

Conservation Connections

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • July 2013



The Mighty Missouri River

Wonderful sunsets over the bluffs, frustrating traffic on the bridge, boating on the weekends, threatening flood waters – all compliments of the Missouri River. The river is a powerful force in our lives, and though many of us see it every day, if we could go back a hundred years we would find the Mighty Missouri shockingly unrecognizable.

Picture a mosaic of braided riffles and pools, backwaters, islands, sand bars, marshes, and forests stretching from bluff to bluff. The channel was a mile wide in places and sometimes shallow enough to wade across. The Missouri River of the past was wild and ever-changing. The river we see today is confined by an extensive system of dikes, rock-armored shoreline, and levees. These structures, built for flood control and navigation, have narrowed the river channel to about half its original width. The path and shape of the river stay the same from year to year.

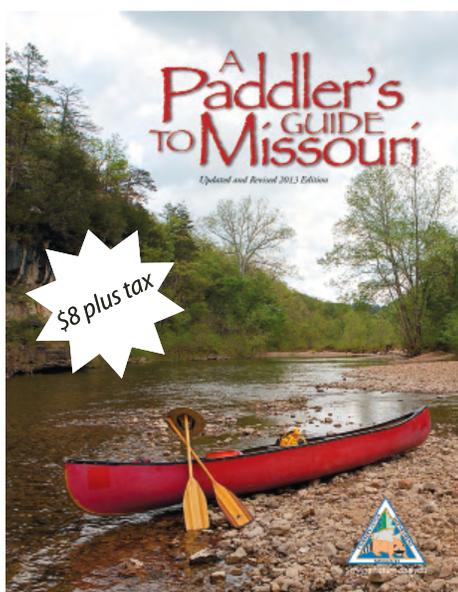
A century ago, regular floods kept the Missouri shifting. Two predictable flood pulses occurred each spring, one in April from snow melt off the Great Plains and one in June from Rocky Mountain snow melt. These pulses cued migrations and spawning, formed new channels and wetlands, and allowed for essential nutrient exchange with the floodplain. Fish and wildlife evolved with and thrived on the constant disturbance that floods provided. Dams now impound about one-third the length of the Missouri River. Regulated flow from the dams has eliminated many of the natural functions of the river.

As muddy as the river looks, it carries only a fraction of its historic sediment load. In Lewis and Clark's time the Missouri River transported 300 million metric tons of sediment per year. This soil was deposited at the mouth of the Mississippi, where it replenished the marshes and shorelines of Louisiana. Because of damming and

the elimination of channel erosion, the sediment load has been reduced by 75%. Louisiana's coastal habitats are being lost as a result. Though common sense would reason that cleaner water is better for river fish, this is absolutely not the case. Native fish evolved over millions of years to thrive in the "Big Muddy"; some species have been brought to the brink of extinction by "clean" water.

Though our Missouri River is greatly impacted by human activities, it is still an incredibly important resource. Over 150 species of fish are native to the Missouri. Countless birds, reptiles and other wildlife use the river and its forests throughout the year. The natural services and recreational opportunities the river provides are critical to our economy and quality of life. Next time you cross the Mighty Missouri, take a moment to picture what it once was and to appreciate all it still offers.

By SARAH PEPPER, Fisheries Biologist



A Paddler's Guide to Missouri

One of the Department's all-time bestselling books since its initial release in 1965, this publication has been Missouri's go-to paddling resource ever since. Originally researched and written by Oz Hawksley, today this greatly expanded reference includes not only updated maps and details of Missouri's more popular Ozark streams, but also lesser-known streams and tributaries throughout the state that are ready to be explored.

Detailed sections include northern streams, the Missouri River, and more floats from all corners of the state. Each waterway includes easy-to-read maps, descriptions of access points, camping, state parks, and conservation areas along the way.

Gorgeous color photographs in this new, revised edition will make you want to float Missouri's rivers soon. The 9- by 11-inch book has lay-flat spiral binding so you can put the book in a sealable clear bag and still see the river map in its entirety without having to flip pages while on the river. The book is available in the Nature Shop.

mdonline

Missouri Department of Conservation

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 highway 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 PM

Thursday–Sunday: 10 AM–4:30 PM

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 AM–4:30 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. If calling, leave a detailed message on ext. 21. Reservations will be accepted beginning at 12 AM on the day of registration. You will be contacted for confirmation. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

NOTICE: The Jay Henges Shooting Range will be closed on Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day.

Basic Archery

July 9 • Tuesday • 6–7:30 PM

(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. Effort=Mild. (Reservations begin 12 AM on June 9.)

Women's Basic Handgun, Part 1 and 2

July 11 and 13 • Thursday • 6–8 PM
and Saturday • 8–9:30 AM

(Ages 16 and up)

We start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin 12 AM on June 11.)

Bowhunter Education

July 15, 16 and 17 • Monday, Tuesday,
and Wednesday • 5:30–9 PM

(Ages 11 and up)

This certification meets the requirement for states and some local municipalities that mandate Bowhunter Education in order to purchase a bowhunting permit. Reservations can be made by calling 636-938-9548, or online at <http://my.register-ed.com/event/studentchoosevent>.

Basic Rifle, Part 1 & 2

July 18 and 20 • Thursday • 6–8 PM
and Saturday • 8–9:30 AM

(Ages 16 and up)

This program will include rifle operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session on Thursday

evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin 12 AM on June 18.)

Trigger Time–Handgun

July 20 • Saturday • 8:30–9:30 AM
(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin 12 AM on June 20.)

Youth .22 Rifle

July 27 • Saturday • 8–9:30 AM
(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment is provided. Effort=Mild. (Reservations begin 12 AM on June 27.)

Youth Trapshooting Camp

July 29, 30 and 31 • Monday, Tuesday,
and Wednesday • 9 AM–noon
(Ages 11–17)

This three-morning camp is based on the game of competitive trap shooting. This camp is appropriate for participants from 6th grade through 11th grade that can physically shoot at least 100 targets per day. Effort=Strenuous. (Reservations begin 12 AM on June 29.)

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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

Intermediate Handgun

July 6 • Saturday • 7:30–9:30 AM
(Ages 18 and up)

This program is designed for handgun owners to sharpen their target shooting skills. Come experience some one-on-one instruction with one of our highly qualified instructors. This live fire only program will take place at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center. Participants are required to bring their own handguns and ammunition. (Reservations begin June 6.)

Basic Archery

July 9 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM
(Ages 10 and up)

This program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided for this Basic Archery class. This course will take place at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center broadhead pits. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Children ages 10–16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin June 10.)

Archery Day Camp

July 10 and 11 • Wednesday and Thursday • 9 AM–noon
(Ages 10 and up)

This two-day program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided for this

Archery Day Camp. This course will take place at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center broadhead pits. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Children ages 10–16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin June 10.)

Basic Handgun

July 17 and 18 • Wednesday and Thursday • 6–9 PM and July 20 • Saturday • 7:30–9:30 AM

(Ages 16 and up with a parent or adult)

This program is designed to teach new students how to safely and successfully handle and shoot handguns. The clinic will be held on Wednesday, July 17, at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms from 6–9 PM. During the clinic we will discuss safety, various handgun actions, calibers, grip, stance, and sight picture. On Thursday, July 18, half of the class will meet at Busch Shooting Range from 6–8 PM for some live fire practice. On Saturday, July 20, the other half of the class will meet at Busch Shooting Range from 7:30–9:30 AM for some live fire practice. We will provide .22 handguns and ammunition for the live fire. This is a basic handgun class, and students must attend the clinic in order to participate in the live fire. (Reservations begin June 17.)

Basic Shotgun

July 24 and 25 • Wednesday and Thursday • 6–8 PM

(Ages 13 and up)

This is an introductory program for beginning shooters who want to learn the correct way to get started in shotgun sports. On Wednesday, July 24,



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 AM–4 PM

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM and Tuesday: 2–8 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** Monday through Friday 8 AM–5 PM.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

this program will begin at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. We will discuss safety, appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, mount, movement and target acquisition techniques. Then on Thursday, July 25, we will meet at August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center for some live fire practice where all participants will have a chance to break some clay targets. We will provide shotguns and ammunition for the live fire. Participants must attend the classroom portion in order to participate in the live fire. The shooting portion of this program is not appropriate for children that weigh less than 90 lbs. Children ages 13 through 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin June 24.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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



From Highway 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 AM–5 PM

Trails: Daily: 8 AM–8 PM DST

8 AM–6 PM 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.

Pint Size Predators

July 9 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 AM

(Ages 6 and up)

Two elegant insects that hunt and eat other insects are the dragonfly and the praying mantis. They have adaptations for totally different hunting strategies: one patrolling the air and the other sitting put until the moment of ambush. Have you seen any? Were you impressed and curious? Come have some fun this morning while learning more about them. (Reservations begin June 20.)



Praying Mantis

Creek Challenge

July 12 • Friday • 5:30–7 PM

(Families)

It's a hot, steamy evening in July. How about heading to the creek to cool off? We will first evaluate the health of our creek, and then we will capture and investigate some of the creatures that dwell there. On the return hike, scavenger hunt lists will be provided for families who would like to see what they can find. (Reservations begin June 27.)

Get Froggy With It!

July 25 • Thursday • 9:30–11 AM

(Ages 3–6)

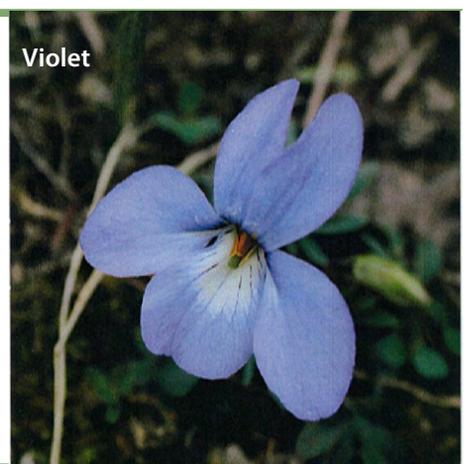
How do frogs grow? How are they different from other animals? Discover the answers to these questions through mimicry, live animals, and a pond study. (Reservations begin July 11.)

We work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish and wildlife.

July Hallway Exhibit

Robert A. Foster, Photographer

This month's exhibit features the photography of Robert A. Foster. Foster grew up in the St. Louis area. His first memories of photography were developing negatives with his father. Foster often was allowed to use his father's Nikon or Canon 35mm cameras. He later studied photography so he could work with his father's photographs. Recently Foster returned to school to discover the new technologies that give photographers more options for creating interesting photographs.



Violet

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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

New Exhibit: Missouri State Champion Tree Plaques

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is pleased to showcase the state's champion trees by exhibiting the champion tree plaques. Each plaque lists the champion tree species, its measurements that qualify it as a champion, and other information about the tree.

What is a Champion Tree?

There is something about a big tree that commands interest, respect and a certain amount of awe. Trees are the largest and oldest living organisms. How big is big? American Forests and the Missouri Department of Conservation use a formula to assess a point value for big trees. Points are determined by a tree's height, crown spread and trunk size. The formula adds the circumference in inches (measured at a point 4.5 feet above the ground) to the height in feet to one-fourth of the average crown spread.

For more information on Missouri's champion trees visit mdc.mo.gov/node/4831.

Everyone is invited to join the search for Missouri's champion trees. There are many unreported giants just waiting to be discovered.

What Tree Species Are Eligible to be Champions?

To be eligible for listing, a tree must be native or naturalized. Native tree species are survivors of the last ice age. Examples are shortleaf pine and shagbark hickory.

Naturalized trees are exotic (introduced from other regions or continents) that have become common and establish themselves as if they are native. The white mulberry is a good example of a non-native, naturalized tree.

Horticultural varieties, hybrids and exotic species, such as winter king hawthorn, tree of heaven and Oklahoma redbud, are excluded from the list.

Forest Park Office

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



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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

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.

Daily challenges make way for you to work with or against nature. I wonder who or what will come out on top at the end of the week? Only time will tell. This camp will be held outdoors throughout Forest Park with basecamp at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center.

Participants must sign up for all four days and bring a sack lunch. Registration, including a waiver and emergency contact sheet by a parent or guardian must be complete and received by the Forest Park Office before the deadline. (Reservations begin June 3 and end June 28.)

Day Camp: Child vs. Wild

July 9–12 • Tuesday–Friday • 10 AM–2 PM
(Ages 8–12)

As soon as you're dropped off for this camp you'll be left stranded in the wild terrain of the city. Oops! Well, what I really mean is, here is your chance to battle *the wild*.

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.

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
Saturday–Sunday: 8 AM–4 PM

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.

Sunset over Columbia Bottom

July 19 • Friday • 7–8:30 PM

(Ages 6 and up)

We will help you discover nature's night shift creatures as they venture out for their evening activities. As we walk, we will catch the last rays of the sun as it disappears below the horizon. Meet at Lot "I" about 2 ½ miles from the front entrance. (Reservations begin July 5.)

Golden Hour at the Mississippi

July 20 • Saturday • 5:30–7 AM

(Ages 15 and up)

Take an early morning walk to the edge of the Mississippi River and watch the eastern sky change colors as dawn turns to daylight. Meet at the front entrance gate to Columbia Bottom. (Reservations begin July 6.)

Summertime Nursery

July 25 • Thursday • 12:30–2 PM

(Ages 10 and younger)

Learn about some of our wildest Missouri residents and then venture out onto the area in hopes of seeing some of our newborns. (Reservations begin July 11.)

Managed Youth Dove Hunt at Columbia Bottom

Sept 1 or 2 • Sunday or Monday • 1 PM–Sunset

(Ages 11–15)

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt! So apply now. If accepted, you will learn about dove biology, hunter safety, and hunting regulations at a mandatory clinic on Saturday, Aug. 31 at Jay Henges Shooting Range. You'll also practice effective wing shooting using clay birds. Then, join us for the Youth Dove Hunt at Columbia Bottom. Youth must be Hunter Ed certified by the hunt and a mentor is required. Let us know if you need one. We also have some firearms available for loan. Twenty youth will be selected for each day's dove hunt. Preference is given to first time applicants. Fill out the application below and send to the address provided, or contact Columbia Bottom for more information. (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? Y / N

Do you need a mentor? Y / N

First time applicant? Y / N

What day are you available to hunt? Sep 1 / Sep 2 / Either

Managed Youth Deer Hunt at Columbia Bottom - Apply Now!

Nov 2 and 3 • Saturday and Sunday • Sunrise–Sunset

(Ages 11–15)

Here's another way to discover nature! Apply now. If accepted, learn about deer biology, hunter safety, and hunting regulations at a mandatory clinic on Sat., Oct. 19 at the Columbia Bottom Visitor Center. Then, join us for the Youth Deer Hunt in November where field staff will be available for questions and assistance retrieving your deer. Need a mentor? We can provide one. Don't have a firearm? Some are available for loan. Youth must be Hunter Ed certified before the hunt. Thirty youth will be accepted. Apply online at www.mdc.mo.gov or contact Columbia Bottom for more information. (Applications accepted July 1 to August 15.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

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

Youth Frog Gigging Clinic

July 8 • Monday • 6 PM–midnight
(Ages 11–15 accompanied by adult mentor)

In this clinic, we'll teach you how to hunt frogs at night using a technique called gigging. Gigging for frogs is an entertaining and unique summer pastime that can be enjoyed by all. Learn about frog habitat, the basics of frog gigging, necessary equipment, and gigging rules and regulations. When it gets dark, we'll head to the lakes to actually go frog gigging! Afterwards, we'll demonstrate how to clean and cook your frogs, and everyone will get to taste a sample of real frog legs! (Reservations begin June 1.)

Aquatic Adventures

July 9 • Tuesday • 9–11 AM
(Ages 6–12)

What could be more fun in early July than to see what cool things live in an aquatic habitat? Come and learn about an aquatic food chain and how we can affect it. Also learn what conservation practices can help enhance the health of an aquatic environment. There will be plenty of time to actually interact with a real aquatic environment to see what neat critters are prey and predators in it. Dress appropriately for the weather and netting aquatic critters along the shore of the Busch CA Refuge Lake. All necessary equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin June 25.)



Happy Hummingbirds

July 20 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM
(Ages 3–5)

Hummingbirds are beautiful and interesting to watch. Your preschooler will have fun learning about hummingbirds' behavior through story, craft and games. (Reservations begin July 5.)

Hérons and Egrets at MTC

July 27 • Saturday • 7:30–10:30 AM
(Adults)

Join us for a 2 ½ mile hike to view the herons and egrets feeding in the Marais Temps Clair (MTC) Conservation Area marsh. The young have just left the nests so we hope to see both young and adults feeding together. See some of the showiest members of all wading birds. Learn to identify these majestic birds from a distance through provided spotting scopes. Effort = Mild, flat, gravel path terrain for 2 ½ miles with exposure to the weather. (Reservations begin July 12.)

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.



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 AM–5 PM

Area: Daily: 4 AM–10 PM

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.

Meet our 2013 Training Class for Busch and Rockwoods Volunteers

Nick Collins
Brandi Martin
Jennifer McCarty
Pat McCoy
Jim Morrison
Martha Shermann
Elise Sites
Danielle Smith
Samantha Stolle
Ed Wehner

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; turn left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; turn right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

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 Adventures

July 3 • Wednesday • 9–11 AM
(Ages 6–12)

What could be more fun in early July than to see what cool things live in an aquatic habitat? Come and learn about an aquatic food chain and how we can affect it. Also learn what conservation practices can help enhance the health of an aquatic environment. There will be plenty of time to actually interact with a real aquatic environment to see what neat critters are prey and predators in it. Dress appropriately for the weather and netting aquatic critters along the shore of the Rockwoods woodland pond. All necessary equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin June 20.)



Canoeing the Meramec River

July 1, 2, 11 or 18 - One trip per family
(Ages 10 and up)

Nothing beats a summer float trip! Better yet, nothing beats a summer float with a group of Naturalists to help guide and discover nature along the way! Join us for a float on the Meramec River near Eureka, MO between Pacific Palisades Conservation Area and the Allenton Public Fishing Access. This seven-mile stretch of river is home to an abundance of fish, reptiles, birds, plants and more to explore and discover. You'll learn about aquatic ecosystems, flooding and erosion events, how wildlife survive in a changing river and the role that we all can play to protect our drinking water and aquatic habitats for wildlife. Take a peek at what you're in for by viewing photos from our 2011 season: www.buschrockwoods.smugmug.com

Logistics:

All participants must be good swimmers and have at least one participant over the age of 18 per canoe. Pre-float instructions will be provided once registered. The float is no cost! However, a \$15 deposit per canoe is required by check to hold your reservation. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous with maneuvering canoes in slow and swift water and exposure to weather. Additional dates to be posted in the August edition of Conservation Connections. (Reservations begin June 17.)

Overnight Canoe Float on the Meramec River

August 8 and 9 • Thursday and Friday
(Ages 10 and up)

Have you floated with our Naturalists before in the 2011 or 2012 season? Or are you signed up to float this year, 2013? If so, you are eligible to put your family into the drawing for a unique canoeing opportunity to float, fish, camp, swim, explore and more over two days and one night on the Meramec River near to 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/training on Wednesday, July 31, 6:30–8:30 PM. at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. Space is limited and attendance will be determined by random drawing on Wednesday, July 24. Effort = Strenuous with 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 10.)

