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**Missouri Department of
Conservation**
mdc.mo.gov

Kansas City Regional Office

12405 SE Ranson Rd. | Lees Summit, MO,
64082

kcregion@mdc.mo.gov
816-622-0900

Sedalia Office

2000 S. Limit Ave. | Sedalia, MO, 65301
660-530-5500

Missouri State Parks

mostateparks.com
P.O. Box 176 | Jefferson City, MO, 65102
moparks@dnr.mo.gov
800-334-6946

Sedalia Parks and Recreation

sedaliaparks.com
1500 W. Third St. | Sedalia, MO, 65301
660-826-4930

Nearby State Parks

Information obtained from Missouri State Parks.

Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site

19349 Bothwell State Park Road
Sedalia, MO, 65301-9407
Park Office: 660-827-0510

Tours are available 24 hours in advance by appointment only. Reservations available for 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Friday through Sunday. To schedule a tour, call the park office.

With a commanding view from atop a bluff, Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site is one of the best representations of early 20th Century sensibilities in the Midwest. Walk through the 31-room, 12,000-square-foot lodge built atop two natural caves by Sedalia lawyer John Homer Bothwell. You will marvel at the owner's eclectic tastes and how a country gentleman furnished a recreational lodge for himself and his friends. Most of the furnishings in the house are original. The property also has a 3-mile hiking and mountain biking trail.


Arrow Rock State Historic Site

9521 Visitor Center Drive
Arrow Rock, MO, 65320-0001
Park Office: 660-837-3330



Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stroll through the history of a once-bustling river town that's now the serene village of Arrow Rock. You'll walk streets lined with the architecture of the historic "Boone's Lick Country." At Arrow Rock State Historic Site, you may wander into the historic J. Huston Tavern, which dates back to 1834 and is the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi River. View displays of historic furnishings in the old kitchen and upstairs bedrooms. You can visit other historic buildings, such as the Old Courthouse and George Caleb Bingham's house. You can learn about the history of Arrow Rock and the "Boone's Lick Country" through exhibits and audio-visual presentations in the visitor center. The historic site is part of the larger Village of Arrow Rock, which features quaint stores and several antique shops.

Continued on Page 4



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Nearby State Parks

Continued

Knob Noster State Park

873 SE 10 Road
Knob Noster, MO, 65336-2011
Park Office: 660-563-2463
Nature Center: 660-563-2463
Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Knob Noster State Park is a tranquil retreat of open oak woodland with a few patches of prairie along both sides of the meandering Clearfork Creek. It's a place for fishermen to wet a line, for mountain bikers, hikers and horseback riders to get some trail time, and for families to spend quality time together. The park also features an oxbow slough, which has been officially designated as Pin Oak Slough Natural Area.

Confederate Memorial State Historic Site

211 W. First St.
Higginsville, MO, 64037-8158
Park Office: 660-584-2853
Step on to the peaceful grounds of Confederate Memorial State Historic Site and experience where the last voices of the "Lost Cause" lingered. The site was once home to the Confederate Soldiers Home of Missouri, which provided comfort and refuge to 1,600 Civil War veterans and their families for nearly 60 years. Today, visitors can visit the restored chapel and the Confederate cemetery, as well as three other historic buildings. Visitors will learn about the Confederate Home and the role it played in post-Civil War Missouri. The site's 135 acres include numerous lakes to fish in as well as walking trails and places to picnic.

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

5901 South Highway 163
Columbia, MO, 65203-819
Park Office: 573-449-7402
Trails Hotline: 573-398-7001 Ext. 3
Park Naturalist: 573-449-7400
Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The park office will be closed Friday through Monday.
Just minutes from Columbia, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park gives visitors the chance to scramble, hike and bicycle through a scenic environment – and lets them peek into Missouri's underworld. The park contains some of the most popular hiking trails in the state and also offers

solitude while hiking in the Gans Creek Wild Area. Visitors can also see a large cave system with its rock bridge, sinkholes, a spring and underground stream at the Devil's Icebox. You can explore Connor's Cave in the light of the opening for a taste of the underground world.

Missouri State Museum

First Floor, State Capitol
201 W. Capitol Ave.
Jefferson City, MO, 65101
Park Office: 573-751-2854
Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, year-round.

The Missouri State Museum is where visitors go to immerse themselves in the history of the Show-Me State. The museum, located in the State Capitol, houses an impressive collection of exhibits portraying the state's natural and cultural history. Museum staff provide tours of the Capitol. Jefferson Landing was a busy center of commerce along the Missouri River during the mid-1800s. Steamboats traveling between St. Louis and Kansas City docked in front of the Lohman Building. The nearby Union Hotel contains the Elizabeth Rozier Gallery with changing exhibits on Missouri history, art and culture.

Katy Trail State Park

Machens to Clinton
Park Office: 573-449-7402
Katy Trail State Park is the longest developed rail-trail in the country. Katy Trail State Park attracts people of all ages and interests. Whether you are a bicyclist, walker, equestrian, nature lover or history buff, the trail offers opportunities for recreation, a place to enjoy nature and an avenue to discover the past.

The park, built on the former corridor of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad (MKT or Katy), is 240 miles long and runs between Clinton and Machens with 26 trailheads and four fully restored railroad depots along the way. The section of trail between Cooper County and St. Charles County has been designated as an official segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Katy Trail is also part of the American Discovery Trail, has been designated as a Millennium Legacy Trail and was added to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame in 2008.

Trail users have the opportunity to wind through some of the most scenic areas of

the state with the majority of the trail closely following the Missouri River. The park also takes users through a slice of rural history as it meanders through the small towns that once thrived along the railroad corridor and reflect the rich heritage of Missouri. Information at the trailheads makes a ride or walk on the Katy not only a healthy adventure but also an educational one.

Finger Lakes State Park

1505 E. Peabody Road
Columbia, MO, 65202-9484
Park Office: 573-443-5315
Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and riding hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park grounds are open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily April through October and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily November through March.

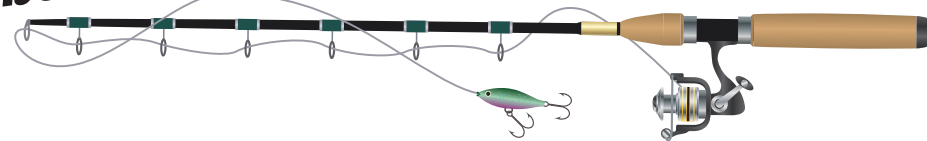
The roar of ATVs and off-road motorcycles combines with the peacefulness of rolling hills at Finger Lakes State Park, one of two ATV parks in the state parks system. Built in a former coal mining area, Finger Lakes' trails and motocross track are popular with users who come for the day but often fall under the spell of the spacious campground, leafy trees and hilly terrain.

The park is also the site of the challenging 2.75-mile Kelley Branch Mountain Bike Trail and a 4.5-mile water trail. ORV permits sold online are for same-day use only. Riders must purchase their ORV permit before arriving at the park. Simply present the permit, in paper or electronic form, at the window upon arrival at the park. Riders must carry the permit with them at all times when operating the ORV vehicle. ORV Permits are also available at the park office upon arrival.

Jewel Cemetery State Historic Site

South Providence Road
Columbia, MO
Park Office: 573-449-7402
The hustle and bustle of nearby Providence Road in Columbia belie the peace and serenity of Jewell Cemetery State Historic Site. The shady tree-filled cemetery contains the grave of Missouri's 22nd governor, Charles Hardin, along with descendants of George Jewell. The most well-known member of the Jewell family buried in the cemetery, William Jewell, died while establishing a college in Liberty, Missouri, that bears his name.

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Knob Noster State Park offers local outdoor opportunities

By Emily Walton

emilyw@sedaliademocrat.com

The COVID-19 pandemic has made travel hard for many Mid-Missourians, but that does not mean there isn't plenty to do right at home.

Originally called Montserrat Recreational Demonstration Area, and later changed to Knob Noster State Park after the behest of judge and former mayor of Knob Noster J.W. Sibert, construction for the park began in January 1936. Since then, the park has been providing the area with educational and fun activities.

Knob Noster State Park is located in a transitional zone where prairie lands and forests meet. According to the park's website, 100 years ago, the landscape was described as a "countryside that was neither totally forest, nor totally prairie, but one where tall grasses and diverse wildflowers mingled beneath widely spaced trees." This landscape is known as open woodlands. Today, the landscape is mostly dense second and third growth timber, which gradually has invaded the more open grassy areas.

Knob Noster State Park offers a variety of activities for visitors of all ages and interests. Activities and features include seven hiking trails, mountain biking, an equestrian trail, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and interpretive programs.

Clearfork Creek, located through the park, supports "a wide corridor of trees along its path." Dominant trees include several species of oak and hickory, pawpaw, redbud and hackberry. According to the park website, a unique wetland area along the creek has been designated an official Missouri natural area.

"We offer special events and programs, such as guided hikes and kayak tours," said Knob Noster State Park Superintendent Daniel Brigman. "There are two playgrounds and three open shelters for first-come, first-serve use or for daily rent."

Two small lakes offer visitors an opportunity to fish for bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Several types of trails wind through the park, and hikers can "hike out to one of the open woodland management areas." Visitors can spot wildlife like frogs,



PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

A tree branch is seen over a body of water at Knob Noster State Park. The park offers two small lakes with opportunities to fish for a variety of fish.

whippoorwills, barred owls, white-tailed deer, fox, raccoons, opossum, wild turkeys, screech owls, pileated woodpeckers, eastern bluebirds and great blue herons during their trip.

For those wishing to make an extended visit, Knob Noster State Park offers various camping options.

"We have a campground that is open 365 days a year," Brigman said. "Sites can

now be reserved up to one year in advance. We have two orienteering courses. We have other camping options, too: special-use area camping and trailside camping. Finally, we have two organized group camps that can be rented by larger organized groups."

The park also has "numerous" options to help visitors earn their Explorer Patch and has helped several scouts become Eagle Scouts through specific projects to enhance

the park, according to Brigman.

Brigman said the most popular activities people seem to enjoy at the park are camping, going on the trails, interpretive kayak tours, weekend campground/hiking programs, fishing, and simply visiting the park for a day-trip.

"The park sees up to 500,000 visitors each year, which shows that visitors really enjoy the park and what it has to offer," Brigman said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led the park to change and cancel some popular events like its Hallowfest and campsite decorating contest. Missouri State Parks has also put social distancing measures in place.

"The event (Hallowfest) draws in a large number of visitors each year and has become a fall tradition for some visitors," Brigman explained. "We had to cancel a campsite decorating contest, which was well-attended last year. Realistically, we have restricted the number of programs to allow for physical distancing, but we are still trying to offer as many as possible throughout this challenging time."

When planning a visit to Knob Noster State Park, Brigman recommends checking the park's website for pertinent information on what they would like to do and potential closures.

"For example, we close the McAdoo Trail and Opossum Hollow Trail to equestrian users and bicyclists, respectively, when there is inclement weather or the trails are wet due to the freeze/thaw cycle," he said. "Sometimes, we even close the entire park except for certain users, such as when we have a managed deer hunt. Calling the park office is always a good option if a visitor cannot locate information on the website or does not have access to the internet. They can always check our Facebook page for closures and updates, too."

Visitors should know that camping now requires a reservation, which must be done at least one day in advance during the on-season from April 1 to Oct. 31.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2R7zdmv> or www.facebook.com/KnobNosterStatePark.

Emily Walton can be contacted at 660-530-0146.

2020 Hunting SEASONS

Coyote: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020
(except daylight April 1-19)

Groundhog: May 11, 2020, to Dec. 15, 2020

Squirrel: May 23, 2020, to Feb. 15, 2020

Bullfrog and Green Frog: Sunset June 30, 2020, to Oct. 31, 2020

Common Snipe: Sept. 1, 2020, to Dec. 16, 2020

Dove: Sept. 1, 2020, to Nov. 29, 2020

Sora and Virginia Rails: Sept. 1, 2020, to Nov. 9, 2020

Teal: Sept. 12, 2020, to Sept. 27, 2020

Deer-Archery: Sept. 15, 2020, to Nov. 13, 2020; Nov. 25, 2020, to Jan. 15, 2021

Turkey-Archery: Sept. 15, 2020, to Nov. 13, 2020; Nov. 27, 2020, to Jan. 15, 2021

Rabbit: Oct. 1, 2020, to Feb. 15, 2021

Turkey-Fall firearms: Oct. 1, 2020, to Oct. 31, 2020

Brant Geese: Oct. 3, 2020, to Oct. 11, 2020; Nov. 11, 2020, to Feb. 6, 2021

Canada Geese: Oct. 3, 2020, to Oct. 11, 2020; Nov. 11, 2020, to Feb. 6, 2021

Woodcock: Oct. 15, 2020, to Nov. 28, 2020

Ducks, Coots, Geese-Youth Middle Zone: Oct. 24, 2020, to Oct. 25, 2020

Ducks, Coots, Geese-Youth North Zone: Oct. 24, 2020, to Oct. 25, 2020

Ducks, Coots, Geese-Youth South Zone: Nov. 21, 2020, to Nov. 22, 2020

Pheasant-Youth: Oct. 24, 2020, to Oct. 25, 2020

Quail-Youth: Oct. 24, 2020, to Oct. 25, 2020

Deer-Firearms youth: Oct. 31, 2020, to Nov. 1, 2020; Nov. 27, 2020, to Nov. 29, 2020

Crow: Nov. 1, 2020, to March 3, 2021

Pheasant: Nov. 1, 2020, to Jan. 15, 2021

Quail: Nov. 1, 2020, to Jan. 15, 2021

Ducks, Coots-Middle Zone: Nov. 7, 2020, to Nov. 13, 2020; Nov. 19, 2020, to Jan. 10, 2021

Ducks, Coots-North Zone: Nov. 7, 2020, to Jan. 5, 2021

Ducks, Coots-South Zone: Nov. 26, 2020, to Nov. 29, 2020; Dec. 7, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Deer-Firearms November: Nov. 14, 2020, to Nov. 24, 2020

Greater White-fronted Geese: Nov. 11, 2020, to Feb. 6, 2021

Light Geese: Nov. 11, 2020, to Feb. 6, 2021

Badger: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Beaver and Nutria: Nov. 15, 2020, to March 31, 2021

Bobcat: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Coyote Trapping: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Fox (red or gray): Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Mink: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Opossum: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Otter, Muskrat: Nov. 15, 2020, to Feb. 20, 2021

Rabbit Trapping: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Raccoon: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Striped Skunk: Nov. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Deer-Firearms, antlerless: Dec. 4, 2020, to Dec. 6, 2020

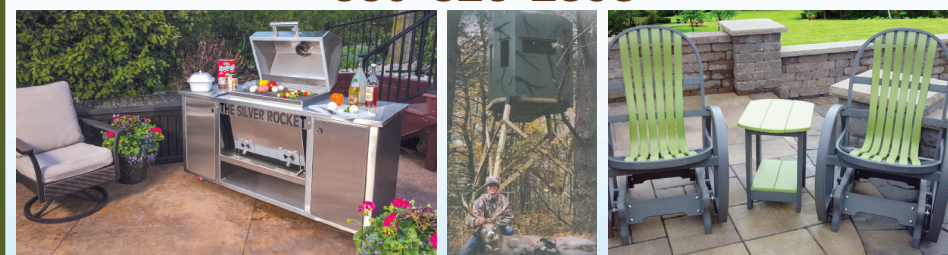
Deer-Firearms, alternative methods: Dec. 26, 2020, to Jan. 5, 2021

Light Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 7, 2021, to April 30, 2021

For more information, visit huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/seasons.



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Fishing²⁰²⁰ SEASONS

Bass-White, Yellow, Striped & Hybrids:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Black Bass, from impoundments:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Black Bass, non-Ozark Streams:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Catfish-Blue, Channel, Flathead:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Common Snapping Turtles:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Crappie-Black and White:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Goggle-Eye and Warmouth:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Muskellunge: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Mussels and Clams: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Bow fishing on Mississippi, Missouri, St. Francis rivers: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Bow fishing, streams: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Bow fishing, temporary overflow: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Crossbow, impounded waters, temporary overflow: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Gig/Atlatl, temporary overflow: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Line methods: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Snagging/grabbing, temporary overflow: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Underwater spear, impounded waters, temporary overflow:

Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Northern Pike: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Pickerel: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Shovelnose Sturgeon: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Trout Areas: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Walleye and Sauger: Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Trout Parks: March 1, 2020, to Oct. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Bow Fishing, impounded waters: April 1, 2019, to Jan. 31, 2020; sunrise to midnight Feb. 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020.

Black Bass, Ozark Streams: May 23, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021

Bullfrog and Green Frog: Sunset June 30, 2020, to Oct. 31, 2020

Soft-shelled Turtles: July 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020

Nongame Fish-Gig/Atlatl, streams and impounded waters: Sept. 15, 2019, to Feb. 15, 2020

Trout, catch and release: Nov. 13, 2020, to Feb. 8, 2021

Nongame Fish-Snagging/Grabbing, Streams and Impounded Waters: March 15, 2020, to May 15, 2020; Sept. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Nongame Fish-Snaring, Streams and Impounded Waters: March 15, 2020, to May 15, 2020; Sept. 15, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021

Nongame Fish-Bow Fishing, Impounded Waters: April 1, 2019, to Jan. 31, 2020; sunrise to midnight Feb. 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020

Paddlefish, Mississippi River: March 15, 2020, to May 15, 2020; Sept. 15, 2020, to Dec. 15, 2020

For more information, visit huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/seasons.

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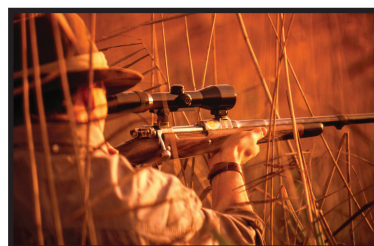
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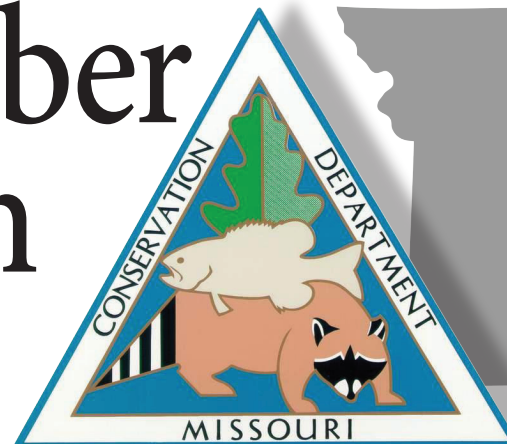


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MDC offers a number of hunter education opportunities



By Francis Skalicky

Missouri Department of Conservation

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. – Many people are starting to prepare for this fall's hunting seasons. If taking hunter education is one of the things you need to do to enjoy firearms hunting opportunities this year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has several options available.

Individuals born after Jan. 1, 1967, hunting in Missouri during a firearms season or acting as an adult mentor to another hunter must have hunter education certification unless exempt (see exemptions listed below). MDC offers two hunter education options; an all-online format and a blended format.

The all-online format is an option that may be completed by Missouri residents age 16 and older. It consists of an online course and requires a fee paid to the online course provider (not MDC). The all-online option requires the passing of a final exam, but has no skills portion.

The blended format is an option for students of all ages and has two parts. The knowledge portion provides information to participants on all aspects of hunter education and can be taken online, through a free self-study guide, or in a classroom setting. Participants must also complete a four-hour skills session that includes a multiple-choice

final exam. The skills portion is a hands-on demonstration of skills learned by participants. Participants must complete and pass both portions to earn certification.

To register for a skills session or to learn more about Missouri's hunter education options and requirements, visit mdc.mo.gov/huntereducation.

To help keep participants, instructors, and others safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MDC will limit in-person class sizes to small numbers so social distancing can be practiced. Class availability will also be limited due to smaller class sizes and limited availability of venues. MDC will abide by applicable local health requirements and strongly encourages participants to bring and wear masks. Hand sanitizer will be available to participants, but masks will not be provided by at the above-listed classes.

"To help staff, volunteers, program participants, and others stay safe, MDC has changed the format and structure of some of our programs, including hunter education," said MDC Hunter Education and Shooting Range Coordinator Justin McGuire. "Opportunities to attend an in-person hunter education class or skills session are available, but limited, at this time. MDC still offers ample opportunities for people to legally hunt in Missouri through youth exemptions, our apprentice hunter education authorization, and online hunter education."



Exemptions to Missouri's hunter education requirements are:

- Hunters born before Jan. 1, 1967.
- Hunters age 15 or younger who will be hunting with an adult mentor age 18 years or older who is certified in hunter education.
- Hunters with a disability exemption from MDC.
- Hunters age 16 or older who have purchased an apprentice hunter authorization and will be hunting with a properly permitted adult mentor age 18 or older.
- Hunters who are landowners hunting on land they own.
- Hunters who can prove completion of an approved hunter education course in another state.

For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov.

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FAQs about backyard birds

Missouri is a great state for birds. Of the approximately 900 species in North America, more than 400 have been recorded in Missouri, and more than 150 species regularly nest in the state. There are hundreds of great places to watch birds in Missouri.

You can watch your favorite birds at home by establishing bird-feeding stations, supplying water throughout the year, and planting certain vegetation. Native trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers not only produce food for birds, they also provide cover.

Here are the top 10 frequently asked questions about backyard birds:

Why aren't there any birds at my feeder?

An absence of feeder birds may be due to an abundance of natural foods. Or sometimes seeds become spoiled or lack "hearts" due to poor development or weevils. Also, the feeder may be contaminated. Wash your feeder and try seed from a different source. Place the feeder so it is not vulnerable to predators.

How do I stop woodpeckers from hammering on my house?

Discontinue feeders that attract woodpeckers. Try placing wind socks, wind chimes, balloons, pinwheels or shiny, colorful streamers near and slightly above where the woodpecker is doing damage. Artificial owls and snakes may be worth a try if all else fails. Identify and cover metal objects that woodpeckers hammer on to advertise their territories.

What do I do about the hawk that's eating the birds at my feeder?

Try to remember that hawks are natural predators. This is what they must do to survive. If you still feel guilty about tricking a bird into becoming prey, move the feeder closer to shrubs and trees that they can use as escape cover. You might also discontinue feeding for a while so the hawk will move on.

When should I put up and take down my hummingbird feeder?

Most hummingbirds arrive around April 20-25 although some arrive earlier in south Missouri, and most depart around early October. A hummingbird feeder can be placed anytime during that period. Most hummers occur in Missouri during the spring and fall migratory periods. September is typically the most satisfying month to feed hummers. There is no evidence that feeding delays their migration progress south in the fall.

Why is that bird fluttering against my window and how do I get it to stop?

The bird is typically a colorful male (such as a cardinal, bluebird or robin) who is attempting to drive away what he perceives to be an intruder in his breeding territory. Sometimes the placement of a light surface behind the window will lessen the reflectivity of the window just enough to make the bird stop. Frightening objects, such as artificial owls or snakes, wind socks or chimes, may work. Window fighting usually occurs during only a week or two in spring and summer. Soaping a window will temporarily cover the reflection and a good rain will wash it off.

How do I keep birds from hitting my window?

Birds hit windows because they have mistaken the reflection as open space. Often they are frightened into this error by a hawk or some other surprise. A feeder placed within three feet of a window may prevent birds from building up deadly speed before the collision. Paper cut-outs spaced about the window pane may help to show birds that it is a surface. Birds stunned after hitting windows often revive.

What do I do with the young bird I see out of its nest?

Leave it alone and keep pets away. Most young birds leave the nest well before they are able to fly. Their parents, who may be rarely seen, will return as needed to feed them. Not only is picking up the bird a violation, it disrupts the bird's opportunity to learn survival skills. On the rare occasions that a featherless young is found on the ground, an effort should be made to replace it in its nest. If a nest has fallen, fasten it in a tree near to where it was found. Birds don't have highly developed senses of smell, so touching the bird is not a problem.

What can I do for the injured bird I have found?

If the bird simply suffered a concussion and there are no broken bones, there's a chance for survival. Often, keeping disturbance to a minimum until the bird can revive on its own is the best course of action. Because bird bones are hollow, breaks — especially in the wings and legs — have a poor prognosis. From a population standpoint, efforts to save individuals of short-lived species such as songbirds are not justified.

What can I do about the neighbor's cat?

Most likely your neighbor isn't aware that there are an estimated 44 million free-ranging, hunting cats in the United States. Un-

like hawks, cats are an unnatural threat and devastating to ground-nesting birds. Ask neighbors to keep their cats inside most of the time during the nesting season — from March through August.

Why are all these dead birds in my yard?

Sometimes several birds can be killed at once when they eat granular insecticides, herbicides or fertilizers that are not watered well into lawns. Or, the worms, grubs and insects they consume may be contaminated by these poisons. Diseases such as aspergillosis, salmonellosis, trichomoniasis, avian pox and conjunctivitis are possible. These are not contagious to humans. Control diseases by keeping feeders and the area beneath them clean or discontinue feeding for a while. Also, spread out bird feeders or feeding areas — try not to concentrate the birds in one area, because diseases are transferred through contact.

Information obtained from the Missouri Department of Conservation.



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Attracting birds to your yard

By selecting the right seed for your bird-feeding station and landscaping with plants that furnish cover and additional food, you can enjoy watching birds from your windows, porch, or deck all year long.

SEED PREFERENCES

Some birds, such as tufted titmice and chickadees, are finicky eaters, whereas mourning doves and white-throated sparrows will eat about any type of seed. Black, oil-type sunflower seed and white millet rate best for attracting birds. Rather than buying seeds pre-mixed, you may want to spend your money more effectively by buying black, oil-type sunflower seed and white millet separately.

FEEDING STATIONS

Bird-feeding stations may be as simple as seeds placed on the ground or as complicated as a feeder accessible only to birds of certain weights. A plain wooden platform can be erected as a simple



feeding station. Some edging around the outside will help keep the seed from falling on the ground. You may like to add a roof and three walls to keep the rain off,

or you may prefer the open platform for easy bird access and for the additional brightness for picture taking. A good way to offer sunflower seeds to birds is with a commercially available, clear-plastic cylinder or silo-type feeder.

Different birds have different feeding habits. Songbirds, such as the dark-eyed junco, white-crowned sparrow, and Harris's sparrow, prefer to feed directly on the ground. Cardinals and blue jays will feed either on the ground or on a platform. Goldfinch and chickadees also will visit small, plastic feeders that are fixed to the outside of a window by a suction cup. Remember to locate your feeding station outside a room where you can relax and enjoy the visitors.

YEAR-ROUND FEEDING

Many people enjoy feeding songbirds year-round. In fact, the most crucial time in the life of many birds may be in the early spring when naturally-occurring seeds are scarcer. In the spring and summer, many young birds follow their parents to the feeder. It is fascinating to watch the parents show their young how to crack open the seeds.

Some birds, such as the Baltimore oriole and the ruby-throated hummingbird, are only summer residents in Missouri. Orioles may be attracted to the feeding stations with fruit, and hummingbirds

come to special feeders filled with sugar water. Other specialized foods like suet or animal fat attract insect-eating birds such as woodpeckers year-round.

BIRD-FEEDING MYTH

You may have heard that it's important to continue feeding once you start it. However, no research indicates that during normal weather birds will starve if feeding is stopped for a time. Birds often visit many feeding stations in a neighborhood. You will be amazed at how fast birds discover new feeding stations. Their natural curiosity and mobility ensure their success at making the rounds.

LANDSCAPING AND OTHER TIPS

Besides furnishing the most attractive seed, you can entice birds to your feeders in other ways. A complete feeding program includes establishing native trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers that not only produce food but also provide cover. Many native and decorative trees and shrubs furnish fruits and berries for birds. Holly, hawthorn, and persimmon are favorites of cedar waxwings. They will arrive in large flocks in winter and stay as long as the food supply lasts.

Quite often in new housing developments, trees and shrubs that birds use for nesting, perching, and escaping predators may be in short supply. Birds need places to perch overnight and vantage points from which they may not only view the feeder but also watch for potential predators. Evergreens offer valuable, year-round cover from the weather in addition to secluded nesting sites.

To increase the popularity of your feeding station, furnish water — especially during drought or when the temperature stays below freezing for several days. The Carolina wren and the bluebird, Missouri's state bird, may be enticed to feeding stations during the winter if water is available. During prolonged periods of ice or snow cover, provide grit (coarse sand or ground shells) along with the seed. Birds lack teeth, and need grit in their gizzards to grind up seeds.

Information obtained from Missouri Department of Conservation.

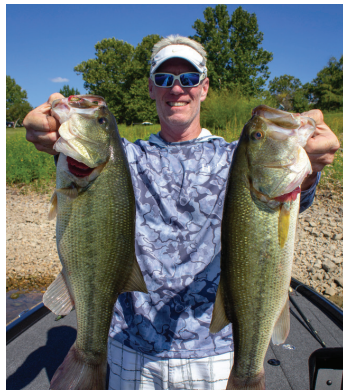
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Missouri Department of Conservation Upcoming Events

Outdoor Cooking for Camping and Hiking-virtual

Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

Hunting and fishing are great ways to spend time outdoors in Missouri. But what do you do with the fish and animals that you harvested? This program is designed to help people learn how to clean the animals they killed, and to show them simple and tasty ways to prepare them for the table.

Join us to learn how to cook outdoors whether stationary camping or on the move. This virtual event will cover basic fire-making methods, cooking utensils for the outdoors, food options, and cooking demonstrations.

Deer Hunting for Beginners-virtual

Thursday, Oct. 15 from 7 to 8 p.m.

Join us for this virtual program and learn the basics of hunting the whitetail deer. We will cover scouting, setup, taking the shot and much more.

Deer Hunting for Beginners-virtual

Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Join us for this informative virtual program to learn the basics of hunting whitetail deer. We will cover scouting, setup, taking the shot and much more. Registration ends at 5 p.m. Oct. 17. All registrants must be a minimum age of 10 years old by Oct. 20.

Deer Calling 101-virtual

Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Learn how to make the right calls at the right time to attract deer closer to your position. We will discuss the different vocalizations whitetails make and what those sounds communicate to other deer. We will finish with calling scenarios in hunting situations followed by a Q&A session.

All registrants must be a minimum age of 6 years old by Oct. 27.

Basics of Safe Hunting-virtual

Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 7 to 8 p.m.

This virtual program will help hunters ensure that they are keeping safety in mind as they take to the field this fall. We will review the key components to be a safe hunter which will include the following: primary safety rules, safe loading and unloading of firearms, safe firearm carries, safe zones of fire, crossing an obstacle, hunting from a ground blind, hunting from elevated stands, and using a hunting plan. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during the program. Please note this does not meet hunter education certification requirements. All registrants must be a minimum age of 6 years old by Oct. 27.

Building A Balsa Crankbait-virtual

Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Participants will be making a Balsa crankbait at the location of their choice through the convenience of Web-Ex programming. Materials and instructions will

be sent to you prior to the online clinic. Some additional supplies will be needed. A list will be included in the packet. All registrants must be 12 years of age by Oct. 28.

Novice Archery Deer Hunt

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Saturday, Nov. 7 from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This hunt is designed for hunters who have archery hunted for deer in the past but have been unsuccessful. To be eligible for this hunt you must not have previously filled an Archery Deer Permit. Beginning hunters are also welcome to apply. We can work with you to help you gain the knowledge and experience you need. For more information, contact Mark Miller at mark.miller@mdc.mo.gov or 660-530-5500. All registrants must be 12 years of age by Nov. 7. Registration is closed but a waiting list is available.

Building A Balsa Crankbait-virtual

Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Participants will be making a Balsa crankbait at the location of their choice through the convenience of Web-Ex programming. Materials and instructions will be sent to you prior to the online clinic. Some additional supplies will be needed. A list will be included in the packet. All registrants must be 12 years of age by Dec. 9.

Rabbit Hunting for Beginners-virtual

Saturday, Dec. 12 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

This clinic gives families an opportunity to learn about the skills necessary to hunt rabbits. Topics include safety, rules and regulations, hunting methods, hunting techniques, as well as how to care and process for harvested game.

Upcoming Missouri State Parks Informational Meetings

Staff from the park will be on hand to provide information about the park and answer questions. The public is invited to share comments about the park and its operations.

Input from the public is important to the department. These informational meetings, which are being held in all state parks and historic sites, help create two-way communication. The meetings give staff the opportunity to let people know the current status and plans for the park or site, and they offer visitors the opportunity to comment on the facilities.

Katy Trail State Park, Knob Noster section

Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. at the Katy Depot, 600 E. Third St. in Sedalia.

Knob Noster State Park

Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. at the Visitor Center, 873 SE 10 Road in Knob Noster.

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SPECIALIZED

Your Biggest Fishing Story

The Democrat invited readers to submit their Biggest Fishing Story, whether it was funny, serious, scary, adventurous, or one for the record books.

All entries received are published in this special section, The Great Outdoors. Members of the Democrat staff voted on the winning entry, submitted by Mona McCormack. She will be awarded a fishing gear package.

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As all anglers know, successful fishing secrets are tightly held. If you ask a fishing buddy where they caught their impressively big fish, their answer: "In the lip." If you ask them where their favorite fishing hole is: "In the lake." But, I'm not as closed-mouthed about my fishing techniques so I'm willing to share my secret for catching enormous catfish.

A few summers back my husband, cousin and I decided on a whim to go catfishing below the Truman Dam. We put the boat in at Drake Harbor and first tried our luck just above the 65 Highway bridge. The fish were biting OK, but definitely not jumping on the hook. This gave me ample time to smear on some sunscreen and work on my tan. For kicks and grins, I sprayed a little sunscreen on my dead minnow to "give it a little extra flavor." Wham! As soon as that minnow sank into the water a catfish grabbed it and ran. Not one to mess with success, my next minnow got a generous spritz before it headed into the water. Wham! Catfish No. 2 in the boat.

My cousin, ever the skeptic, asked to see that sunscreen of mine and sprayed down his bait. Wham! Catfish on! Of course,

this called for an experiment. Was it the sunscreen, or were we just sitting on top of a particularly hungry group of fish? We decided to head upriver closer to the dam to test the sunscreen lure in a new location.

My husband had caught some fairly big fish in a certain area, so we anchored off and threw in our sun-protected minnows. My line immediately went down and I knew it was a big one! I had hooked into a freight train, a monster! With plenty of advice on how to reel and excited cheer-leading from my husband and cousin, I coaxed that reluctant fish up to the side of the boat. The mammoth catfish was so big my husband couldn't get its head into the net. My cousin tried to pull it into the boat, but with a kick of its tail and a fierce roll, it broke my line and made its escape.

It wasn't long before the boat was full of fish and we headed home to enjoy our day's harvest with potato salad and cornbread. Would you like to know how we caught all those catfish? It's simple, just flavor your minnow with my favorite sunscreen.

Submitted by Mona McCormack, of Sedalia.

A record-setting weekend of fishing

Our family “fish tale” is about quantity instead of quality.

During our time of being stuck at home, we have been spending a lot of time fishing at our pond. One day, my kids and I went fishing and my 9-year-old son instantly started catching fish the second he dipped his hook in the water. He had brought a large bucket along and filled it with water and put his catches in one by one to release.

Once he had caught 15 fish in just a few minutes, we decided to set a goal of 25. We quickly accomplished that goal and raised the challenge to catching 100 fish by the end of the weekend. My son (with minimal contributions from my husband and I) caught 100 fish!

Fishing has been a great way to spend time together as a family and enjoy the great outdoors!

Submitted by Lisa Lindstrom, of Sedalia.



A nutty fishing story

I was sitting on a creekbank some years ago, enjoying the day fishing, and had a bobber and a worm stretched out on a line in the water in front of me.

As I lay there watching the wind blow little ripples across the water, I noticed a squirrel out on the end of a big Oak tree limb that was hanging out over the pool I was fishing in. I leaned forward to see what the squirrel was so intent on, and saw there was a walnut lodged right in the fork of the branch that he was on.

He was tugging and pulling to get that nut loose, when all of a sudden, the water underneath him literally exploded and a humongous Largemouth Bass leaped up out of the water and grabbed that squirrel right off the limb, nut and all. All three fell back into the water with a mighty splash!

As the water began to settle from what had just occurred. I just kept looking in disbelief at what I had just seen, trying to wrap my mind around it... As I continued to watch the area where the fish had leapt from the water, still in disbelief, I noticed the water starting to churn and boil once again. All of a sudden, with another explosion of fish and water, that bass jumped right up out of the water, and placed another walnut right in the fork of that tree.

Submitted by Brian Woolery, of Sedalia.



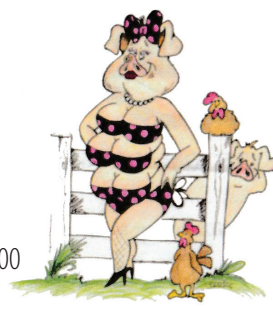
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Learning from a wet boating experience

Tuesday, March 3, 2020, I was fishing alone for crappie on Truman Lake.

Having no luck, I untied and held on to the rope holding my boat to a tree.

Bending over the boat's bow, I reached for the rope connected to the tree. Doing so, I caused the boat to move away from the tree.

Neglecting to let go of the rope while moving away from the tree the rope was tied to, I leaned to far over the side of the boat, lost my balance, and fell in the lake!

Being at the bow and owning a deepV boat, it was impossible to climb back in the boat. And no other boaters were in the area.

Fortunately, I remained calm, inflated my life vest, and sat on my bow mounted trolling motor while holding on to its shaft.

Using my feet, I was able to paddle my boat to shore and maneuver the boat so I could climb back in and head for the boat ramp.

Exhausted, cold, and soaking wet, I was

able to put the boat on the trailer. Leaving the Shawnee Bend boat ramp, I turned my truck's heater on high and continued to thank God I was alive all the way home!

I decided to always wear my life vest, keep my phone and truck keys in a dry place in the boat, always have a change of clothes in my pickup, and always unhook from the tree first!

Submitted by Douglas Dubisar, of Marshall.



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A doggone good fisherman

We raised our boys at Sun Valley Lake in southern Iowa. Our family dog was a beautiful golden retriever who was always "fishing" along the shoreline. Once in a while he would stick his head under water and pull out a little bluegill or crappie and then swallow it.

One sunny day, the boys were swimming and Rex was fishing. Suddenly there was lots of commotion and splashing in the middle of the cove. Rex took off swimming and quickly retrieved a big bass and brought it back to shore. We ran over and saw that the 5-pound bass was choking on a bluegill that he was trying to eat! My son pulled out the bluegill, took the bass to the water, and we watched it swim away. The bluegill didn't survive.

But to top off this story, our neighbor had watched the entire saga unfold. He promptly broke his fishing pole in half and yelled, "I've been fishing all morning and a dog catches a bigger fish than me."

It's been over 30 years and we still laugh at what happened that day!

Submitted by Kim Caruthers, of Sedalia.

Snookered!

June 9, 1965. MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. I was 15 at the time and really enjoyed catching a lot of variety of fish out of Tampa Bay, which was only a couple blocks from our base housing. My favorite fish to catch was the Snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*), it was also the best eating fish I have ever enjoyed.

My friend Richard and I took off early on the morning of June 9 with rod and reel (Mitchell 300 with 10# test line) and a couple of MirrOlure Lures, the red and white being the favorite. We also had about two feet of steel leader attached to the lure to keep the line from being cut by the razor-sharp gill plates on the snook. If the snook headed out to sea he was very likely to cut the line unless you had the steel leader for protection. The snook also likes to jump out of the water and didn't mind if he was right next to you either. Tampa Bay, being fairly shallow close to the bank, allowed us to wade out 20 or so yards until we were about waist deep.

Richard and I headed for our favorite fishing area, not far from the base marina and boat dock. We fished for about two hours and landed a total of six snooks. Richard had caught two and I had caught four. (I image in the retelling Richard may reverse the number as we are both fishermen).

The fish weighed about 100 pounds total and carrying them to the

marina created a problem. One of us came up with the idea to use one of the limbs off one of the fallen trees and hang the metal stringers over the tree limb and then carry the limb on our shoulders with the fish hanging between us. We had to carry them to the marina because there was a fishing contest going on and I wanted to enter my largest fish.

As Richard and I walked out of the woods into the clearing around the marina, we saw several airmen stopping what they were doing and point in our direction. Mouths dropped and talking amongst themselves. It must have been quite a sight seeing two teens walking toward the marina with six large snooks hanging between them and the airmen had not even wet a line yet.

When we got to the marina, a Sargent met us and told us he needed to weigh the fish and get a photo. Since we had to wait a few minutes, he suggested we put the stringers in the water along the dock. When he was ready for us we hoisted the fish out of the water and discover one had escaped. We were down to five fish but they still weighed 96 pounds total.

My largest fish weighed 19 pounds and I won the contest that week. I received a tackle box out of the deal and used that tackle box for over 40 years before I wore it out and had to replace it, but I will never replace the memory of my best fishing day ever.

Submitted by John Nail, of Sedalia.

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A young girl's big catch

McKinley Lynn is my best friend; she is 3 years old.

I took her fishing at the docks at Paradise point here in Warsaw. We went to where her grandpa's pontoon is parked. There were four people fishing at the time. They had not had any luck. We walked up and got the look fishermen give when a small child is on the docks. You know, like "oh God, here comes the noise, they're going to scare away the fish." McKinley said hello to them without any response back.

I had gotten McKinley's fishing pole ready, put a minnow on it and a bobber, and handed it to her. My 3-year-old BFF casted the line like a pro. As soon as the line and bobber hit the water, she had a strike and this beautiful little girl pulled in a 10-inch crappie. Proud as she was, she tried to show it to the fishermen. They would not even acknowledge her.

To date, that is her biggest fish. Her smallest fish was one of those cute little sucker fishes

from the creek the same day she caught her little quarter-inch crawhead, as she calls crawdads, caught by hand at the creek in Lincoln that we pick up trash at.

McKinley is the youngest member of Skeets Dream Team 5615 stream team cleaner. McKinley loves to fish. McKinley was awarded a T-shirt for being safe on the water when the shore patrol came up and she had her life jacket on she was 2 years old then.

Miss McKinley has been heard saying more times than one, as she's helping pick up trash on the highway on MM, "I hate trashy people." She knows the importance of keeping the water clean.

It may not be the biggest bass caught in Warsaw, Missouri, but she's got the biggest heart than any fisherman I've ever seen. At the age of 3, she's going to make a difference in this world.

Submitted by Debbie Sousley.

Fish puts up quite the fight

We were out in Uncle Ray's pontoon on Lake of the Ozarks one April about 10 years ago. There was Uncle Ray, Aunt Verna, Jay, June, Ron, Carla, and of course, me, Phyllis.

We were approaching the bridge on Highway 65-7 South near the Roadhouse, a popular eating place. Uncle Ray called out to pull our snagging poles in as there was no snagging allowed once we went under the bridge and then into Warsaw. Jay said "Wait a moment. I have snagged something." The fish then decided to change directions and it pulled the pontoon completely around so that we were now going away from the bridge.

Jay was reeling it in as fast as he could but then the fish would give a burst of energy and the line would spin out. We knew it wasn't a spoonbill as they will leap out of the water when reeling them in. This monster never broke the surface of the water. Jay would reel, and then the line would spin out again and again and again.

After about 15 minutes of intense fighting, the line went slack. Jay reeled the line in and the heavy spoonbill-type snagging hook was pulled out straight.

We never saw it to know what it was, but the men thought it probably was a very large catfish.

Submitted by Phyllis Howard, of Lincoln.

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