

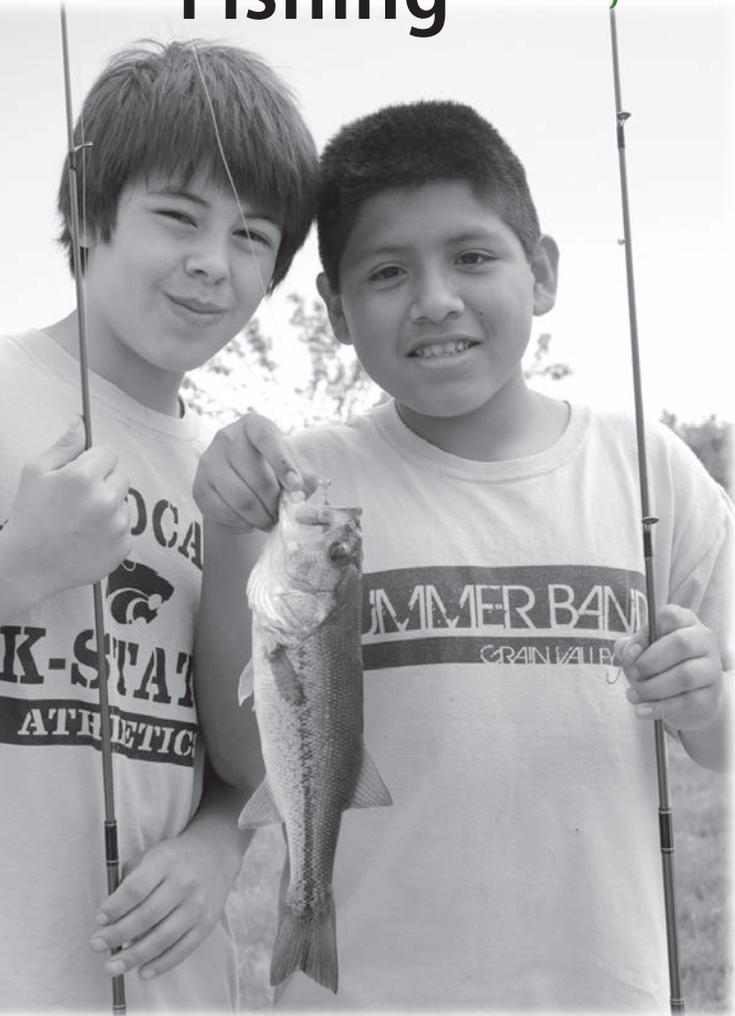
Nature & You



News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • March/April 2015

Discover Nature Fishing

Great fishing opportunities can be found close to home



Awonderful aspect about Missouri's great fishing is that opportunities are found close to home or on a road trip. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) connects people with nature, and that includes a bluegill, bass, crappie or catfish tugging on a fishing line. Experienced anglers or newcomers alike will find help from MDC in knowing where and how to catch fish.

For newcomers, MDC has a new program called **Discover Nature–Fishing**.

Classes will be offered at various times and locations to help youths and families learn how to fish. The class sessions are free. Instructors will teach participants about fish ecology, equipment, proper angling techniques, regulations and how to handle fish. MDC will provide the gear and expertise. Participants will gain the confidence and knowledge needed to have fun fishing.

For information about upcoming classes, contact the **Kansas City Regional Office at 816-622-0900**. Information is also available on the web at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/27175>. Veteran anglers can play a role in the **Discover Nature–Fishing** program, too. Volunteers are sought who can help teach classes and maintain gear used in the

program. It's a chance to pass on to others an enjoyment of the outdoors. Those interested should also call the Kansas City Regional Office.

March and April will bring warmer temperatures. Fish are more active in spring than in winter or late summer. So it's a wonderful time to get outdoors.

Visit mdc.mo.gov and click on Conservation Areas on the home page to look for public areas with good fishing near your neighborhood. Also, MDC now

has a fish app for digital devices. The Find MO Fish app provides information about lakes and rivers, public access sites, weekly fishing reports and outlooks, and coordinates for GPS units that show where MDC has provided fish habitat such as sunken brush piles. Anglers can find the app and info about it at <http://mdc.mo.gov/mobile/mobile-apps/find-mo-fish>

Here are some hints about good fishing spots with easy access.

The **James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area** at Lee's Summit is one of MDC's oldest public conservation areas and still among the best. Anglers will find 12 lakes ranging in size from one to 42 acres. MDC biologists have provided plenty of underwater and shoreline habitat for game fish and forage fish. Many of the shorelines offer easy access. Larger lakes have docks and jetties easily accessible for people with mobility challenges. Even if the fish are not biting, the Reed Area is a scenic place to spend a spring day.

In the Northland, **Guy B. Park Conservation Area** north of Platte City includes the 17-acre Tobacco Hills Lake. The lake has all species of warm-water fish such as bass and catfish. But it is also known for producing large bluegill. MDC also maintains public access sites and boat ramps along the Platte River in Platte County.

Smithville Lake in Clay County is a large U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir with plenty of public access and fishing opportunities. Some of the best sites are parks operated by the Clay County Parks and Recreation Department.

When is the best time to go fishing in spring? Most anglers will say any time you have the time. It's a beautiful time to be outdoors. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov

– Bill Graham, Media Specialist

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



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 Thanksgiving Day, day after

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

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 will be fed (March 6 & 20 and April 3 & 17).

Wildlife at the Doorstep

March 7 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

No registration required (all ages)

Squirrels in the attic, birds flying into windows, groundhogs in the garden. It is spring, and animals are busy preparing a place for their babies. Find out just what's going on in nature outside your door and how to co-exist with spring "madness."

Babes in the Woods: Pine Forest Exploration

March 10 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 mos.)

The pine forest is a magical place to romp and discover nature with your little one. From the sweet smells to the softly muted sounds, you and your child will delight in these unique outdoor sensations.

Conservation Kids Club: So You Want to Be an Agent

March 10 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Have you always wondered what it would be like to actually be an agent for the Missouri Department of Conservation? This night is for you! Join Conservation Agent Travis as you discover just what it takes to become an agent. You won't want to miss this exciting, hands-on program.

Little Acorns: Turtle Trot

March 11 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

March 14 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Enter the mysterious world of the turtle. Land turtles and water turtles, snapping and friendly, we will see them all in this interactive, imaginative program as we explore the life of a terrapin.

Home School: Animal Senses Revealed

March 11 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for ages

6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

Registration required

We use our five senses every day to navigate the world around us. For wild animals, alert senses can mean the difference between finding a meal and becoming a meal. Come learn about some of the unique sensory adaptations Missouri animals use to survive.

Guided Bird Hike

March 14 · Saturday · 7–8 AM

April 4 · Saturday · 7–8 AM

No registration required (all ages)

The early bird gets the worm and we plan to be there to see it! Join us this Saturday morning for a guided spring bird hike with our Bird Nerd Naturalists. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from the nature center. No birding experience required.

Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale

March 21 · Saturday · 8 AM–12:45 PM

Registration required and began Feb. 3

(adults) Beautify your landscape with some of Missouri's best natural resources-native plants! Learn how to save time, money and create wildlife habitat with educational sessions on native rock gardens, pressed plant art, butterfly gardening, wild edibles, treescaping and much more.

The Native Plant Sale is open 12:45–1:15 p.m. for workshop participants and 1:15–3:45 p.m. for the public.

Bringing Nature Home

March 21 · Saturday

1–2:15 PM – Meet and greet, book signing

2:30–3:30 PM – Program

Registration required and began Feb. 3 (adults)

You won't want to miss this incredible opportunity to meet special guest speaker Doug Tallamy as he helps us to understand the importance of nature at home. Tallamy will discuss the important ecological roles of plants in our landscapes, emphasizing the ecological, educational, physical and emotional benefits of designing landscapes with these roles in mind, and explore the consequences of failing to do so.

Are You Ready to Forage?

March 24 · Tuesday · 1–2:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

Would you like to learn how to forage for wild edible plants? Join us for an afternoon of discovery as we prepare for this season by developing our plant identification skills. Hike is included, weather permitting.

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

March 28 · Saturday · 10 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11+; youngsters ages 11–15 must be accompanied by a participating adult)

Spring is here and the toms are strutting. That can only mean one thing to some people: spring turkey season is here! For more than 50 years, Missourians have enjoyed pursuing these large elusive birds. Join us as we explore the basics of turkey hunting, including locations, equipment, techniques and more.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Burr Oak Woods area and trails will be closed for the Youth Managed Turkey Hunt, April 11 and 12, from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.



**Discover Nature:
Women's Spring Fling**

May 1-3 · Friday 6 PM-Sunday 1 PM
Registration required (women ages 18+; girls ages 14-17 are welcome when accompanied by an adult woman)
The Discover Nature: Women's Spring Fling provides a safe and friendly environment where women experience hands-on outdoor skills training, such as archery, canoeing, backpacking, GPS or map and compass and much more by a team of outdoor skills professionals. Courses will be held at the Lake Doniphan Conference and Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Mo. For more information contact **Lisa LaCombe** at 816-655-6263 ext. 1332 or **Lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov**

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

March 28 · Saturday · 11 AM-Noon
April 25 · Saturday · 11 AM-Noon
Walk-in (ages 2+)
Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies.

Arbor Day Trees

April 3 · Friday · 8 AM-5 PM
April 4 · Saturday · 9 AM-4 PM
Walk-in (all ages)
Visitors to Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center will have the opportunity to select a seedling (chinquapin oak or spicebush) to plant in celebration of Missouri Arbor Day. One tree per family or group is available while supplies last.

Little Acorns: Slithering Tales

April 4 · Saturday · 10-11 AM
No registration required (ages 3-5)
April 8 · Wednesday · 10-11 AM or 1-2 PM
Registration required (ages 3-5)
How do snakes move without legs? How do they smell with their tongue? Why do they sleep with their eyes open? Come learn the answers to these questions and more as we share slithering tales of our scaly friends.

**Home School:
Awesome Amphibians**

April 8 · Wednesday · 10-11:30 AM for ages 6-8, 9-11, 12-18 or 1-2:30 PM for ages 6-8
Registration required
They have moist skin, no claws and they lay eggs in the water. They're amphibians! Frogs, toads and salamanders display wonderful adaptations to living their lives both in and out of the water. Hop in and splash around as we uncover these cold-blooded critters.

Owl Prowl

April 10 · Friday · 7:30-9:30 PM
Registration required (ages 5+)
Who rules the forest when dusk turns to night? Our amazing owls, of course! Learn about adaptations that allow owls to be great nocturnal predators. Then join us in the forest to seek out our special guests!

Snake Encounter

April 11 · Saturday · 1-2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Snakes are making their way out of their dens to find food and mates. Meet a few up close and learn about the fascinating lives of this group of reptiles. You may even get to watch one consume its prey!



Babes in the Woods: Habitat Hike

April 14 · Tuesday · 10-11:30 AM
Registration required (babes under 36 mos.)
The Habitat Trail highlights beautiful and unique natural areas along its meandering path. Join us for a leisurely walk around the loop and discover some new places for nature play with your babe.

**Conservation Kids Club:
Night Symphony**

April 14 · Tuesday · 6:30-8 PM
Registration required (ages 7-13)
Spring at last! Their songs fill the night! We will learn how to identify frogs by their calls. Join the Kids Citizen Science Team as we go out in search of the frogs that call Burr Oak Woods home.



Scavenger Hike

April 18 · Saturday · 1-2:30 PM
No registration required (families)
What can you find in the forest? Wonders abound when we stop and take a closer look. Join us as we search the forest for interesting and unusual colors, shapes and textures that exist all around us.

In Search of Wild Greens

April 21 · Tuesday · 1-3 PM
Registration required (adults)
Join the Wild Ones in search of the first greens of spring. We will learn to identify and where to find these delicate new plants, discover their nutritional value and best of all have an opportunity to sample them.

Family Archery

April 25 · Saturday · 1-2:30 PM or 2:30-4 PM
Registration required (families with children ages 8+)
The popularity of archery for sport and hunting is increasing. Discover the fun of this family activity as parents and kids learn together. We will teach and practice the basics, helping you perfect your stance to shoot more consistently and accurately.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

Burr Oak Woods CA will be available
7 a.m. – 8 p.m. seven days a week.



Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



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

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.

Teen's and .22 cal

March 7 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

Registration required beginning Feb. 1

(ages 11–17) The course is designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms. Topics to be covered will include safety, parts of a .22 rifle, marksmanship and much more.

Basic Orienteering

March 12 · Thursday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required beginning Feb. 1

(ages 12+) Come join the Lake City staff as we learn the basics of using a topographic

map and compass. Come join us for a morning of outdoor adventure as we search for treasures with our compass and find hidden treasures around the Lake City complex.

Introduction to Skeet Shooting

March 14 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

April 11 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required beginning Feb. 1

(ages 12+)

Tired of trap shooting and looking for a quicker game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

Beginning Archery

March 20 · Friday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required beginning Feb. 1

(ages 12–17)

Archery is becoming very popular with young people today. Many competitions are held between school archery teams. Learn more about the fundamentals of shooting archery such as proper stance, draw technique, equipment and follow through.

Women's Firearm Safety– Phase I

March 21 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required beginning Feb. 15

(women ages 18+)

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include introducing a firearm into the home, basic marksmanship and laws regarding ownership of firearms.

Basic Handgun

March 29 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

April 25 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required beginning Feb. 15

(ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered will include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Patterning Your Shotgun

April 2 · Thursday · 5–7:30 PM and

April 10 · Friday · 5–7:30 PM

Registration required beginning March 1

(ages 12+) Patterning your shotgun is a very important part of turkey hunting that is overlooked by turkey hunters. We will discuss the principles how to use different turkey shotshells and chokes to achieve the most effective pattern for your shotgun.

Introduction to Metallic Cartridge Reloading: Pistol

April 3 · Friday · 6–8:30 PM

Registration required beginning March 1

(adults) If you have ever been interested in reloading your own pistol cases, this is a good way to get started. We will cover many different topics of reloading including equipment for reloading, safety concerns when reloading, loading data and more.

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

April 7 · Tuesday · 5–9:30 PM

Registration required beginning March 1

(all ages) For the novice turkey hunter who would like to know more about hunting the elusive eastern wildturkey. We will discuss how to scout for turkeys, where they roost, use of blinds and decoys and patterning your shotgun properly. There will be range time to bring your shotgun and favorite turkey load.

Women's Firearm Safety–Phase II

April 11 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required beginning March 1

(women ages 18+)

Pre-requisite Phase-I: Let's learn more about handguns. This course was designed for women who are interested in gaining more information about firearms. Topics discussed include storage of firearms, different types of handguns and calibers. Build your marksmanship skills with more range time and how to clean your firearm.

Basic Shotgun

April 14 · Tuesday · 6–9:30 PM

Registration required beginning March 1

(ages 12+) This is an introduction to shotgun class which will focus on safe handling of firearms, types of actions, gauges, shotshell construction and chokes. Shooting stance, proper shoulder mounting and fit will be discussed in the class.

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education Classes Offered

It's not too early to begin thinking about hunter education and bow hunter education. Remember that in Missouri anyone born after January 1, 1967 must successfully complete a hunter education class to hunt with a firearm. Bow hunter education is optional in Missouri for regular archery hunting. But many special managed hunts on public lands as well as some other states require completion of the course.

Each year, you will see a number of course offerings beginning in March and April. In the Kansas City area, there are two main seasons for Hunter Education. The spring season is prior to the turkey season and most classes will be offered in March, April and May. A few classes are generally held in the summer. The fall season is the biggest and is prior to the deer season. Most classes in the fall will be offered in August, September, October and the early part of November. Don't wait until the last minute! Classes often fill up quick as the seasons approach.

If you haven't looked into getting hunter education certified in the last couple years, you may not know that the course requirements have changed. The class is now broken into two parts, a knowledge portion and a skills portion. You must first complete the knowledge portion in one of three ways. After that you can get registered to attend a skills session. To learn more, find a class or get registered visit www.mdc.mo.gov/node/3722

– Nathan Woodland, Parma Woods Range Supervisor

Creating Cartridges: Beyond the Basics

March 11 · Wednesday · 6–10 PM

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

Reloading metallic cartridges can be rewarding, but at times it can also be frustrating. There are literally thousands of different combinations of components and processes. Sometimes it's hard to know which choices to make. Join our experienced team of reloading enthusiasts as we take you beyond the basics and help you troubleshoot some common issues.

Antler Academy: Shed Hunting and Creating a Hunting Coop

March 19 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

In this month's **Antler Academy**, we'll be taking a look into shed hunting. We'll be learning all about antlers, why they are shed and how to look for them after they drop. We'll also be talking about cooperative agreements for hunting. You'll learn what they are, how they work, some of the benefits to creating them, and how to get yours started.

Introduction to Firearms

March 20 · Friday · 6–9 PM AND

March 21 · Saturday · 8:30–11:30 AM

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

Staying safe around firearms requires the appropriate level of knowledge and skill combined with a positive attitude. Join our certified firearms instructors as we explore the fun of shooting in a safe and controlled environment. This course will cover all major types of firearms and will include live fire.

Intro to Turkey Hunting

April 2 · Thursday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Turkey hunting is a great way to spend time with family and friends while enjoying nature in spring. This evening workshop is designed to teach participants how to more successfully hunt the wild turkey. We'll discuss turkey biology, hunting equipment, regulations and strategies that will make you a more confident turkey hunter.



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.

Crappie Fishing Seminar

April 17 · Friday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Crappies are one of Missouri's most targeted fish, with good reason too. Crappies are fairly easy and fun to catch, found nearly everywhere and great on the table. Join us for an evening focused on how to better understand and catch more specks, papermouths, pepper fish, slabs or whatever it is you call them. We'll learn all about what makes crappies tick then how to identify and break apart a body of water to help you find more fish.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



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–9 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

March 3 · Tuesday · Evening

April 7 · Tuesday · Evening

Registration required (Scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact the Discovery Center at 816-759-7300 or at discoverycenter@mdc.mo.gov to schedule.

Warblers: Fancy Flights of Frustration

March 3 · Tuesday · 6:45

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Warblers are the colorful, lively migrants that birders wait all winter to see. Our spring seasons would not be complete without them! However, no matter how long you

have been watching birds, this group can be as challenging to identify as they are breathtaking to observe. Join Chuck Otte, a member of the Kansas Ornithological Society, as he shares pointers on warbler identification and improving your overall birding skills, based on his many years of field experience. Don't miss this chance to learn from a widely respected local birder! Program sponsored by Burroughs Audubon.

The Bluebird of Happiness

March 7 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

The state bird of Missouri is often associated with cheerfulness! Some say its song sounds like "Cheer Cheerful Charmer." Perhaps that is why the eastern bluebird is commonly thought of as a symbol of happiness. Join us at the Discovery Center as we learn to identify, foster and monitor Missouri's beautiful state bird!

Build a Bluebird House

March 7 · Saturday · 10:30 AM–Noon or 12:30–2 PM

Registration required (ages 10+)

Bluebirds are year-round residents in Missouri. They usually begin nesting the first half of March. Perfect timing for this project! Would you like to help increase the local bluebird population while having many hours of enjoyment watching our beautiful state bird? Register for one of these sessions and you will build a bluebird house of your own!

Missouri Hunter Education Skills Session

March 7 · Saturday · 9 AM–1 PM

Registration required (ages 11+)

This skills session is the second half of the hunter education certification for those who have completed the online course option, the self-paced manual option or through attending a classroom session. Attendees will demonstrate proper firearm safety through hands on skills and take an exam at the end. Attendees must provide a qualifier certificate or student manual with all review questions answered in order to complete the skills session. Registration and more information can be found at: <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>

Discover Nature and the Arts Summer Camp

June 8–12 · Monday–Friday · 8:30

AM–4:30 PM Daily

Before and after care available beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.

Registration required (*Ages 9–12*)

Camp and the extended care are both free of charge.

Nature and the arts go together like burgers and fries. They are great alone, but pair them together and you get something special. In this camp you



will explore the plants and animals that call KC home and learn different artistic techniques to "capture" nature in the neighborhood. You will visit a local state park,

conservation area and more. The week will culminate with a group art show at the Discovery Center.

Applications will be available April 1 at the Discovery Center and on our website, <http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter>.

Applications will be accepted through April 30. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 7.

Nature Nuts Storytime

March 7 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

March 21 · 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.

Adult Speaker Series: Butterflies

March 17 · Tuesday · 7 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Join us for an introduction to identifying our local butterflies. Butterflies are easy to love, but knowing how to identify them can

open doors of knowledge into these wonderful creatures. You can understand more about attracting them to your gardens and protecting them!



Reptiles and Amphibians

March 21 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

A first sign of spring is hearing the calls of chorus frogs and spring peepers on warm nights. We'll have a mini herpetarium set up with live frogs, toads, turtles and snakes for you and the family to discover.

Ever Eggs

April 4 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Spring is a time of renewal and one of the most common symbols is the egg. Join us as we explore eggs in nature – their different sizes, color and textures. We will also look at the different ways birds construct nests in order to protect their eggs. And finally, we'll use natural dyes and special applications to color hardboiled eggs to take home. A fun filled day for all members of the family.

Nature Nuts Storytime

April 4 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

April 18 · 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.

Nature in Your Neighborhood Art Competition Awards Night

April 7 · Tuesday · 5:30 – 8 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Join us for a celebration of nature as seen through the eyes of area students. View student artwork portraying nature in their different neighborhoods, talk with some of the artists then stick around for the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Discover Nature: Aquatics

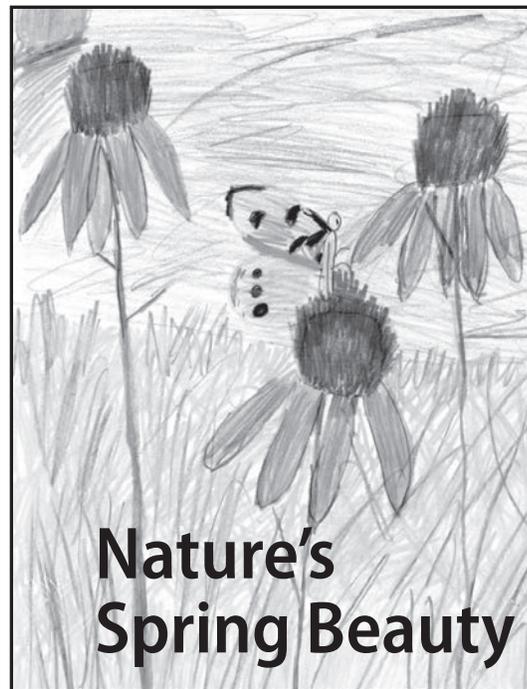
April 18 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages) Take a step off land and dive into the world of aquatic ecosystems. Learn how to identify macro-invertebrates and what they tell us about water quality, explore how rivers shape our landscape and get up close with aquatic wildlife. Discover Missouri's aquatic ecosystems and discover a world of wonder.

Adult Speaker Series: Migration Sensations

April 21 · Tuesday · 7 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant) Each spring we are treated to one of the greatest and prettiest spectacles of nature. Millions of birds that have spent their winters in the tropical and subtropical regions make a perilous journey north to their breeding grounds. While we host many species as nesters in our region, the true show is put on by the wide variety of warblers, tanagers, thrushes and various other kinds of birds that stop over to feed in patches of quality habitat throughout our region. We will learn when, where and what birds to look for during spring migration.



Nature's Spring Beauty

Spring is a great time to explore the beauty of nature. As cold winter days give way to the warmth of spring, make time to get outside. Utilize your senses and discover the vibrant color of wildflowers, notice the activity of wildlife and listen to the amazing sounds of the natural

world. With so many natural resources in our backyards, parks and other wild places here in Kansas City, finding the beauty of spring is only a step away.

The celebration of nature is also seen through the eyes of area residents. During the months of March and April we invite you to enjoy a special student art exhibit. The student artwork on display is a reflection of how they view nature in their neighborhood.

The highlight of this art exhibit will take place Tuesday, April 7 with an awards ceremony. Artists will be available for questions prior to the awards.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Artists available for questions

6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Awards and presentations

Eastern Bluebird

Missouri's Stately Bird



The eastern bluebird, Missouri's state bird, is related to the robin and carries other names such as the American bluebird, Wilson's bluebird and common bluebird. It is very social and likes to gather in big flocks of more than 100 when not nesting. This songbird can also be easily distinguished by its "chirlee" sound.

Eastern bluebirds measure 6 1/2 inches in length. The male has bright blue upperparts, reddish breast and white belly. The female has a buffy throat and breast, grayish-blue head and back with light blue wings and tail.

Bluebirds prefer open or semi-open grassland habitat with scattered trees, little or no understory and low grass cover. They can be found in rural gardens, orchards and suburban gardens near open farmland. They are not common in city settings.

As cavity nesters, the nest is placed in a birdhouse, or abandoned woodpecker hole usually 3-20 feet above ground. Adult male bluebirds select a suitable nesting cavity and will begin carrying in nesting materials consisting of straw, grass and pine needles which the female uses to build a nest up to 4 inches tall. Generally

nesting will begin between February and April.

The typical brood starts with three to six pale blue eggs. The female will incubate the eggs for 13 to 16 days. After hatching the chicks will remain in the nest for two to three weeks. Males will often keep feeding the fledglings while the female begins a second nest.

If you plan on putting up a blue bird house, place it on a pole within five to six feet off the ground. This will allow access for monitoring which should be done to prevent invasion by the house sparrow. An entrance hole should be 1

1/2 inches in size. Bluebirds are very aggressive when defending their territories which they use for nesting, breeding and feeding. They prefer sites more than 300 feet away from other nests.

Bluebirds eat a large amount of insects. Eighty percent of their diet comes from insects during spring and summer. In addition, these birds eat

berries and fruits off of small trees and shrubs. You can help attract them by offering mealworms and bits of fruit. They also can be attracted to bird baths, particularly if the water is moving and makes splashing noises that they can hear at some distance.

Their migration is usually prompted by scarcer food sources

and unsuitable weather conditions in their northern habitat. But once the weather becomes favorable for them, they will go back to their original nesting sites. The return of the bluebird is a sure sign that winter is on the way out.

— Rebekah Foote, Education Specialist

Discover Nature— and bluebirds! Build a bluebird nest box Saturday, March 7 at Discovery Center.

Spend a Day back in time at Lake City Rendezvous

This year's Lake City Rendezvous will be held on April 18, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center. Individuals from around the state gather to celebrate the early 1800's in Rendezvous celebrations. Hunters and trappers come to trade and sell their pelts. Black powder enthusiasts gather for friendly competitions in rifle, pistol and shotgun. Campers show off their



campsites and give us a brief insight as to how life was in the past. Blacksmiths give the public the ability to view life before machines, bending and forming metals with brute force and heat. Events planned are; hawk and

knife throwing, atlatl, archery, broom making, knife making, traders, Native American teepee, wild edibles, trapping demonstrations, grass doll making, Flint knapping, candle making, blacksmithing, Osage Spinners, apple butter making, primitive fire starting, period appropriate children's game and much more. Spend the day with the Lake City staff in this step back in time event.

Passport to Adventure kicks off at Bass Pro Shop

Come on Kids! Get your own Passport to Adventure Guide at the kick-off event at the Bass Pro Shop in Olathe, Kan., from Noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 11. Discover adventures that await you at local history, science and nature centers right here in your own backyard. Grab your parents and your "Passport to Adventure" guide and begin your journey to explore Kansas City. Visit a participating site, answer the question in the guide and get excited because you are in store for a great adventure hunt! Those who complete their entire passport adventure will receive a special prize!