



## How to Live with Wildlife – Spring!

It's that time of year again, the time when all the wild animals are having their young. It is also the time of year that phone calls about these animals increase at the nature center. People run across these wild children and don't know what to do. First and foremost, the best thing to do is keep them wild.

One of the most common calls we get about wildlife in the spring has to do with baby animals near or in our homes. Animals don't recognize our living spaces as being separate from the natural world and will often move right in (bird nests in dryer vents, squirrels in the siding, and raccoons in the chimney). When you find animals in or close to your home, find a way to live with them until they're finished raising their young. Wild mothers are dedicated and do not want to abandon their young. If you can hold off for two weeks (in the case of rabbits) or a month or two (raccoons) mom and babies will move out. After they've moved out, repair the damage and add caps, screens, etc. to prevent repeat problems.

The next most common call we get is about "abandoned" babies. Most of the time it's due to a misunderstanding on how wild moms raise their babes. Understanding the life histories of these species can save us, the babies, and their parents a lot of trouble.



Deer leave their fawns alone for hours while they eat grass and make milk for their young.

The babies are born virtually scentless and their spots help them camouflage with the forest floor.

The young are left unattended but mother will return to them throughout the day.



Most birds go through a process called "fledging". This is when they are learning to fly, building up muscle strength, and growing their feathers in. They'll spend a few days (or weeks) on the ground trying their wings out. Mom (and sometimes dad) visits the fledgling to feed the baby.



Rabbits make a shallow depression in the ground and fill it with plant clippings and hair. Mom feeds the babies at dusk and dawn; otherwise the babies are left alone. If you come across a nest of baby bunnies that are alone, don't be alarmed, mom is likely nearby nibbling the clover or your vegetables.

Baby animals and their parents rarely need our help. The truth of the matter is not every animal can survive or should. This is one of the hardest things for humans with big hearts (including myself) to accept. I've been told tales of rabbits being rescued from the mouths of coyotes; that's great for the rabbits but what about the coyote? The coyote plays a role in a healthy and balanced food chain and must eat something.

As much as these little ones pull at our heartstrings we must remember that our interference can cause lasting damage (malnutrition, alienation due to human conditioning, spread of disease to you or your pets). The next time you see a wild baby that seems out of place, take a moment to think it over. Is it really abandoned? Does it really need help? Is this part of the natural process which all animals must go through? They'll be a lot better off if they're allowed to remain as they are, wild and free.

# Tadpoles

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



## March

**Saturday, March 28-9 AM or 10 AM**

### Wake Up Earth!

Warm sunshine, falling rain, green growing things and busy animals signal it's time for spring. Discover what is happening in nature through activities and stories of how the Earth wakes up! **Ages 0-2. Registration begins March 3.**

## April

**Saturday, April 25-9 AM or 10 AM**

### Talkin' Turkey

Put, put, put and gobble, gobble, gobble goes the turkey. Who is doing all the talking and what are they trying to say? Strut on in to gab like a turkey and find out more with your little one. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins April 1.**

## May

**Saturday, May 30-9 AM or 10 AM**

### Who Lives in the Forest?

Tall trees to tiny plants live in the forest, but who else can be found there? We'll explore all the possibilities with your little one through stories and activities. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins May 1.**

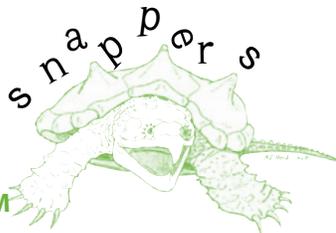
## Kids' Club Program Information

## March

**Saturday, March 7, 10-11:30 AM**

### Orienteering: Quest for Leprechaun Gold

Those tricky leprechauns have hidden their gold near the nature center once again! You just might find it with some handy compass skills and a little luck. **Ages 7-11. Early registration begins February 17.**



## April

**Saturday, April 11, 10-11:30 AM**

### Earth Day Terrariums

Missouri plants are a crucial part of nature. They provide us with oxygen, food, shade, and much more. Celebrate the upcoming Earth Day by making a native plant terrarium. By having your own piece of nature indoors, you can learn a lot about these oh-so important plants. **Ages 7-11. Registration begins April 1.**

## May

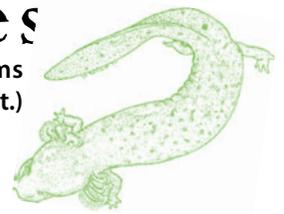
**Saturday, May 16, 10-11:30 AM**

### Growing Up in a Pond

Ponds are full of life! Get a chance to explore some pond life at Wood Duck Swamp. We will learn about pond animal life cycles and get hands on experience sampling the pond for aquatic animals. Make sure you wear clothes and shoes you don't mind getting muddy! **Ages 7-11. Registration begins May 1.**

# Mudpuppies

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



## March

**Saturday, March 7-9:30 AM or 11 AM**

**Tuesday, March 10-9 AM or 10:30 AM**

### Baby Animals

Spring is the season for baby animals. Come learn about the wee ones born this time of year and what you should do if you encounter them. **Ages 3-6. Early registration begins February 17.**

## April

**Saturday, April 11-9:30 AM or 11 AM**

**Tuesday, April 14-9 AM or 10:30 AM**

### Beautiful Blooms

Come learn about the beautiful blossoms of spring. We'll learn all about flowers and then take a short walk (weather permitting). **Ages 3-6. Registration begins April 1.**

## May

**Tuesday, May 12-9 AM or 10:30 AM**

**Saturday, May 16-9:30 AM or 11 AM**

### Trout Tales

Trout fishing in Missouri is a ton of fun! Come learn all about those slippery fish and learn how people catch them. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins May 1.**

*What's that baby called?*

*Draw a line from the animal to its correct baby name.*



**Kit**



**Joey**



**Fawn**



**Nymph**



**Larva**

Answers: Deer-Fawn; Dragonfly-Nymph; Opossum-Joey; Ant-Larva; Raccoon-Kit

# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

2289 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 • [mdc.mo.gov/capenaturecenter](http://mdc.mo.gov/capenaturecenter)

## MARCH

### 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.

### Timberdoodlin' Time

March 6 • Friday • 5:30-8 PM

*Early registration begins February 17 (ages 8+)*

Early March is a great time to watch Timberdoodles (Woodcocks). When spring comes around the males begin to display in an attempt to impress the female birds. These birds can fly 200+ feet into the air before descending in an attempt to attract ladies. We'll visit Maintz Wildlife Preserve to see these funny birds in action. We'll meet at the nature center and caravan to Maintz. Youth ages 8 and older welcome with an adult.

### Feeding Frenzy

March 12 • Thursday • 1-2:30 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.

### Nature Center at Night: Baby Boom

March 12 • Thursday • 5-8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Spring is a busy time of year for everyone. Flowers bloom, trees leaf out, and animals have their young. Come learn all about the animal babies in our state and how to reduce wildlife conflicts with these furry and feathered families. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Nature Art: Nature's Note Cards

March 12 • Thursday • 6-8 PM

*Registration begins March 3 (ages 16+)*

Flowers will soon be everywhere. Let's make some note cards celebrating the many wildflowers that will soon cover the landscape. We'll talk a little about Missouri's native plants. This is a good way to get in the mood for our Native Plant Seminar which will be on March 14 this year.

### Art Gallery-March

Take a break from the cool weather to view Mark Bower's "Mushrooms and Slime Molds of the Ozarks" exhibit in the nature center lobby this month.

### Native Plant & Garden Seminar

March 14 • Saturday • 8 AM-3 PM

*Early registration begins February 3 (ages 16+)*

The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Cape Girardeau County Master Gardeners host the tenth annual native plant seminar. Some of the session topics include: how to deal with garden pests (deer and armadillos), propagation, and unique and rare plants. Ken Porter, Lindenwood University, will be presenting "Ozark Herbology" a journey with the plants and medicines of the rolling Ozark Plateau. Call the nature center about session times and guest speakers. Registration is free and seating is limited for each session.

### Whitetail Deer Damage Workshop

March 17 • Tuesday • 6:30-8:30 PM

*Early registration begins February 3 (ages 18+)*

Conservative deer regulations in Southeast Missouri have allowed deer populations to slowly increase. With the increase in deer numbers, complaints about deer damage have also increased. Deer have the potential to cause damage to field crops, vegetable gardens, landscape plantings and fruit trees. MDC Wildlife Biologists will discuss these issues and provide recommendations on how you can reduce deer damage on your property. Discussions will focus on how to reduce damage to crop fields.

### Homeschool Special: Fishing Basics

March 19 • Thursday •

10-11:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM

*Registration begins March 3 (ages 6-15)*

Ever wonder what it would be like to catch that big one and have your own fishing tale to tell? A good step towards that is learning the basics of fishing. We will teach you what you need to go fishing, how to identify some common fish, and try our hand at catching that trophy fish!

### Women's Hike At Hickory Canyons & Pickle Springs

March 21 • Saturday • 8 AM-4:30 PM

*Registration begins March 3 (ages 14+)*

Come enjoy the spring air as a naturalist leads you on the trails at two unique and beautiful natural areas. Waterfalls, hoodoos, and interesting plants are the stars of these two locations. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring water, your lunch, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. **Hike is 3.5 miles and rated moderate.** This program is for women only. Girls ages 14-17 accompanied by an adult female are welcome.

### Art Gallery-March

"Views of Missouri" is a collection of photography by members of the River Region Photo Association.

### 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, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas

### 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

### Discover Nature Fishing (Lesson 1)

March 28 • Saturday • 9-11 AM

*Registration begins March 3 (ages 7-15)*

Fishing is an excellent way for kids and families to have great outdoor enjoyment, to learn about conservation and to make memories that will last for a lifetime.

Join us as we conduct the first lesson of the four part Discover Nature Fishing program. During this portion, there will be demonstrations on equipment, casting and proper fish handling. All gear will be provided. Lesson 1 is a prerequisite to participate in the final three lessons.

### Canoeing 102

March 28 • Saturday • 1-2 PM

or 2:15-3:15 PM or 3:30-4:30 PM

*Registration begins March 3 (ages 12+)*

If you've been in a canoe before and survived the experience, but would really like to make sure you're doing it right and want to learn more - then this one hour class is for you! We'll move past the beginner's forward stroke to a pry, draw, and feathering. Choose one session.

# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

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## APRIL

### 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.

### Wednesday Wildflower Walk

April 1 • Wednesday • 1–4 PM

*Early registration begins March 17 (ages 12+)*

Join a nature center volunteer for a walk at Trail of Tears State Park to see the early blooming wildflowers of spring.

### Feeding Frenzy

April 9 • Thursday • 1-2:30 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.

*Missourians care about conserving forests, fish and wildlife.*

### Discover Nature Fishing (Lesson 1)

April 9 • Thursday • 5-7 PM

*Registration begins April 1 (ages 7-15)*

Fishing is an excellent way for kids and families to have great outdoor enjoyment, to learn about conservation and to make memories that will last for a lifetime. Join us as we conduct the first lesson of the four part Discover Nature Fishing program. During this portion, there will be demonstrations on equipment, casting and proper fish handling. All gear will be provided. Lesson 1 is a prerequisite to participate in the final three lessons.

### Nature Center at Night: Be Bear Aware

April 9 • Thursday • 5-8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Black bear numbers are up in Missouri and they become very active in the spring, especially at campsites and in trash containers. How do we keep bears from becoming a nuisance? Visit the displays in the lobby to discover more about bears and how to stay safe while enjoying the outdoors. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Nature Art: Stained Glass Demonstration

April 9 • Thursday • 6-8 PM

*Early registration begins March 17 (ages 16+)*

Ever wonder how stained glass is cut and shaped to make beautiful designs? Watch and learn as artisan, Linda Whitener, demonstrates creating a stained glass object from start to finish.

### Turkey Hunting Basics

April 9 • Thursday • 6:30-8 PM

*No registration required (ages 10+)*

Join two experienced turkey hunters to learn the basics of harvesting a Missouri gobbler. Learn about regulations, safety, equipment, and strategy in the field. Participants will be invited to a short gobbler listening adventure on April 11.

### Discover Nature Fishing (Lesson 2)

April 11 • Saturday • 9-11 AM

*Registration begins April 1 (ages 7-15)*

Continue to learn more about fishing with the second lesson in the four part Discover Nature Fishing program. During this portion, there will be demonstrations on how to tie a knot and bait your hook. All gear will be provided. Lesson 1 is a prerequisite to participate in this lesson.

### Flights of Fancy

April 18 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

It's a bird, it's a plane, no wait... it is a bird! Come learn about the birds of Missouri and their amazing abilities. Learn about long distance travelers, how to feed them, and how to identify them. We'll have crafts, games, and live bird presentations at this birdtacular event. Presentations at 10:30, 11:30, and 12:30. Hikes every 30 minutes. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Frog Chorus Walk

April 24 • Friday • 7–8:30 PM

*Registration begins April 1 (ages 12+)*

Grab your muck boots and join us as we wade through murky waters to hear the early spring chorus. Don't miss this chance to meet some of the smallest and loudest frogs of Missouri! *Adult supervision is required for ages 12-17.*

### Art Gallery-April

Don't miss the opportunity to admire bird-related artwork by Marble Hill residents Linda Whitener and Dodi Conrad. "Wings of Glass" is a collection of stained glass by Linda Whitener while "Birds of a Feather" showcases oil and pastel paintings by Dodi Conrad.

### Discover Nature Fishing (Lesson 3)

April 25 • Saturday • 9-11 AM

*Registration begins April 1 (ages 7-15)*

This is the third lesson of the four part Discover Nature Fishing program. During this portion, there will be demonstrations on five common fish species of Missouri. This includes anatomy, habitat and life cycle. All gear will be provided. Lesson 1 is a prerequisite to participate in this lesson.

### Bashin' Trash: Cape LaCroix Creek

April 25 • Saturday • 9 AM-NOON

*Early registration begins March 3 (all ages)*

The nature center is partnering with the Cape Girardeau Parks & Recreation Department to clean up Cape LaCroix Creek during their annual Park Day. Gather your friends, family, or organization to help bring the beauty back to the creek between Walden Park and Shawnee Sports Complex. We'll meet at the 4-H Shelter in Arena Park to divide and conquer. Lunch and t-shirts will be provided at Capaha Park afterwards. Youth and adult groups welcome.

*We help people discover nature.*

### Spring Wild Edibles: From the Woods to the Plate

April 25 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

*Registration begins April 1 (ages 12+)*

Those first hints of green peeking through the ground are a sight for sore eyes! A lot of spring greens are also great on our dinner plate! Learn about many wild plants (some right in your own yard) that are edible. We will also take a walk through our grounds and trails to identify edible plants.

### Wednesday Wildflower Walk

April 29 • Wednesday • 12:30–4 PM

*Registration begins April 1 (ages 12+)*

Join a nature center volunteer for a walk at Seventy-Six Conservation Area to see wildflowers blooming at this unique area.

### Thank You

*for donations of Time, Material, and Service*

*Time: Student Sustainability Organization*

*Tree: Modern Woodmen*

*for purchase of paving stones*

*David Nolen for Nolen Proffitt*

# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

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## WildHeart in Concert

May 1 • Friday • 7–8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Do you “dig” nature? Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a musical journey digging into the deep roots that nature has to offer you with the original music and groovy actions of WildHeart. Held inside if there is inclement weather. Youth and adult groups welcome.

## Tenth Anniversary Celebration

May 2 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Help us celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center! We'll have an assortment of programs for you to enjoy from outdoor skills and animal identification to native plants and nature art. Activities will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Try one activity or try them all. Youth and adult groups welcome.

## Discover Nature Fishing (Lesson 4)

May 9 • Saturday • 9–11 AM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 7-15)*

Join us as we conduct the fourth lesson of the four part Discover Nature Fishing program. During this portion, there will be demonstrations on fishing with lures and fishing regulations. All gear will be provided. Lesson 1 is a prerequisite to participate in this lesson.

## Mother's Day Tea

May 9 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 5+)*

Come celebrate your mother (or mother figure) while you sip and nibble on teas and treats made from native plants. We'll take a walk through the garden to point out the plants we used before heading in to learn how we made the treats. Afterwards we'll plant native seeds for you to take home. Adult supervision required for ages 5-17.

## Wednesday Wildflower Walk

May 13 • Wednesday • 12:30–4 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 12+)*

Join a nature center volunteer for our last wildflower walk of spring. The destination is a surprise!

## Feeding Frenzy

May 14 • Thursday • 1–2:30 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.

## Nature Center at Night: Ticks and Chiggers

May 14 • Thursday • 5–8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Itchy and scratchy may be what comes to mind when you think of these tiny pests; but there's a lot more to be known. Delve deep into the lives of ticks and chiggers and learn how to prevent them from biting you and what to do if you get bitten. Naturalist led programs begin at 6 and 7 pm. Youth and adult groups welcome.

## Nature Art: Carve A Hummingbird

May 14 • Thursday • 6–8 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 16+)*

Flowers are blooming and hummingbirds are busy feeding on the blooms and buzzing around feeders. Come and learn more about our Ruby Throated beauties and how to carve your own hummingbird out of wood. All materials will be provided.

## Fishing Spots Near Cape

May 16 • Saturday • 9 AM– 4 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 12+)*

Hop in the van and join us for a driving tour of fishing spots near Cape Girardeau to learn about new places to fish this season.

## Homeschool Special: Naturalist Scavenger Hunt

May 21 • Thursday • 10–11:30 AM or

1–2:30 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 6-15)*

Is your family up for a challenge? Brush up on your plant and animal identification skills as we send you out on the Nature Center grounds for a scavenger hunt. Make sure you bring a camera or phone as pictures will be required to complete this adventurous task.

## Duck Decoy Carving

May 29 • Friday • 6–10 PM and May 30 •

Saturday • 8 AM–2 PM

*Registration begins May 1 (ages 8+)*

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. Children under 12 must be accompanied by adult.

## Art Gallery-May

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is celebrating its tenth anniversary this month! Visit the gallery to see a collection of photos of facility construction, programs and events, and the nature center through the seasons.

# MAY

## 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.

## Coming in June

### Trail Trivia

June 6 • Saturday • 9 AM–4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Spend a couple of hours hiking and testing your nature knowledge to celebrate National Trails Day! Trek our trails and answer nature-related questions along the way. Stop by the nature center anytime to pick up your question sheet and then return to check your answers and claim your prize. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Family Skills Sampler

June 6 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

*No registration required (ages 5+)*

Have you always wanted to try archery, fishing, or canoeing? Here's your chance to “sample” each of these skills with the assistance of conservation staff. Opportunities are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### Youth Basic Rifle Marksmanship

June 8 • Monday • 5:30–9:30 PM and

June 9 • Tuesday • 5 PM–dark

*Early registration begins April 15 (ages 11-15)*

This comprehensive rifle basics course will zero in on the fundamentals novice shooters need to be a better shot. The first night at the Cape Nature Center will cover principles of rifle design, ammo selection, ballistics, shot selection, scopes and shooting positions. On the second night at Apple Creek Shooting Range, shooters will apply these fundamentals on the range in a fun and safe environment. Participants must have Hunter Education certification and an adult guardian must attend both sessions with the youth. Firearms and ammunition provided.

### Naturalist Training Camp

June 9–10, June 11–12, June 16–17, June

18–19, July 7–8 or July 9–10

8:30 AM–4:30 PM

*Early registration begins May 15 (ages 7-11)*

Do you think you could handle being a Naturalist? Come see if you've got what it takes at this year's exciting camp. We will delve into unique habitats and experience the natural world from a new perspective.

# Volunteer Corner

## Extending More Opportunities

Spring time celebrates renewal and rebirth. It is exciting and colorful. This spring we celebrate ten years since the Nature Center opened its doors in Cape Girardeau! We are also celebrating ten years of volunteer service here at the Center. It has been an incredible journey made enjoyable by the smiling faces and positive attitudes of our volunteers.

Almost every day one of us at the Nature Center says "We could not do what we do without our volunteers!" It is so very true. Our volunteers have donated 79,257 hours since we opened. That is 9,908 days of work. By today's standards that work is worth \$1,652,508.45. That is absolutely amazing! The volunteers on our Nature Center Team are so much more than just hours. Just as spring bursts with growth and color our volunteers continue to share their enthusiasm about nature and conservation.

We are always seeking new volunteers who are concerned about conservation and want to help others learn about nature and experience it firsthand. If you are interested in volunteering at the Nature Center we are having a Volunteer Open House March 28th from 1 pm until 3 pm. It will be a chance to meet our volunteers, see them in action and ask questions about what they do. Please stop by and visit!

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is currently taking applications for volunteers in the following four areas. Following acceptance into the program, new volunteers attend training classes and receive hands-on preparation according to their interests and involvement.

**Conservation Ambassador** – Welcome visitors; help people find information and register for programs; assist with nature shop sales and equipment loan.

**Conservation Naturalist** – Assist with and present programs for youth and adults; help create new activities and discovery stations for events; represent the nature center at off-site community programs.

**Animal Care Assistant** – Feed, clean and care for various native amphibians, reptiles and fish on a weekly or monthly basis; occasionally set up new displays for live animals.

**Naturescaping Team** – Manage the native garden beds including mulching, weeding, transplanting and collecting seed; assist with public inquiries regarding the flowers and plants they see.

For more information or to receive an application, please stop in or contact Jamie Koehler at 573-290-5218 or [Jamie.Koehler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Jamie.Koehler@mdc.mo.gov).

-Jamie Koehler

## Volunteer Milestones

200 Hours

**Susan Reinagel**

750 Hours

**Jeanie Haertling**

2500 Hours

**Fred Bollinger**



## 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.

DNS trainings are being offered at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center on March 7, April 4, and May 9 from 9am-4pm.

Please contact Bridget Jackson for training information at [bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov) or call 573-290-5858 ext 4464.

## Nature Deficit Tidbit

Here are two questions to consider: 1) how much of our lives are spent in school? 2) where do we learn most of our science? These answers may surprise you. In 2010 John H. Falk and Lynn D. Dierking, researchers from Oregon State, published an article in American Scientist titled "The 95 Percent Solution". In it they state the average American spends less than 5% of their life in a classroom, and an ever growing body of evidence is demonstrating that most science is learned outside of school. This is particularly true for life sciences. Currently, within most school systems, science is moving away from traditional biological life science and more toward molecular biology and bio-engineering. As a result, most knowledge people amass about biological life science is coming from learning experiences outside the traditional classroom. Places like nature centers; national, state, and local parks; museums; libraries; scouts; 4-H; zoos; aquariums; and the nature in people's neighborhoods. Besides the learning potential in these areas, most of them have the added bonus of the therapeutic side of nature.

There are numerous ways the Missouri Department of Conservation can assist with being a life-long learner of biological science. We have several nature centers, including the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center, scattered around the state. At these facilities there are countless ways to learn about native flora, fauna, and ecosystems. We have thousands of conservation areas across the state, in both rural and urban areas, where you can get outside for some nature learning. Additionally, we offer grants to public and private schools through our Discover Nature School program that assist with developing outdoor classrooms. Check out some of our programs and areas and see what you can learn!

*From Children and Nature Network – News Roundup, November 14, 2013*

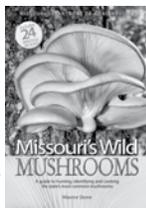
# What's HOT in the NATURE SHOP!

## March/April

\*Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply

### 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, chaterelle quiche and 23 other simple and elegant recipes will awaken your foraging instincts!



**Discounted price:**  
**\$11.20 plus tax**

### Discover Missouri Natural Areas

A great book that helps nature lovers experience these special places firsthand. In this beautiful, user-friendly guide, author Mike Leahy, the Department's natural areas coordinator, provides natural history information that brings to life the outstanding geological, biological and ecological features of 50 areas.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$7.20 plus tax**

**20% Off**  
these monthly specials!

## May/June

### Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri Field Guide

Based on Don Kurz's original "Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri," this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify shrubs and woody vines in your yard, neighborhood or natural area.

- Range map for each species
- Full-color illustrations



**Discounted price:**  
**\$6.00 plus tax**

## Native Plant Sale

**March 14**

**8am - 3pm**



## Ask the Naturalist

**What's that strange blob of moving insects hanging from the tree?**

That's a honeybee swarm filled with female worker bees and the old queen bee. In order to reproduce, bees need to swarm, usually in the spring. Other factors for swarming include when living conditions get too cramped, it's too hot, the queen is failing, or there's prolonged bad weather.

The queen bee will lay eggs in fancy cells called "queen cups". When these new queens are close to emerging, the old queen will leave the hive with a cluster of workers and land on a branch or other object. Scout bees quickly look for a new home, returning to communicate with the cluster. Within hours the swarm has moved to a new home, where they will immediately begin to build comb and gather pollen and nectar. The old hive will have a new queen who will mate with drones to start a new brood.

Did you know? Bees were named the official state insect in 1985.



*You are cordially invited to  
attend our  
Tenth Anniversary Celebration  
Saturday, May 2, 2015  
10 am - 3 pm*



Come see what we've been up to for the past ten years! There will be an assortment of programs to enjoy from outdoor skills and animal identification to native plants and nature art.

Activities will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

