

ST. LOUIS

Conservation Connections

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • November 2014



Fall is a fabulous time of year. The days become shorter, temperatures become cooler and leaves begin to fall. For many Missourians this means that firearms deer season is fast approaching. Many consider deer season a holiday and set aside time for family, good friends, and a chance to enjoy Missouri's hunting opportunities.

As the Fall Firearms deer season approaches, there are a few important safety measures to remember. Safety is often overlooked when a hunter gets in a hurry. Please keep these tips in mind when you hunt:

- Create a hunting plan that lets family members know your hunting location, your planned return date, and estimated return time. This allows family and friends to locate you in case of an emergency.
- Always wear hunter orange for your safety as well as the safety of other hunters. This must include a hat and vest.
- Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.
- Identify your target before you pull the trigger.
- Know your location in regards to property boundaries and other hunters that may be in the area.
- Remember that the goals of an ethical hunter are to make a quick clean kill and always do the right thing even if nobody is watching.

Pick up the 2014 Missouri Deer Hunting brochure and review the rules and regulations for the area where you plan to hunt. Some rules have changed considerably.

As we all prepare for the upcoming season it is of the utmost importance that we all keep these safety tips in mind. Stay safe this year and have a great hunting season.



by *LUCAS McCLAMROCH*, conservation agent

Kenny Bair and Lance McClamroch

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. 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.

The range is closed Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27.

Beginning Handgun

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

(Ages 16 and up)

This two-part program includes classroom handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. Although equipment and ammo are provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammo to the Saturday morning live-fire session. An adult must accompany anyone under age 18. (Reservations begin October 10.)

Basic Handgun Care and Cleaning

Nov 8 • Saturday • 6–7:30 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

All handguns -- new and old -- need proper cleaning and lubrication before hunting, competition, or recreational shooting. Proper care keeps guns working and prevents worn or damaged parts. Let us teach you maintenance techniques while we review products and their claims. We provide the firearms and equipment. (Reservations begin October 8.)

Trigger Time–Handgun

Nov 15 • Saturday • 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 our staff. Participants must bring their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. (Reservations begin October 15.)

Youth .22 Rifle

Nov 29 • Saturday 8–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting rifles are invited to participate in this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin October 29.)

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Unless otherwise indicated, an adult must accompany youth under the age of 16.

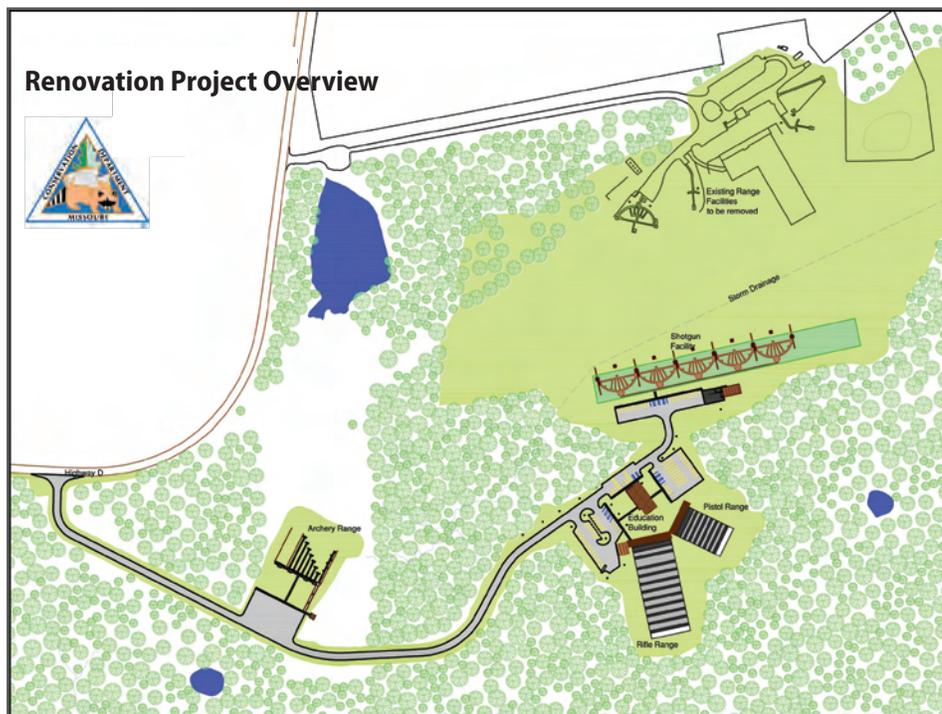
Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Shooting Range Renovations

The Missouri Department of Conservation's August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in St. Charles will be renovated, beginning in January 2015, into an expanded state-of-the-art shooting range featuring more shooting stations and classroom facilities.

To expedite the renovations to the existing site, the shooting range will close to the public starting in January 2015 and remain closed for the duration of the 24-30 month renovation project. The new range will incorporate current national shooting range design standards, including more shooting stations, new classroom facility, and other building improvements for user convenience, safety, and reduced waiting times. For further information visit <http://mdc.mo.gov>.



**The range is closed Thanksgiving,
Thursday, November 27.**



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.

Basic Handgun

Nov 12 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

Nov 13 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This class introduces you to the finer points of handgun shooting. Wednesday is the classroom portion located at the August A. Busch CA regional office classroom. Here you learn safety, actions, stance, grip, aiming and more. Thursday is the live fire portion at the August A. Busch Shooting Range. Class portion attendance is required to attend the live fire session. (Reservations begin November 14.)

Unless otherwise indicated, an adult must accompany youth under the age of 16.

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. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

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.

Scout Discovery Tables Endangered Species

Nov 1 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
(All ages)

Our Scout Discovery Tables help Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts earn portions of badges relating to nature and wildlife. This month the spotlight is on endangered species of Missouri. In this self-led program, you learn the current status of some of our species of concern and what has caused them to become threatened. Also learn how you can help. Discovery Tables are open to scout groups as well as the general public. (No reservations necessary.)

Managed Archery Deer Hunt

Powder Valley's building and trails are CLOSED Saturday, November 8, through Monday, November 10 for a managed archery deer hunt.

Missouri offers numerous managed deer hunts for archery, crossbow, muzzleloading and modern firearms from mid-September through January. One of the archery



hunts this year will be held at Powder Valley. Long term, the effects of too many deer include significant habitat destruction, higher disease rate, and stress on the animals. Goals of managed hunts include balancing a healthy habitat with healthy deer and continued viewing opportunities.

Kaylee Coleman with her first deer which she harvested during last year's managed archery hunt. Kaylee used a crossbow with a scope.

Babes in the Woods

Nov 6 • Thursday • 9:30–10 a.m. or
11–11:30 a.m.
(Ages birth-3)

It's never too early to introduce your little one to the wonders of nature, and fall is a perfect time to enjoy the outdoors. Join other parents and caregivers for a stroller walk at the Nature Center. Discover how nature appeals to our senses at age. (Reservations begin October 21.)

Educational Costume Party

Nov 11 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.
(Ages 4 and up)

Whether you wear just a funny tail or a whole bunny suit, come dressed as your favorite Missouri animal or insect! Be ready to tell three interesting things about that creature, too. During "show and tell" we'll learn more about the animals from each other and from the naturalist. We'll play fun games that illustrate various wildlife principles, use creativity in a free-form craft, and go for a nature hike, so wear a costume you can walk in. (Reservations begin October 28.)

The building and area grounds are closed Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28 so our staff can enjoy time with their families.

The nature center and trails will reopen Saturday, November 29, at 8 a.m.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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

Girls on Fire!

Nov 15 • Saturday • 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
(Girls ages 14–18)

Bring out your inner Katniss! Learn some of the skills this character used in the popular book series *The Hunger Games*! Participants will rotate between 3 activities: archery, camouflage, and fire/water/shelter. Dress for the weather and bring a water bottle and snack. This program will be at Emmenegger Nature Park. Please call for directions. (Reservations begin October 25.)

The Black Bear Necessities

November 18 • Tuesday • 6–8pm
(Ages 8 and up)

Black Bears are quiet, shy animals that live throughout our forests. Like other living things, black bears must have all their needs met by their habitat in order to survive. Their activities, behaviors, and challenges differ as limiting factors play a vital role. Challenge yourself by becoming a bear and see if you have what it takes to survive. (Reservations begin November 4.)

Homeschool Special Wildlife Detectives

Nov 18 • Tuesday • 10 a.m.–noon
(Ages 7–12)

Are you a Sherlock Holmes fan? Do you usually solve the crime before the television detective does? Many techniques used by forensic scientists to crack human crimes are also applied by wildlife biologists to solve animal-related incidents. Join us as we explore tools that the experts use, such as DNA extraction and various identification techniques. We will also take a hike to find evidence of wildlife ourselves. (Reservations begin November 4.)

You and Me Under the Canopy

Nov 19 • Wednesday • 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! Hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the tree canopy. Siblings are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the program will be shortened to 30 minutes. (Reservations begin November 9.)

Night Hike

Nov 21 • Friday • 6:30–8:30 p.m.
(Ages 6 and up)

Experiencing nature at night can be fun and exciting! Come to Powder Valley and try out your night vision along with your other senses as we hike the Broken Ridge trail (2/3 mile) and explore the bird feeder area in search of nocturnal animals. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable shoes, and bring a flashlight. (Reservations begin November 7.)

What's **HOT** in the **NATURE SHOP!**

\$7
ON SALE OCT. 1ST

NATURAL EVENTS CALENDAR
2015

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

Hallway Exhibit: The Art World Association

Powder Valley welcomes the return of The Art World Association. The Art World Association has been active in the arts since its founding in 1963 as a fine arts and fine crafts organization. This nonprofit organization includes professional and nonprofessional members who hold exhibitions in the St. Louis area.

Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit



Powder Valley once again welcomes the Junior Duck Stamp “Best of Show” pieces during the month of November. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school.

For information on the Junior Duck Stamp Program please visit <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/artcontest.htm>

2014 Missouri Best of Show
Northern Shoveler by Brock Jenkins, age 16

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.

Twisted Tales at Two Rivers

Nov 7 • Friday • 6:30, 6:50, 7:10, 7:30, 7:50, 8:10 p.m.

Nov 8 • Saturday • 6:00, 6:20, 6:40, 7:00, 7:20, 7:40 p.m.

(All ages)

Take an unusual glimpse into the natural world after dark. Untwist the myths behind some of Missouri's feared creatures. After the true natures of our animals are revealed, ride a hay wagon back to the Confluence and enjoy the moonlight over our two rivers. Our walk is ½ mile on a paved, flat surface. Accessible hay rides are 8:10 p.m. on Friday and 7:40 p.m. on Saturday.

Program meets at the Confluence pavilion, parking lot "N". (Reservations begin October 17.)

Fall Flair

Nov 19 • Wednesday • 10 a.m.–noon
(8 and up)

We will venture outside to gather inspiration from our fall colors, fallen leaves, the first frosts, and maybe even some animals. Then, we come indoors to enjoy making our very own fall flair fit for a Thanksgiving table. (Reservations begin November 5.)

Dutch Oven Cooking

Nov 22 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
(Families)

Learn the tasty benefits to practicing this valuable outdoor skill. Discover the basics of Dutch oven cooking including how to prepare food, temperature control, cleaning, and more. (Reservations begin November 1.)

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.

know who pranced through, who dug that burrow and even who left that poop (often referred to as scat). Meet at the Aquatic Education Lakes at the Forest Park Hatchery. Bring a sack lunch and water bottle and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin October 14.)

Tom Turkey Time

Nov 12 • Wednesday • 9:30–10:30 a.m.
(Ages 5–7)

Get an early start on Thanksgiving by learning about wild turkeys in Missouri. Examine body parts, hear the wing flapping and listen for the call. We'll make a decoration for the holiday. Then, when hiking in the fall and winter you can identify turkeys calling to each other. (Reservations begin October 27.)

Animal Identification, Hunting, and Tracking

Nov 11 • Tuesday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

(Ages 10–16)

Spend the day with us learning about hunting, tracking, and identifying animals by the clues that they leave. With nearly 750 vertebrate species in Missouri, knowing which animal made what sign can be tricky. Yet, with the help of some trusty techniques and good ole' critter classification, you can walk through an area and

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

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



Bald eagle

Those Awesome Stealth Flyers

Nov 8 • Saturday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 7–12)

Eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls are magnificent, highly specialized birds called “raptors.” Learn what makes these birds of prey both masters of flight and supreme hunters. (Reservations begin October 24.)

Orienteering with Map and Compass

Nov. 8 • Saturday • 12:30–4:30 p.m.
and Nov. 15 • Saturday • 6–9:30 p.m.

(Families Ages 10 and up)

No trail to follow on this unforgettable, off-trail hiking experience! Day 1, Nov. 8: Learn to use a map and compass finding landmarks off-trail. Day 2, Nov. 15: Return to navigate the same course at night. Effort = Easy to Moderate, two to three miles over gentle hills, briars and thick vegetation present but can be avoided. (Reservations begin October 24).

Canopy Climb

Nov 8 • Saturday • 9:30–11:30 a.m.
or 1–3 p.m.

(Ages 8 and up with an Adult)

Our naturalists have teamed up with Vertical Voyages to share an adventure in the treetops with you! Using special equipment you climb a tree into the canopy for a new perspective of the changing forest. (Registration and fees collected directly at http://www.verticalvoyages.com/trips_events/winter-forest-climb)

Tom Turkey Time

Nov 13 • Thursday • 9:30–10:30 a.m.

(Ages 4–7)

Get an early start on Thanksgiving by learning all about wild turkey. Examine feathers, wings, feet, and listen to calls. Make a decoration for your holiday table. (Reservations begin October 30.)

Owl Prowl

Nov 15 • Saturday • 6:30–8 p.m.

(All ages)

Ever wonder who’s awake while you’re sleeping? Learn about Missouri’s nocturnal birds of prey and take a short hike to call and listen for owls in the night. (Reservations begin October 31.)



Barn owls

Night Hike – Busch Hiking/ Biking Trail

Nov 22 • Saturday • 5:30–8:30 p.m.

(Adults)

Experience the sounds of nature, listening for coyotes, owls, and other creatures on a night hike. Effort = Moderate for gravel surface hiking at night in forested hills. (Reservations begin November 7.)



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.

Orienteering: Emphasis on Features of a Topographic Map

Nov 29 • Saturday • 12–5 p.m.

(Families ages 12 and up)

Advance your map reading skills in a challenging Weldon Spring C.A. trek. Search for landmarks and historical areas traversing the rugged hills of Weldon Spring C.A. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous, off-trail hiking, four to six miles in rugged forest. Prerequisite: working knowledge of an orienteering compass. (Reservations begin November 14.)

Volunteer Milestones

Amber McDaniel	100 hours
Amy Wilsdorf	100 hours
Jeff Cruzen	400 hours
Marilynn Motchan	1,000 hours

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.

Conservation pays by enriching our economy and quality of life.

Wild turkey



Nature Identification on the Rock Quarry Trail Homeschool Special

Nov 3 • Monday • 1–3:30 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

Hike the 2.5 mile Rock Quarry Trail to explore nature in the forests at Rockwoods. We'll identify fall mushrooms, plants, and animals. Learn to use guidebooks to enhance your enjoyment of nature. Please bring your favorite guide book or borrow ours. Effort = Moderate for gravel and natural surface hiking in forested hills. (Reservations begin October 20.)



Hen of the woods

Full Moon Hike

Nov 7 • Friday • 7–9 p.m.

(Ages 8 and up)

Experience the fun and excitement of nature at night on the Trail Among the Trees. Listen and look for owls, coyotes, and more. Effort = Moderate for hiking approx. 1.5 mile on partly-paved surface with hilly terrain. (Reservations begin October 24.)

Thanksgiving Dutch Oven Cooking

Nov 8 • Saturday • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Preparing Thanksgiving dinner just got easier! Learn to cook turkey, mashed potatoes, and desserts, all in a Dutch Oven. Bring your own favorite Thanksgiving recipes and learn tips to cooking them in a Dutch Oven. (Reservations begin October 24.)

Bird Feeders

Nov 15 • Saturday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Families)

Learn about our feathered friends and how to help them through the cold winter months. Build a bird feeder to take home to help your backyard birds. (Reservations begin October 24.)

Turkey Trek

Nov 15 • Saturday • 1–3 p.m.

(Families)

How much do you know about Missouri's largest bird? Their restoration in an amazing story of conservation in action. Experience an invigorating two mile hike on the Turkey Ridge Trail at Rockwoods Reservation to discover the habitat, foods, and calls of the wild turkey. Effort = Mild to Moderate for natural surface hiking up and down steep forested slopes for two miles. (Reservations begin October 31.)