is to remove the cedar trees. This should be done with a chainsaw and not a bulldozer. The soils on glades are very thin and if heavy equipment is used you may lose what little soil you have. The cedars can either be left where you cut them or you can burn them in piles on a snowy winter day. The next step to restoring a glade/woodland area is making a plan to burn the area multiple times over a several year period. Most of the time getting to the ground and burning will be enough to get the native plants growing again.

At this point you may be asking yourself, "How in the world can I produce more wildlife on this pile of rocks where only cedar trees and post oaks grow?" Removing the cedars will allow more sunlight to reach the ground and if you're able to do a burn on the area to remove excess leaf and needle litter you will encourage native plants to flourish. Turkeys will use the areas for mating, nesting, brood rearing and foraging for insects throughout the spring and summer. During the fall and winter they may use the area as a food source when acorns fall or they may find some seeds to eat from the native plants that you have encouraged. During the spring and summer deer will use



Restored glade (above)
Clearing cedars (right)

these areas for bedding, feeding and fawning. If you want more wildlife on your property the Missouri Department of Conservation can help you identify, restore and manage your glade or woodland.

For the Private Land Conservationist in your county, visit our Public Contacts Directory at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/19935> and choose your county.

by JEFF DIERKING, private land conservationist



Department offices will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25, so our staff can enjoy time with their families.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 p.m.

Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. If calling, leave a detailed message on ext. 1755. Reservations will be accepted beginning at 12 a.m. on the day of registration. You will be contacted for confirmation. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

*Conservation
makes Missouri a
great place to hunt
and fish.*

Cold Weather Survival

Dec 4 • Wednesday • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

(Families)

Prepare yourself for cold weather activities. Our program will provide information on selection of proper clothing, outdoor gear, fire-building, shelters, direction finding, avoiding weather-related hazards plus other outdoor tips to make your winter experiences safe and enjoyable. (Reservations begin at 12 a.m. on November 4.)



Basic Handgun, Part 1 and 2

Dec 5 and 7 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m. and • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This two-part program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin at 12 a.m. on November 5.)

Trigger Time–Handgun

Dec 15 • Sunday • 8:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin at 12 a.m. on November 15.)



New Gun 101

Dec 30 • Monday • 10 a.m. to noon

(Ages 9 and up)

Did you receive a new firearm for Christmas? Let’s get started with safe instruction! Bring your firearm to the range and we’ll learn basic operation, safety, maintenance, and spend some time learning to shoot that new gun. Be sure to bring your instruction manual if you have one. (Reservations begin at 12 a.m. on November 30.)

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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

Venison Burger & Sausage Making

Dec 4 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

(Ages 8 and up. Ages 8–15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

Deer Season is here. Congratulations, you got your deer. Now you can get ready for a feast. Join us to learn how to process, prepare and use the right type of mixture to get a tasty venison burger that your friends and family will enjoy. We will also show you how to make our favorite sausage. (Reservations begin November 4.).



Venison Cooking

Dec 5 • Thursday • 6–9 p.m.

(Ages 8 and up. Ages 8–15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

All of your hard work is finally going to pay off. You have harvested a deer, processed the meat and now it is time to cook. You will want to bring your appetite to this class. Our experienced cooks will give you some hands-on

training and will share their venison cooking recipes and secrets. There will be some food to sample. (Reservations begin November 5.)



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

HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday: 2–8 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Youth Hunter Education Challenge

Every two weeks from January to June, join the best group of new hunters around the St. Charles area. They meet early Saturday mornings at the August A. Busch Conservation Area.

The Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) is the premier hunter education event in Missouri. Each year young Hunter Education Graduates come together to advance their skills and knowledge in an exciting experience that incorporates many of the situations encountered while hunting. The program offers a chance to build on the skills that were introduced in the Hunter Education classroom.

The annual State Championship is held in June, offering the opportunity to experience the eight challenges of YHEC.

Those interested should call Frank Scott, Head Coach, at: 636-673-1283 or fsyhec@yahoo.com.

Family Plinking

Dec 28 • Saturday • 7:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 8 and up. Ages 8–15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

Bring the family out and try that new BB gun, air gun, or .22. This program is designed to get families to the range without feeling overwhelmed. Join our range staff for a morning of plinking. We will cover safety, parts of the firearm, aiming and shooting. Then the family will have some live fire time. (Reservations begin December 30.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST
8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

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

Creatures of Habitat

Dec 3 • Tuesday • 6–7:30 p.m.
(Ages 7–12)

Come to Powder Valley as we explore some of our Missouri animals and the best habitat for them: the one that offers the food, water, shelter, and space to meet their special needs. Pelts, mounts and skulls will be available to help us decide the best place for them to live. We will also take a short hike, and hopefully see some of Missouri's awesome creatures! (Reservations begin November 19.)

How Wildlife Weathers Winter

Dec 10 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.
(Ages 5 and up)

A few months ago many kinds of animals were enjoying the abundance of a Missouri summer. Now things have changed. The weather is cold. There may be snow and ice. Now there are no green plants or tasty insects for animals to eat. What does our wildlife do in winter?

Some animals migrate away, but what about all the others who stay here? We will consider eight different strategies wild animals can use for weathering winter, and illustrate them with activities and crafts. We will go on a winter walk, too, so please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin November 26.)



You and Me under the Canopy

Dec 17 • Tuesday • 10–11 a.m.
(Ages birth-8)

Families, meet in the nature center lobby at 10 a.m. for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won’t be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the canopy. In case of inclement weather the program will be shortened to 30 minutes. (Reservations are not required and siblings are welcome!)

Our programs make it easy for Missourians of all ages to discover nature.

Winter's Gifts

Dec 18 • Wednesday • 10–11 a.m.
(Ages 3-6)

On the first day of winter nature gave to me... a cardinal in an oak tree! Come and celebrate nature's winter animals as we practice counting in our own “12 days of winter” song. We'll also read a winter story and make a gift to give back to nature! (Reservations begin December 4.)



Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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

Powder Valley Staff and Volunteer Photo Exhibit

Discover Nature with Us

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center volunteers and staff share their love of nature through photography.



Although we are not professional photographers, we share a common passion for our natural world. Please stop by during the month of December and discover nature through our eyes.

What's HOT in the NATURE SHOP!

SAVE 20%
NOVEMBER 1-DECEMBER 31

SHOW ME Bugs
An uncommonly colorful guide to 50 cool bugs or amphibians and reptiles in Missouri. Both make great holiday gifts.

SHOW ME Herps
An uncommonly colorful guide to 50 cool amphibians and reptiles in Missouri.



What's Hot in the Nature Shop!
Get your holiday shopping done at the Nature Shop.

What's HOT in the NATURE SHOP!

\$7
ON SALE OCT. 1ST

2014 NATURAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Mother Nature is always up to something. Let the Natural Events Calendar be your guide to what's going on throughout the year.



You can find the Nature Shop online at mdcnatureshop.com or at the following St. Louis Region locations:

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
636-441-4554

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
314-877-6014

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
314-301-1500

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

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



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

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Pirates of Columbia Bottom: Intro to Geocaching

Dec 7 • Saturday • 1–3 p.m.

(Families)

Bring the whole family to Columbia Bottom to be modern day pirates through the outdoor sport of geocaching! This adventurous outdoor activity ties both technology and nature together for all ages. Join us for a brief introduction on the basics of geocaching and then try your hand at hunting for hidden treasures on the area. GPS units will be provided. (Reservations begin November 23.)

Winter is Coming

Dec 14 • Saturday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 and up)

The seasons are changing, and it is getting cold outside. Let's investigate how the animals find food and shelter while managing to keep warm in winter time. Put on your winter coat, hat, and mittens so we can head outside to also find out where animals go during the cold winter months. Be sure to wear warm shoes or boots that may get wet. (Reservations begin November 30.)

Let's Get Crafting!

Dec 14 • Saturday • 1–3 p.m.

(All Ages)

Anyone can be creative or crafty, especially this time of year. All you need is inspiration and raw materials. Columbia Bottom has both. Join us for this seasonal offering to make naturally unique gifts for yourself and others. We'll spend about twenty to thirty minutes outside gathering materials before we work on our projects indoors. (Reservations begin November 30.)



Snake Snack

Dec 19 • Thursday • 10–11 a.m.

(All ages)

As all the snakes in Missouri hunker down for the long winter, let's observe one that stays active all year. Learn about our captive prairie king snake and even get a chance to see it "sneak" up on a scrumptious snack. (No reservations required.)

New Year's Eve Walk

Dec 31 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

What better way to get refreshed for the New Year than a quiet stroll in the crisp, moonless night at Columbia Bottom? Be enlightened as we listen for our night time denizens and learn about the adaptations which enable them to conduct their activities in the dark at this cold time of the year. We'll spend a few minutes at the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers before we head back. Dress warmly for the weather. Meet at parking lot "M" about 4 miles from the main entrance. (Reservations begin December 15.)



August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

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

Backyard Birding

Dec 7 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 a.m.

(Ages 5–7)

Bird watching is a fun, lifelong activity! Children are introduced to this nature hobby by learning basic bird identification, backyard attraction techniques and making a bird feeder out of recycled materials. (Reservations begin November 22.)



Clark Hike

Dec 7 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Hike an invigorating 5.3 miles on the Clark Trail at the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. The area supports a wide range of wildlife during the winter, but what food is available to them? Learn how wildlife survives the winter. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous. Winter weather can make the hike more strenuous. (Reservations begin November 22.)

Holiday Herps

Dec 11 • Wednesday • 5–8 p.m.

(Families)

Get a special, up-close look at our “herp” collection. There will be many live critters on display, including venomous snakes. Enjoy discovery tables, crafts and free publications to take home. Come by any time during the three hour period. (Reservations are not required but recommended. Reservations begin November 27.)

Our Amazing Furbearing Animals

Dec 14 • Saturday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 7–12)

Furbearers have been extremely important animals in Missouri for centuries. They are the main reason that St. Louis was founded at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers in 1764. Around 100 years ago many were close to eradication due to excessive hunting/trapping pressure and habitat loss. Through strong conservation efforts most of these important animals are thriving once again. (Reservations begin November 27.)

Owl Prowl

Dec 14 • Saturday • 6:30–8 p.m.

(Families)

Stepping into the woods at night is an adventure! Ever wonder “who’s” awake while you’re sleeping? Learn all about owls and take a short hike to call for owls in the forest they call home. Effort = Mild. Mostly flat terrain. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin November 27.)

Night Hike – Busch Hiking/Biking Trail

Dec 21 • Saturday • 6–9 p.m.

(Families)

Experience the sounds of the night during a moderate night hike at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. We will hike the 3.5 mile, Busch Hiking/Biking Trail listening for coyotes howling and owls calling in the cool winter night. Effort = Mild to Moderate. Gravel path in forest and fields with short, gentle hills. Winter weather can increase the hike difficulty to Moderate. (Reservations begin December 6.)



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

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Night Time Off-Trail Navigation with Accuracy

Dec 28 • Saturday • 5–9 p.m.

(Families Ages 10 and up)

Challenge and adventure await your family on this two to three mile, night time navigation trip at Howell Island Conservation Area in Chesterfield, MO. Your resources will be: laser pointers, compass, map, GPS and experienced Naturalists. Navigate predetermined waypoint destinations utilizing all of your tools to gain navigation confidence. Effort = Moderate. Flat terrain with some fallen trees and brush to avoid. (Reservations begin December 13.)

Rockwoods Reservation

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



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

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Owl Prowl

Dec 6 • Friday • 6:30–8 p.m.

(Families)

Who's that hooting it up each December evening? Owls, that's who! Learn what makes owls such effective night time hunters and why they hoot so much in winter. Please dress for the weather as we'll venture outdoors to look and listen for these nocturnal predators. (Reservations begin November 22.)

Our Amazing Furbearing Animals

Dec 10 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 7–12)

Furbearers have been extremely important animals in Missouri for centuries. They are the main reason that St. Louis was founded at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers in 1764. Around 100 years ago many were close to eradication due to excessive hunting/trapping pressure and habitat loss. Through strong conservation efforts most of these important animals are thriving once again. (Reservations begin November 26.)



Breakfast with the Birds

Dec 20 • Friday • 9–10:30 a.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Enjoy a winter morning watching the birds while eating a delicious Dutch oven breakfast. Learn to attract birds to your backyard and how to identify them once they've arrived. (Reservations begin December 6.)

Forest Park Office

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



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

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

'Tis the Season

Dec 10 • Tuesday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(All ages)

Squirrels and foxes are breeding. Other animals are denning up for the winter. Birds are gathering at feeders and many are migrating. We are getting ready for the holidays. Join us and relax from the hustle and bustle of the season. This program brings us indoors to highlight some of the bounties of winter. We will make a wreath decorated with fall and winter outdoor finds. (Reservations begin November 5.)