



Mulch – A Tree Doctor’s Best Friend

A significant amount of a forester’s time is spent answering tree health questions. Upon diagnosis of the problem(s) the next inevitable step is treatment and perhaps preventative maintenance to minimize the risk of further problems. Without a doubt, my top recommendation for maintaining or improving tree health is mulch.

Let’s consider a few facts:

- 1) Nowhere on Earth do trees grow naturally with turfgrass (e.g. fescue, bluegrass, zoysia; note: prairie/savanna grasses are not considered turfgrass). Turfgrass roots form a dense, shallow mat within the upper 4-6” of soil in most yards. This thick mass of roots allows turfgrasses to compete successfully for water and nutrients in the soil. The tree and shrub roots responsible for absorbing water and nutrients are also present in that same area of soil. Until the tree becomes large enough to shade out the turfgrass, the turfgrass roots will out-compete the tree for these important elements and may even create stress – especially in drought conditions like we experienced last summer.
- 2) Look at the forest floor the next time you’re in the woods. It’s covered in decaying leaves, twigs, bark, seeds, etc. There’s usually a layer of dark colored material underneath that we call organic matter – this is the advanced stage of decomposition of those plant parts. As this material breaks down it releases nutrients back into the soil that tree roots absorb. It also allows rain to infiltrate into the soil more easily and slows its evaporation. Organic matter helps to “break up” compacted soils – something which all of us deal with in an urban or suburban yard.

Proper mulching of trees and shrubs creates a condition more akin to where these plants normally grow. Mulch is typically the only fertilizer you’ll ever need for your woody plants and reduces competition for important elements.

Of course, too much of a good thing . . . isn’t a good thing! Mulch should be applied no deeper than 2-3” and never placed immediately against the trunk or stem of plants (see diagram). Use materials that break down like shredded bark, wood chips or composted leaves. You can use grass clippings or saw dust but it is important that they be composted first as they will steal nitrogen from the soil if applied when “green.”

So do your tree a favor – give up some lawn and give your tree roots a fighting chance! You’ll fertilize less, reduce stormwater runoff and make your tree much happier!

By Mark Grueber, urban forester

St. Louis Region Happenings Exhibit

More than 900,000 people visit MDC areas every year. Many of these visitors participate in activities around the St. Louis Region.

Photos of watching eagles, canoeing, making maple sugar, fishing, hiking and more are shown in the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center’s hallway exhibit.

Visit the nature center during regular business hours and see the many ways people in Missouri discover nature.



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 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.

Introduction to Firearms

Feb 6 • Wednesday • 6:30–8:30 PM
(Ages 11 and up)

Let's take a look at various types of firearms including rifles, shotguns, and handguns. We will examine the various types of actions and provide a hands-on demonstration of their working mechanisms. The presentation will include basic safety, home security, and general maintenance. This is a classroom program and does not include live shooting. This is an informative, educational introduction to firearms without the noise. (Reservations begin January 6.)

Women's Basic Handgun, Part 1 and 2

Feb 7 and 9 • Thursday • 6–8 PM and • Saturday • 8–9:30 AM
(Ages 16 and up)

This two part women's program will include handgun 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. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin January 7.)

Antler Scoring

Feb 16 • Saturday • 9 AM–noon
(All ages)

Now that your antlers have dried for the required 60 days, it's time to check the official score of that big rack. We will have official scorers on duty. You may also bring shed antlers to be scored. Antlers do not have to be from this past season; any previous rack can be scored. Bring your antlers to the Education Center this Saturday and see what your deer scores! (No reservations required.)



Trigger Time – Handgun

Feb 17 • Sunday • 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. This is not a beginners program. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition (at least 100 rounds). (Reservations begin January 17.)

Youth .22 Rifle

Feb 23 • Saturday • 8:00–9:30 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 are provided. (Reservations begin January 23.)

*MDC programs make it easy for
Missourians of all ages to hunt.*

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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



Youth Pheasant Hunt

Feb 13 and 16 • Wednesday • 6–8 PM
and • Saturday • 9 AM – 3 PM

(Ages 11 and up with a parent or adult)

This is a great opportunity for youngsters, new to hunting, to learn the skills needed to hunt upland game birds in a safe environment. On the 13th you will be required to attend a clinic at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. We will discuss safety, habitat, firearms, clothing, and the upcoming hunt. On the 16th we will conduct the actual hunt. This program is for new upland hunters. If you have participated in this hunt, within the past two years, you will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if the event is not full. The hunt will be on Saturday at the Missouri Gun & Quail Club near Wright City, Mo. All participants must attend the clinic and be Hunter Education certified to hunt. (Reservations begin January 14.)

*Conservation
makes Missouri a
great place to hunt
and fish.*

Women's Pheasant Hunt

Feb 13 and 23 • Wednesday • 6–9 PM
and • Saturday • 9 AM–3 PM

(Ages 11 and up with a parent or adult)

This is a great opportunity for women, new to hunting, to learn the skills needed to hunt upland game birds in a safe environment. On the 13th you will be required to attend a clinic at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. We will discuss pheasant habitat, safety, firearms, clothing, and the upcoming hunt. On the 23rd we will conduct the actual hunt. If you have attended this event within the past two years, you will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if the event is not full. The hunt will be at the Missouri Gun & Quail Club near Wright City, Mo. All participants must attend the clinic and be Hunter Education certified to hunt. (Reservations begin January 14.)

Shotshell Reloading

Feb 20 • Wednesday • 6–9 PM

(Ages 11 and up with a parent or adult)

Here is your opportunity to learn the inexpensive process of reloading shotgun shells using simple equipment. The technique is easy and will save you money over the cost of factory ammunition. This is a hands-on learning class; we'll produce quality shotshells with low-cost equipment. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin January 21.)

Metallic Cartridge Reloading

Feb 27 • Wednesday • 6–9 PM

(Ages 11 and up with a parent or adult)

This class will introduce you to the equipment and techniques of reloading metallic cartridges, and give you the hands-on experience of loading rifle and/or handgun ammunition. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin January 28.)

Simulated Deer Hunt

Feb 9 • Saturday • 9 AM–2 PM

(Ages 8 and up with a parent or adult)

This program is designed to simulate a deer hunt. Participants will be taught how to setup a tree stand, ground blind, where to locate a blind or stand, how to track wounded game, and use GPS / map and compass to locate your vehicle and orient yourself as to where you are on the island. (Reservations begin January 9.)



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.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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



The Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is located in Kirkwood, MO. Take Highway 44 east to the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow for 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.

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.

Peanut says “No More Trash!”

Feb 9 • Saturday • 9:30–11:30 AM

(Families)

Peanut the turtle is a female red-eared slider who is famous for her figure. Her shape is the result of litter - a plastic six pack ring that she crawled through and got stuck in as a young turtle. After being rescued in 1993, she has since become the mascot for the “No MOre Trash” campaign.

Peanut now lives at Powder Valley where she continues to spread the word about littering. Come and learn about Peanut and how trash affects wildlife. Then we’ll do our part and pick up trash along the Powder Valley trails. Please dress for the weather and be prepared to hike the long loop of the Hickory Ridge Trail (1 1/5 miles). Gloves, trash grabber tools, and hot chocolate will be provided. (Reservations begin January 25.)



Career Day for Scouts

Feb 9 • Saturday • 10 AM–noon

Learn about conservation careers from our conservation professionals. Wildlife biologists, foresters, conservation agents, and other department staff will discuss what they do to help our forest, fish and wildlife in Missouri. Career and area information will be available. Cadettes: Financing My Dream Badge (Career Explorations); Bears: Sharing Your World With Wildlife (Achievement 5c,d). (Reservations are required and begin January 25.)

A Forest Valentine

Feb 12 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 AM

(Ages 6 and up)

Forests, fish, and wildlife – we love them! Let’s make them a creative, beautiful Valentine’s Day card! And let’s celebrate nature’s complex web of life with a special nature game. Play with a wide variety of forest, fish and wildlife puppets, ranging from armadillo to woodchuck. Weather permitting, we will take a nature walk too. (Reservations begin January 29.)



Discover Nature Families: Friday Night Live! Winter Wrap Up

Feb 15 • Friday • 6:30–9 PM

(Families)

Bur-r-r-r, it’s cold out there! We wrap up in coats, mittens, scarves and hats to keep warm when we are outside. How have Missouri’s wildlife kept warm through these cold winter months? Some of the answers to this question might surprise you! Bring your family and enjoy this special event at Powder Valley as you learn through hibernation, migration and congregation activities. In addition there will be storytelling, hot chocolate, songs and activities by the campfire, crafts, door prizes and much, much more! Be sure to come wrapped in your favorite scarf! (Registration is not required.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

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

Go Wild! Landscaping for Wildlife

Feb 19 • Tuesday • 10 AM–noon
(Adults)

Does your yard entice wildlife? Would you like it to? Come explore some of the many choices Missourians have in the way of native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants, as well as water features and other structures. Learn how to consider wildlife as you landscape, whether you would like to make small changes in your yard, or begin a complete renovation! (Reservations begin February 5.)



Monarch on butterfly weed

Photo courtesy of Perry Eckhardt

You and Me Under the Canopy

Feb 19 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM
(Ages birth–8)

Families, meet in the nature center lobby at 10 a.m. for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won’t be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the canopy. In case of inclement weather the program will be shortened to 30 minutes and held indoors. (Registration is not required.)

Volunteer milestones

Jennifer Bollinger	500 hours	Steven Krchma	400 hours	John Sanders	750 hours
Lee Halbeck	2000 hours	Shirley Pearlstone	3000 hours	Bernadette Sieving	1500 hours
Barbara Herbst	1500 hours				

Partners for Native Landscaping: A Workshop for Homeowners

Feb 23 • Saturday • 8 AM–4 PM

Workshop Cost: \$20 (Includes buffet lunch and landscape guide)

This in-depth workshop is designed for homeowners and offers information and resources on how to landscape with native plants to create greener communities. Workshop participants will also have the opportunity to purchase Missouri wildflowers and learn more about the partnering organizations.

Come learn how to:

- Landscape for Birds and Butterflies
- Identify and Remove Invasive Plants
- Design a Native Garden
- Plan a Rain Garden

Register by calling Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center at 314-301-1500 or online at <http://stlouisaudubon.org/PNL/>.

Workshop is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, Metropolitan Sewer District, Shaw Nature Reserve, St. Louis Audubon Society’s Bring Conservation Home Program, Wild Ones St. Louis Chapter, and Grow Native.



Cardinal flower and hummingbird

Photo courtesy of Margy Terpstra

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.

What Happens When the Animals Wake Up?

Two separate sessions available:
Feb 2 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM
Feb 21 • Thursday • 10–11:30 AM
(Ages 3 and up)

What happens when the animals wake from a long winter's nap? When it started getting cold last fall, many animals decided to take a snooze. Now it is time for them to wake up. What will they do? Is there food for them to eat and water to drink? After a few stories, we will go for a hike to look for signs of animals and insects. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin January 19 and February 7 respectively.)

Howling with the Coyotes

Feb 15 • Friday • 6:30–8 PM
(Ages 7 and up)

Do you know that coyotes play an important role in the wildlife community and why they howl? Examine a coyote pelt, teeth and skull before taking a short hike to listen for their howling on the prairie. We'll return to the Visitor Center to warm up with hot beverages. (Reservations begin February 1.)

Starting Native Plants from Seed

Feb 16 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM
(Ages 10 and up)

Have you admired a bright stand of purple coneflowers or watched Monarch butterflies flock to butterfly milkweed? Learn how to start these and other native plants from seed right at home. We will discuss how to obtain and prepare native plant seeds for planting. Then we will plant some seeds in the containers we make from recycled materials. (Reservations begin February 2.)

Columbia Bottom Trading Post

Feb 18 • Monday • 9–11 AM
(Ages 10 and younger)

Become a great fur trader at the Columbia Bottom Trading Post! However, you must first capture those "furbearers" in order to have something to trade. Join us and learn why trapping is important to Missouri and then enter the world of furbearers, trapping, and bartering. (Reservations begin February 3.)

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



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.

Let's Get Tracking!

Feb 8 • Friday • 10–11:30 AM
(All Ages)

This is an excellent time of year to look for wildlife signs. They're everywhere, in the trees and on the ground. Join us at the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center where you'll make a plaster cast of a mammal's footprint. Then, we'll head outside to look for animal signs. Who cares whether or not the groundhog saw its shadow? Let's get tracking! Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin January 23.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

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

Are You Sleeping?

Feb 5 • Tuesday • 10–11:30 AM

(Ages 3–6)

Will there be six more weeks of winter? Let's play games and make a groundhog puppet as we learn about this sleepy Missouri mammal. Groundhogs are one of Missouri's true hibernators. Also known as the woodchuck, the groundhog is a true winter sleepyhead. We will explore how other Missouri mammals handle the harsh winter and how the groundhog is almost a "mammal magician" in the ways it survives winter. Dress for the weather as we will venture outdoors to see if any Rockwoods groundhogs are out and about! (Reservations begin January 22.)

Count Birds and Make a Difference!

Feb. 9 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

(Families)

Why not become a citizen scientist and participate in the *Great Backyard Bird Count* (GBBC)! Come to our interactive program geared toward middle school age kids to learn about the GBBC and how you can tally the birds that you see in your own backyard. Anyone can participate in the GBBC whether you are a beginner or advanced, and only 15 minutes of your time is required on the weekend of February 15–18. We'll teach you the basics of the GBBC, how data is entered on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website and take an easy stroll to the Fallen Oak Trail bird feeder station to perform a mock count as practice for the official count. Please dress for the weather, bring your binoculars and bird field guides to help gather data for the status of our beloved birds. (Reservations begin January 25.)

Dresser Island Conservation Area Hike

Feb 16 • Saturday • 9 AM–3 PM

(Ages 12 and up)

Where can you take a winter hike along a big river and see pelicans, ducks, geese, eagles, hawks, gulls, herons, turkey, deer, muskrat houses, beaver lodges, small birds and possibly trumpeter swans? It's called Dresser Island and is located near West Alton in north St. Charles County. Join us for a 6½ mile hike to look for wildlife and enjoy the winter scenery along the Mississippi River. We will participate in Cornell University's *Great Backyard Bird Count* during our hike around the island. This hike is considered "Moderate" to "Strenuous" depending on trail and weather conditions. A shorter, three mile hike will be available. Interested in seeing what Dresser Island has to offer? See this link for photos from a February 2012 hike: <http://buschrockwoods.smugmug.com/Other/Dresser-Island-Hike-18-Feb.> (Reservations begin February 1.)

Grow Native at Home

Feb 23 • Saturday • 1:30–3 PM

(Adults)

It's time to start thinking about spring gardening projects. Have you ever considered growing native plants? Naturally resilient native grasses, sedges, flowers, shrubs, vines and trees are great for home landscaping. They solve common gardening problems and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds and other wildlife. By growing natives you will help restore Missouri's declining natural diversity. Come and learn how to put native plants to work in your home landscape. (Reservations begin February 8.)



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.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 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.

Laser Night Hike 2.0 – New Route, New Challenge

Feb 23 • Saturday • 6–9 PM

(Families Ages 10 and up)

Dark of night. Two miles through the woods, following the straight line path you create with a compass, searching for three waypoints on the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. This off-trail navigation has you armed with flashlight, compass, map and yes, lasers! Challenge, adventure and "braggin' rights" await as you join our naturalists as they pass on the navigation experience of a private pilot, outdoor education instructor, and more than 50-year veteran of navigation through the woods. Prerequisite: Working knowledge of following a predetermined bearing with a compass. Effort = Moderate, two mile hike on mostly flat terrain through woods with vegetation to avoid. (Reservations begin February 8.)

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Ave. left on Woods Ave., then immediately right on Glencoe RD. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Ave; right on Woods Ave, 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

Cabin Fever Cure

Feb 9 • Saturday • 1–3:30 PM

(Families Ages 10 and up)

Cabin fever? Let's help celebrate Rockwoods' 75th birthday year by taking a winter hike on the Lime Kiln Trail. With the trees bare you will see the natural beauty of Rockwoods in a different way. We'll search for wildlife and scars on the land from human presence over 100 years ago. We will pause at the Lime Kiln and talk about how the conservation efforts restored Rockwoods to the beautiful place you can enjoy today. The 3.2 mile trail is fairly steep in places and will give you a good workout, helping put that cabin fever behind you. Effort = Moderate. (Reservations begin January 25.)

Maple Sugar Festival

Feb 2 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

(All ages)

It's maple sugar time! You've been waiting all winter and it's finally here! Venture outdoors to Rockwoods Reservation and experience conservation success and forest resources at their finest - and sweetest! Visit the Sugar Bush to see trees tapped and collect the precious sap. Boil the sap down at the Three Kettle Station like colonial Americans while using a more modern method at the Sugar Shack. Taste the delicious syrup, sugar on snow taffy, and pure maple sugar. More importantly, learn to do all of this right in your own backyard. It's a day your whole family will enjoy. (No reservations required. Parking will be available at Rockwoods Reservation and off-site via a shuttle bus. Roadway signs and staff will direct vehicles to parking locations. Festival may be altered due to extreme winter weather, call 636-458-2236 for information.)

Grow Native at Home

Feb 23 • Saturday • 9:30–11 AM

(Adults)

It's time to start thinking about spring gardening projects. Have you ever considered growing native plants? Naturally resilient native grasses, flowers, shrubs, vines and trees are great for home landscaping. They solve common gardening problems and attract wildlife. By growing natives you will help restore Missouri's declining natural diversity. Come and learn how to put native plants to work in your home landscape. (Reservations begin February 8.)

Are you Sleeping?

Feb 26 • Tuesday • 10–11:30 AM

(Ages 3–6)

Will there be six more weeks of winter? Let's play games and make a groundhog puppet as we learn about this sleepy Missouri mammal. Also known as the woodchuck, the groundhog is a true winter sleepyhead. We will explore how other mammals handle the harsh winter and how the groundhog is almost a "mammal magician" in the ways it survives winter. Dress for the weather as we will venture outdoors to see if any Rockwoods groundhogs are out and about! (Reservations begin February 12.)

After School Session: Maple Sugaring

Feb 27 • Wednesday • 4–5:30 PM

(All ages)

Did your child's school miss out on making a field trip to Rockwoods for a Maple Sugar Field Trip? No problem. Bring your students out for this "after school session." We will learn the history of maple sugaring, visit the Sugar Bush to collect sap and learn to boil it down into syrup. Of course, you'll also enjoy samples of Rockwoods' very own maple syrup! Dress for the weather as the entire program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin February 13.)

Homeschool Special: Maple Sugaring

Two separate sessions available:

Feb 14 • Thursday • noon–1:30 PM

Feb 20 • Wednesday • noon–1:30 PM

Attention homeschoolers! Join us to embark on a Missouri tradition: maple sugaring. Please see above description. (Reservations begin January 31.)