

ST. LOUIS

Conservation Connections

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



Discover Nature Fishing

As we settle into summer, our minds begin to focus on all the wonderful outdoor activities available for us to enjoy. Missourians are spoiled with a wealth of opportunities to connect with nature. Whether it is floating an Ozark stream, sitting by a campfire, or biking on the Katy Trail, few outdoor activities are as rewarding and challenging as fishing.

Typically, fishing is a skill handed down through the generations. Unfortunately, this passage of information to younger generations is weakening. Urban and suburban youth are becoming increasingly disconnected from the natural world. Fishing poles and tackle boxes are being replaced by iPods and smartphones. This disconnect could have serious implications. Young adults who have minimal appreciation for the outdoors are less likely to consider the negative impacts of their behavior on the natural world.

The Discover Nature-Fishing angler education program strives to reconnect Missouri residents to the natural world through fishing instruction and greater appreciation of conservation. Discover Nature-Fishing targets youth ages 7-15 and families. The program provides instruction with fishing opportunities and is designed to transform participants from first-timers to veteran anglers who understand how to positively interact with the aquatic environment.



Discover Nature-Fishing provides repeated contacts with anglers by offering a variety of programs covering a wide range of fishing skills, knowledge and techniques. Discover Nature-Fishing includes four separate programs, each program building upon the knowledge learned from previous ones.

The success of Discover Nature-Fishing relies on dedicated volunteers who are enthusiastic about teaching people how to fish. Volunteers are trained by MDC and provided with everything needed to instruct fishing programs.

To register your child or family for Discover Nature-Fishing (limit of 2 adults per family), please call (636) 441-4554.

by DENISE OTTO, fisheries management biologist

To volunteer or for more information, contact Malcolm Royse at Malcolm.Royse@mdc.mo.gov or (636) 300-1953 x 4140 or visit the Discover Nature-Fishing website at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/27175>

Summer Service Slam

On Saturday, July 12, from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. an “army” of veterans and volunteers will descend on the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center grounds to help out for the Fourth Annual Summer Service Slam. See page 4 for details.



We partner with many organizations and thousands of individuals to improve Missouri's forests, fish, and wildlife.

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.

Beginning Archery

July 8 • Tuesday • 6–7:30 p.m.

(Families)

Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the School Program (MoNASP). This is a fun program for the family, ages fourth grade and up. All equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin June 8.)

Beginning Handgun

July 10 and 12 • 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. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin June 10.)

Basic Metallic Cartridge Reloading

July 12 • Saturday • 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

This class exposes students to the fundamentals of metallic cartridge reloading. The class includes both discussion and hands-on instruction including safety, case preparation, and selection of primers, powder, bullets, equipment; and the use of manuals, ballistic tables, and component assembly. Attendees should bring lunch, snacks, and drinks. Everything else (equipment, components, tools, etc.) is supplied. (Reservations begin June 12.)

Beginning Rifle

July 15 and 17 • Tuesday • 6–8 p.m.
and Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

This two-part program includes rifle operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We begin in the classroom on Tuesday evening, then a live-fire on Thursday evening. Although rifle and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own rifle and ammunition on Thursday evening. (Reservations begin June 15.)

Trigger Time – Handgun

July 19 • Saturday • 8:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” 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 June 19.)

Introduction to Modern Muzzleloading

July 20 • Sunday • 1–6 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

This course is great for new or experienced shooters. Rifles, ammunition, and safety items are provided. Those wishing to bring their own modern muzzleloading rifles must provide their own powder, bullets, primers, etc. (Reservations begin June 20.)

Women’s Beginning Shotgun

July 26 • Saturday • 1–6 p.m.

(Women ages 10 and up, must be able to shoulder and shoot a shotgun)

Shotguns and ammo are provided, or you may bring your own 12 or 20 gauge shotgun. (Reservations begin June 26.)

Youth .22 Rifle

July 26 • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting rifles are invited to participate this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment is provided. (Reservations begin on June 27.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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

Basic Archery

July 8 • Tuesday • 6-8 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

This program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this rewarding outdoor activity. We will cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Meet at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center Broadhead Pits. (Reservations begin June 9.)

Youth Shotgun Camp

July 16 and 17 • Wednesday and Thursday • 8:30 a.m.-noon

(Ages 11-15)

This two-day camp will teach the basics of shotgun shooting, and the skills necessary to become a good shot: safety, types of actions, chokes, grip, stance, ammunition, importance of patterning, and more. Students will also learn the fundamentals of American Trap and Skeet and participate in live fire. Camp meets at the August A. Busch Shooting Range. Campers should bring a snack, drink, bug spray, and dress appropriately for the weather. (Reservations begin June 16.)

Firearm Care and Cleaning

July 17 • Thursday • 6-9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

After hunting, or a day at the range, do you know how to properly maintain your firearm? This program teaches what it takes to keep your firearm in top condition. We cover how to safely and properly clean and maintain your firearm, including equipment and solutions. You may bring your cased firearm (only one), or learn with ours. Absolutely no ammunition. (Reservations begin June 17.)

Youth .22 Rifle

July 19 • Saturday • 7:30-9:30 a.m.

(Ages 10-15)

This program introduces youths to rifle shooting without the range being open to the general public. We start with a short seminar covering safety, rifle parts, stance, aiming and more. Then we will do some live fire. This program meets at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education facility. All firearms and ammunition provided. (Reservations begin June 19.)



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 Shotgun

July 23 and 24 • Wednesday and Thursday • 6-8 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Class will start on Wednesday evening at the Busch CA Regional Office classroom where you will learn safety, actions, chokes, stance, and how to choose and shoot shotguns. On Thursday you will go to the range for live fire, including some clay target shooting. (Reservations begin June 23.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

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

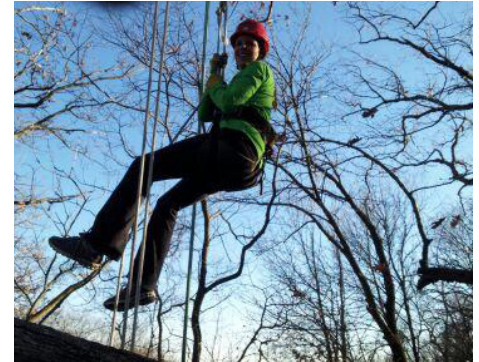
Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Canopy Climb

July 25 • Friday • 9 – 11 a.m. or 6 – 8 p.m.

(ages 8 and up; children must be accompanied by an adult)

Registration required by visiting VerticalVoyages.com. Please note, there is a fee for this experience that must be paid directly to Vertical Voyages when you register. Space is limited.



The crew from Vertical Voyages is excited to share the adventure and mystery of the treetops with you! Using special equipment you will climb a tree into the canopy to get a squirrel's eye view. Vertical Voyages provides all equipment and expertise.

Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit Alex Forster, Photographer

Alex Forster, native to St. Louis, was born and raised on a farm in Creve Coeur, Missouri. He has served his country as a Sargent in the Air Force and is a Vietnam vet. He has always had a great appreciation and love for nature and wildlife. Through his photography, Alex displays a special ability to see and capture "life" in unique and insightful ways, and shares these perspectives with his viewers. His photography showcases the awe and wonder of God's creations.

Alex's photography has been displayed at special showings at an art gallery in Clayton, Missouri. Additionally, his work has been presented at various art shows and displays, and at the Missouri Conservation Center in Cape Girardeau. Alex's work has been recognized and published twice internationally.

Sign Up to Help! Summer Service Slam at the Nature Center

July 12 • Saturday • 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
(All ages)

Join forces as The Mission Continues and FOX Sports Midwest bring together veterans, service members, military families and community members for a day of service at Powder Valley. The project is a partnership between The Mission Continues and FOX Sports Midwest, which brings veterans together with their neighbors to have a have a positive impact in the community. Teams of volunteers will tackle pond reconstruction, wildlife viewing and program area improvements, habitat improvement, fence repair, and gardening. Won't you be one of them? (Registration required*)



*To register for the Summer Service Slam or for more information on The Mission Continues, visit: <https://www.missioncontinues.org/summerserviceslam/>

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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

Lovable Ladybugs

July 8 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 4 and up)

Did you know that pretty little ladybugs are good friends to gardeners? Although they are gentle with people, ladybugs are fierce hunters of the tiny aphids that harm plants. Come help us celebrate these lovable little predators with activities and crafts. (Reservations begin June 24.)



Let's Pollinate!

July 17 • Thursday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 3-6)

Flowers can't walk, so how do they spread to different places? Pollinators! Learn about the stages of plant growth and some of the pollinators that make it happen. (Reservations begin July 3.)

Creek Challenge

July 24 • Thursday • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12)

July can be very hot and steamy. How about heading to the creek to cool off? We will evaluate the health of the creek and then capture and investigate some of the creatures that dwell there. Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet, because we will be in the water. (Reservations begin July 10.)

You and Me under the Canopy

July 24 • Thursday • 10–11 a.m.

(Ages birth–8)

Meet in the lobby for a "nature" adventure. Dress for the weather, we won't be in the building long! Hike to a special place in the forest for a nature story under the canopy. Siblings are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the program will be shortened to 30 minutes. (Reservations begin July 10.)

Butterflies 101

July 26 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–noon

(Ages 14 and up)

Do you wonder about butterflies in your neighborhood? Can you identify these beautiful creatures from one another? Butterflies bring an array of bright colors that flutter amidst our summer sky. Learn the life history and identification techniques for common species that are found throughout Missouri. Gain great tips on how to attract these pollinators to your backyards. (Reservations begin July 12.)



Forest Park Office

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

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.

Youth Orienteering and Geocaching

July 1 • Tuesday • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

(Ages 9-13)

Old school meets technology today as we introduce you to orienteering. We'll start by learning to navigate through the park with just map and compass. Students will then set their own course for others to follow. After taking a break for lunch we will pursue geocaching. In a world of smartphones, GPS gets us almost anywhere we want to be. Learn to "cache" as we make and hide our own geocache. Technology can definitely take us almost anywhere, yet you might find that old school methods are sometimes the most reliable. Participants should bring a sack lunch, water bottle and dress to be outdoors for the day. Completed release/waiver must be received before participating. (Reservations begin June 1.)



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.

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.

Listening for the Sounds of the Night

July 4 • Friday • 7:30–9:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

The sounds of a summer night are intriguing as the “night shift” creatures are more often heard than seen. Walk with us as we listen for, and try to discover, the identities of the unseen creatures moving about the slough, prairie, and wetlands at Columbia Bottom. Meet at parking lot “L,” about 4 ½ miles from the front entrance. We will walk about 3 miles. (Reservations begin June 20.)

This One’s for the Dogs!

July 12 • Saturday • 8:30–10:30 a.m.

(All ages)

Your canine companion already knows how wonderful it is to spend time outdoors. So, we’re asking your dog to help get you here. Join us for an “off-road”, although on-lead, adventure to discover nature with your canine at Columbia Bottom. Only one four-legged family member per human is

allowed. Certificate of rabies vaccination is required and can be faxed to 314-877-6021. (Tags will not be accepted.) Please bring adequate water and a bowl for your dog. High temperatures are not recommended for dogs under 20 pounds and/or those not acclimated to trail experience. Meet and greet occurs at the gravel parking lot “B” near the Visitor Center pavilion. All those who play nice will then move to the starting location. Note: we will go, rain or shine, because the dogs don’t care what the weather is like! (Reservations begin June 27.)

Abode-a-Toad

July 24 • Thursday • 12:30-2 p.m.

(Ages 15 and younger)

The sounds of summer often feature the choruses of the frogs and toads of Missouri. Let’s decorate an abode for these vocal amphibians to place in your yard or garden for your own private concert. If time allows, we will venture out on the area to find some of our jumping residents. (Reservations begin July 10.)

Managed Youth Dove Hunt

September 1 • Monday • 1 pm–sunset (mandatory clinic on August 23)

(Ages 11-15)

This is a great opportunity for first time hunters! Learn about dove biology, hunter safety, and hunting regulations at the mandatory clinic on August 23 at Jay Henges Shooting Range, where you will also train on effective wing shooting with clay birds. You must be Hunter Ed certified by September 1, and a sponsor is required. Don’t have a firearm? Some are available for loan. Fill out the attached application and send to the address provided, or contact Columbia Bottom for more information. Up to forty youth will be selected depending on field conditions. Preference will be given to first time applicants. (Applications accepted July 1 to 31.)

Columbia Bottom Youth Dove Hunt Application

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, Mo 63138

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Do you have access to a shotgun? YES / NO

First time applicant? YES / NO

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

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

Aquatic Adventure

July 8 • Tuesday • 9–11 a.m.

(Ages 6–12)

What could be more fun in early July than to see what cool things live in an aquatic habitat? Learn about aquatic food chains and how we can affect them. Please dress for the weather and prepare to be outdoors catching and netting critters at the Busch Refuge Lake. All necessary equipment provided. (Reservations begin June 24.)

Babes in the Woods

July 19 • Saturday • 9–10 a.m.

(Ages birth–2)

Nature is a great place to teach counting, colors, textures and shapes to children... plus it's healthy! Bring your child in their stroller to explore what cool things nature has to offer. (Reservations begin July 7.)

MTC Hike: Herons and Egrets

July 26 • Saturday • 7:30–10:30 a.m.

(Ages 14 and up)

Walk the levees at Marais Temps Claire Conservation Area to view herons and egrets feeding in the marsh habitat. Young birds have just left the nests so we hope to view young and adult birds feeding side by side. Experience some of the "showiest" members of all wading birds while viewing through provided spotting scopes. Effort = Easy to Moderate. Flat, gravel path walking for 2.5 miles. (Reservations begin July 11.)



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.

Canoeing the Meramec River

Summer is here! It's time to get on the water! Your Busch and Rockwoods

Naturalists are teaming up again this year to take your family on a memorable

float on the Meramec River. Please turn to the Rockwoods Reservation page

for the full listing of opportunities and registration information.

Single Day Floats:

July 1, 2, 10, 17, 18, or 25 One trip per family • 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

July 31 or August 1 Women Only 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Overnight Canoe Float on the Meramec River:

photo by Noppadol Paothong

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.

Aquatic Adventure

July 2 • Wednesday • 9–11 a.m.

(Ages 6–12)

What could be more fun in early July than to see what cool things live in an aquatic habitat? Learn about aquatic food chains and how we can affect them. Please dress for the weather and prepare to be outdoors catching and netting critters at the Rockwoods Woodland Pond. All necessary equipment provided. (Reservations begin June 18.)

Canoeing the Meramec River

July 1, 2, 10, 17, 18, or 25 One trip per family 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

July 31 or August 1 Women Only 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Nothing beats a summer float trip with Naturalists to help discover nature along the way! Float the Meramec River near Eureka, MO between Pacific Palisades Conservation Area and the Allenton Public Fishing Access. You'll learn about aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, flooding, and erosion events. Learn the role that we all can play to protect drinking water and aquatic habitats while enjoying summer fun. View photos from our 2013 season: www.buschrockwoods.smugmug.com

Logistics:

All participants must be good swimmers with at least one participant over the age of 18 per canoe. Pre-float instructions provided once registered. The float is no cost, but a \$15 refundable deposit per canoe is required by check to hold reservations. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous maneuvering canoes in slow and swift water and exposure to weather. (Reservations begin June 17.)



photo by Noppadol Paothong

Little Tyke Hike

July 9 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3–6)

Take a walk on the wild side! Little tykes will explore nature on the Rock Quarry Trail at Rockwoods. Look for signs of life... flying, crawling and walking critters are everywhere! How many can you discover? Effort = Mild, gravel path walking in mostly flat forest and a short hill. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin June 25.)

Overnight Canoe Float on the Meramec River

August 7 and 8 • Thursday and Friday

(Ages 10 and up)

Have you floated with our Naturalists before in the 2011, '12, or '13 season? Are you signed up this year? If so, you are eligible to float, fish, camp, swim, explore, and more over two days and one night on the Meramec River near Meramec State Park. The trip is no cost, with some meals provided and others you bring yourself. Attendance by at least one family member is mandatory at a pre-trip meeting on Wednesday, July 30, 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. Attendance will be determined by random drawing on Thursday, July 24. Effort = Strenuous maneuvering canoes in slow and swift water, lifting heavy objects, tent camping on a gravel bar, and exposure to weather for two days. (Submissions to drawing begin July 7.)