

# Spring Fever

HUNTING, FISHING & OUTDOORS GUIDE



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE  
GASCONADE COUNTY  
**Republican**  
April 5, 2022 | Pages 1B-12B

**“WILD BILL” MILES** of rural Rosebud (in bow) paddles an OC-2 slalom run with Jeff Barrow of Columbia March 20 during the 55th Missouri White Association Championships on the Saint Francis River. They placed third. Miles and his family including his wife, Jody, and sons, Granite (left) and Willow (in back), inflate flotation bags for the tandem canoe the couple paddled to a first-place finish March 18 in the downriver race. Willow placed third in the downriver event paddling with Barrow and also placed second in the K-1 slalom race for under 18 solo kayakers.



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

## Get a nature boost from MDC during Missouri Outdoors Month

**BY JILL PRITCHARD**  
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

**M**issouri is blessed to have a variety of stunning landscapes to explore. From forests and woodlands to waterfalls and wetlands—there’s something for everyone. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages you to get outside and explore all the state has to offer during the month of April.

### TURKEY HUNTING

Missouri’s spring turkey season kicks off April 18 and runs through May 8. Wild turkey is one of the most popular gamebirds and can be found statewide.

Get your turkey hunting permit online at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/43N>. Find more turkey hunting information from MDC’s 2022 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations booklet at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/43x>.

### FISHING

Test your snagging skills during Missouri’s paddlefish season through April 30. Popular paddlefish snagging waters include the Lake of the Ozarks, Harry S. Truman Reservoir, and Table Rock Lake. Find more information and weekly paddlefish reports at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/43f>.

Maybe a smaller species is more your speed? Crappie is another popular prospect in the spring season and makes for great table fare following a successful fishing trip. In spring when crappie are spawning in the shallows, anyone can cast a minnow and bobber toward the bank and catch plenty of fish. Learn more about crappie fishing in Missouri at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/4JA>.

### BIRDING

Birding is popular because it’s easy to get started, and it offers increasingly greater rewards the more you learn. Spring is a great time to enjoy migrating songbirds across the state, and you can see many in your own backyard from nesting bluebirds and incoming purple martins, to brown thrashers and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

Learn how to identify birds and best places to watch them in Missouri at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zvs>.

“If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there’d be a shortage of fishing poles.”

— Doug Larson

### WILD MUSHROOMS

The start of spring is a long-awaited time for another type of hunting – for wild mushrooms! Mushroom hunting is a great way to get outside in search of these tasty edibles, but identification is key! Whether you’re out looking for the coveted morels or the savory chanterelles this season, keep MDC’s Guide to Missouri’s Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms handy. Find the free publication at MDC offices and nature centers, or online at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/43Y>.

For more ideas on how to discover nature in April, visit <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature>.

To see MDC events offered in your area, visit [mdc.mo.gov/events](https://mdc.mo.gov/events).

To find a Place to Go in Missouri for a nature boost, visit <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.

Find Things to Do in Missouri at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/activities>.

Get help identifying native plants and animals with MDC’s online Field Guide at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide>.

**GET OUT** and discover everything Missouri has to offer during Missouri Outdoors Month in April.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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PHOTO (ABOVE) COURTESY THE MILES FAMILY, ALL OTHERS BY DAVE MARNER

**JODY MILES** (far left) hugs her son, Granite, as he straps on her whitewater boating helmet prior to the March 18 downriver race at the 55th Missouri Whitewater Association Championships on the Saint Francis River near Fredericktown, Mo. Miles and her husband, Bill, raced together as “Wild Bill and Tame Jody” and finished first. The Miles family collects their medals from the three-day race weekend as emcee Jim Warren jokes about their accomplishments. Granite raced for the first time and placed third in the under 18 K1 slalom division (solo kayak). Willow placed third in the downriver in tandem with Jeff Barrow and second in the under 18 K1 slalom event. Bill was also first in the K1 slalom (age 40-49), second in the OC1 expert slalom (solo canoe), and third in the C1 (decked canoe) expert slalom. The couple’s Earth’s Classroom outdoor education operation hosts the “Bourbeuse Bluebell Race” Saturday on the Bourbeuse River. Start time is 10 from the Tea Access, finishing at Mill Rock Access south of Gerald.



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## OUTDOORS IN THE OZARKS

# An owl before dawn

There is no more efficient predator than a great horned owl. Silent and deadly, he can eat whatever he wants, up to and including a roosting wild turkey. Their flight is completely silent, and they occasionally break the neck of roosting turkeys in the darkness before the dawn. But that does not happen often if there are plenty of rabbits and small ground mammals to feed upon.

Did you know that one of a great horned owl's regular prey is skunks? For some reason, the scent of a skunk is something that doesn't bother an owl. When the moon was bright, I watched rabbits playing around my place, in the pre-mating season antics which include games like jumping over each other and kicking their heels up as if they had never heard of a great horned owl.

Certainly the semi-civilized atmosphere

around my home, and the presence of my Labradors, eliminated the threat of foxes and coyotes, which stay down in the woods behind the pond. So this became a sort of

haven for cottontails, especially with all the brush piles I have here on Lightning Ridge.

Of course, I would probably opt for not having one house mouse or Norway rat in the whole Ozarks, but I like the idea of

some ground mammals like the woodrat and harvest mice and white-foot mice. And I'd lot rather have cottontails and quail than hardly anything I can think of. My one covey seems to not expand much. If I could do it, if God gave me the power of eliminating



by **LARRY DABLEMONT**

some of his creation, I would get rid of only a few things beside the house mouse, and that would be ticks, brown-recluse spiders, starlings, copperheads and rattlesnakes, carp, gar, armadillos and maybe cormorants.

But even though I would do it, I would feel guilty about it. It seems selfish to try to create a perfect world up here on my ridge-top when so many people have to live in suburbs and can't do a thing about it. I sincerely suspect that the thing that would make this old world work better is the elimination of about half the people who are overcrowding it, and what worries me about that is, what if I am one of the half which should be eliminated?

My grandfather, who always lived out in the woods or on the river somewhere, sawed the top out of medium sized trees up about twenty feet from the ground, to create a flat landing place for the great horned owl, and then would set a steel trap there, and bait it with a wood rat or small squirrel. He was paid a small bounty at the county courthouse for the feet of owls, but he also saw no good in them, and believed in maintaining them only in strong enough numbers so that they survived along the river miles from where he kept a few chickens.

Grandpa liked to eat eggs and the owls liked to eat chickens, and he was much

more inclined to believe in the survival of things he liked to eat, like rabbits, quail and ducks, than things he didn't eat. There were so fewer men back then than there are today. Grandpa wasn't so far removed from a time when a man's greatest concern wasn't so much economics and gas prices, but what he was going to eat and perhaps what might be about to eat him. Who could believe we would ever make a great and drastic impact on the land, and perhaps endanger our own existence in time?

When I was 15 years old, Grandpa and I floated a particular Ozark river in a wooden johnboat he built, and caught some nice fish from it. Today that stream is completely and totally dry. If I mention it on occasion when I speak to a live audience somewhere it quickly comes to me they would rather I didn't. So more often, I talk about the funny stories that came from the old men in the pool hall back in that time.

I figured out long ago that even if you know something, it isn't always wise to try to explain it to anyone. That's true of things like the spreading of billions of gallons of chemicals, all over the Ozarks. Nothing will stop it, and what is going to come from it is going to come from it, and that's that.

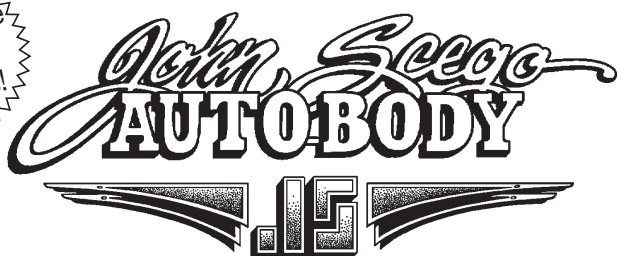
See **Dablemont**, Page 5B

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## Dablemont from page 4B

Maybe God himself knows this, and is just watching and waiting, ready to reclaim, rebirth and regrow the perfect earth he created, sometime in the future. I guess it follows then, that the best thing to do is the best we can, to try to get our grandkids someplace where there are songbirds still singing and the water still has some crawdads and kingfishers and there are more trees than there are stumps. But, not many of the grandkids in the world today care about those things. They are more interested I new boxes! The latest computers and smart phones. To each his own I guess. More kids today will choose drugs than old fashioned things like clean water and forests.

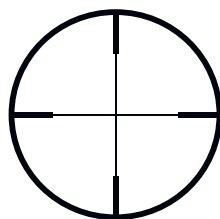
If you wonder how any of this has anything to do with that owl, I can't explain it.



I just thought about some of those things while I was listening to him one night, mice and rabbits and water. It was awfully quiet and peaceful up here on Lightnin' Ridge, with the moon so bright it was casting shadows on my lawn as it sunk toward the west well before dawn. And it was so still. That old owl is likely sitting in a hollow tree somewhere right now, getting some sleep, and maybe a little bit hungry because there aren't enough mice and rabbits around my place. Some of that may be his own darn fault. But at least he has no steel traps to contend with now.

Read what I write and see what I photograph each week on [www.larrydablemontoutdoors.blogspot.com](http://www.larrydablemontoutdoors.blogspot.com). E-mail me at [lightninridge47@gmail.com](mailto:lightninridge47@gmail.com) or write to me at Box 22, Bolivar, Mo. 65613

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## MDC approves expansion of furbearer hunting, trapping seasons

**BY JILL PRITCHARD**  
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Conservation Commission gave final approval to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at its March 25 open meeting on regulation changes that will extend current furbearer hunting and trapping seasons for abundant furbearer species. The extension comes in response to stakeholder requests to provide additional opportunity for the taking of multiple furbearer species.

Furbearers are mammal species that have traditionally been trapped or hunted for their fur, such as coyotes, raccoons, and skunks. Many furbearers are also considered small game species, for which there are small game hunting seasons.

According to MDC, many furbearer populations have experienced long-term population increases, allowing for additional harvest opportunity.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

**THE MISSOURI** Conservation Commission gave final approval to MDC to expand hunting and trapping seasons for furbearers, such as coyotes (pictured), in an effort to provide additional harvest opportunity. The new regulations become effective June 30.

Furbearers play important ecological roles, and trapping and hunting are critical wildlife management tools. MDC strives to

provide the opportunity to harvest these species, while considering pelt-primeness during the fur harvest season, desire for opportunity

outside of the traditional fur harvest season, the potential for conflict with other hunting seasons, and landowner opportunity.

MDC's Furbearer Program staff reviewed furbearer harvest seasons and developed a framework that provides for additional opportunity for harvest in response to stakeholder requests. Based on this review and stakeholder input, the following changes were approved:

- Extending the hunting season and trapping season for bobcat, raccoon, opossum, and striped skunk from Nov. 15 to the last day of February, and extending the trapping season for coyote from Nov. 15 to the last day of February.
  - Extending the trapping season for mink, muskrat, and river otter from Nov. 15 to the last day of February.
  - Establishing an early hunting and trapping season for raccoon, opossum, and striped skunk to run Aug. 1 – Oct. 15.
  - Extending the trapping season on private land for coyote, raccoon, opossum, and striped skunk to March 1 – April 14.
- The regulation changes become effective June 30.

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**MISSOURI'S WILDLIFE** can really leave you scratching your head! Learn weird and wacky fun facts about native creatures in MDC's new Strange but True guidebook now available for \$8.95 at MDC nature centers around the state. **PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

## Discover weird wildlife with MDC's new Strange but True guidebook

BY JILL PRITCHARD  
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – The mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects of Missouri are diverse, remarkable, and sometimes just plain strange. From the American beaver, whose teeth are chainsaw-sharp and never stop growing, to box turtles, who partially freeze over the winter and still survive, it's a weird, wild world out there. You can now learn more with the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) new book, Strange but True.

Adapted from the pages of MDC's award-winning children's magazine Xplor, Strange but True is a 136-page, full-color book that offers more than

350 fun facts about Missouri wildlife at its strangest. Written by Xplor editor Matt Seek and illustrated by nature artist Mark Raithel, Strange but True is your guide to all the unusual, unique, and unbelievable stuff that goes on in nature.

The guidebook is now available for purchase for \$8.95 online at [mdc-natureshop.com](https://mdc-natureshop.com) or at MDC nature centers around the state. Get information on MDC nature centers at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/nature-centers>.

Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, the Strange but True guidebook will have you laughing, scratching your head, and learning new fun information about Missouri's native wildlife.

**GET INFORMATION** on spring turkey hunting from MDC's 2022 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet, available from MDC offices and nature centers, other places where permits are sold, and online at [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/spring-turkey-hunting-regulations-and-information](https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/spring-turkey-hunting-regulations-and-information).



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## MDC sets 2022 elk, bear seasons with permit applications in May

BY JOE JEREK  
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer five permits to hunt bull elk in Missouri this fall with at least one permit designated for qualifying area landowners and the remaining permits for the general public. MDC will also offer 400 permits for the taking of a maximum of 40 black bears during the second Missouri black-bear hunting season this fall. At least 10 percent of black bear permits will be allocated to qualifying area landowners. Only Missouri residents who will be at least 11 years of age by the first day of the hunt for which they are applying are eligible to apply for elk and bear permits during the application period of May 1-31. All permits will be assigned through a random drawing.

The Missouri Conservation Commission gave final approval to both elk and bear recommendations from MDC during its March 25 open meeting in Jefferson City.

### ELK HUNTING

For elk hunting, MDC has designated a nine-day archery portion running Oct. 15-23 and a nine-day firearms portion running Dec. 10-18. The five permits will be for bull elk and will be valid for both portions.

MDC will require a \$10 application fee for elk-permit applicants. Those selected will then be eligible to buy a permit at a cost of \$50. All elk-hunting permits, including those allocated to approved area landowners, can be used in Carter, Reynolds, and Shannon counties, except the refuge portion of Peck Ranch Conservation Area.

The allowed hunting methods for each season portion will be the same as for deer hunting. The permits will allow for the harvest of one bull elk with at least one antler being six inches or greater in length.

For more information on elk and elk hunting in Missouri, visit [mdc.mo.gov/elkhunting](http://mdc.mo.gov/elkhunting).

Apply for the elk-permit random drawing

See **Elk**, Page 9B



**CHRIS IRICK** of Pleasant Hope was the first bow-hunter to take a bull elk in Missouri. Irick shot the 6x6 bull in Shannon County during the state's second elk-hunting season.

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## Elk from page 8B

May 1-31 online at [mdc.mo.gov/buypermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/buypermits), through MDC's free MO Hunting app, through a permit vendor, or by calling 1-800-392-4115. Results of the elk-permit random drawing will be available online by July 1.

### BEAR HUNTING

MDC will offer 400 permits for the taking of a maximum of 40 black bears during the second Missouri black-bear hunting season running Oct. 17-26. There is a fee of \$10 per applicant. Applicants must select one of three Black Bear Management Zones (BMZ). Those selected will then be eligible to buy a BMZ-specific permit at a cost of \$25.

MDC has established three Bear Management Zones (BMZ) in southern Missouri and will issue annual permit numbers and harvest quotas for each of the three BMZs. Each permit will be for a specific BMZ and may be used on public or private property within the BMZ. Once the specific harvest quotas are filled for each BMZ, the season for that BMZ will be closed.

Permit and harvest quotas for the upcoming Oct. 17-26 bear season will be:

- BMZ 1: Permit quota of 200 issued with a harvest quota of 20 bears.
- BMZ 2: Permit quota of 150 issued with a harvest quota of 15 bears.

• BMZ 3: Permit quota of 50 issued with a harvest quota of 5 bears.

Hunting hours will be a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. Hunters must call MDC prior to hunting each day to determine the closure status of the BMZ for which they are permitted. Hunters will be allowed to use both archery and firearms equipment with allowable methods being the same as those for deer and elk, except the use of an atlatl. Baiting and the use of dogs will not be allowed.

The harvest limit will be one bear per permit. Only lone black bears may be taken. Hunters may not take bears that are known to be in the presence of others bears, including female black bears with cubs. Bears may not be disturbed, pushed, harassed, or taken from a den.

Learn more about black bears and bear hunting in Missouri at [mdc.mo.gov/bear-hunting](http://mdc.mo.gov/bear-hunting).

Apply for the bear-permit random drawing May 1 - 31 online at [mdc.mo.gov/buypermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/buypermits), through MDC's free MO Hunting app, through a permit vendor, or by calling 1-800-392-4115. Results of the bear-permit random drawing will be available online by July 1.

## OWENSVILLE GUN CLUB

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### 2022 Event Schedule

**Trap Practice—Tuesday, 4:00PM ~ Field Captain: Glenn Oder 573-301-6475**  
**\*Continuation of Shotgun Sports Dependent upon Attendance**  
 (Dates may be rescheduled due to weather) No practice on National Holidays or during the Hunting Season and Gasconade County Fair week.

**Sporting Clays: 9AM-2PM**  
 Field Captain: Shane Achterberg 573-263-0021  
 Sunday, April 3  
 Sunday, June 5  
 Sunday, July 10  
 Sunday, Aug. 7  
 Sunday, Sept. 11  
 Sunday, Oct. 2

**Shotgun Triathlon: 9AM-2PM**  
 Sunday, May 1  
 Sunday, Oct. 30

**50 Bird/Trap Derby: 6PM**  
 Field Captain: Glenn Oder 573-764-3220  
 Held every Monday, April 4 thru Oct. 3, except May 30 & Sept. 5

**NRA HP Rifle Match:**  
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 Sunday, Aug. 14  
 Sunday, Sept. 11

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 Sunday, Aug. 21\*  
 Sunday, Sept. 18\*  
 Sunday, Oct. 2\*

\*M1 for Vets Presentation at 08:00 AM;  
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**Board Meetings: Thursdays, April 7, June 23, Sept. 15 & Nov. 10**

President: Glenn Oder 573-764-3220  
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NOTE: The Club requests that members who have moved or changed their mailing address to please notify the club by mail at: OGC, PO Box 518, Owensville, MO 65066

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**DRIFTWOOD OUTDOORS****Time in nature improves mental health**

Nature is healing. It doesn't matter if you climb the tallest mountain, go for a stroll on a trail in a local park, cast a lure to fish in a farm pond or simply sit on a bench and listen to birds chirp. The power of nature will bring your blood pressure down, calm your thoughts, and help you see the important aspects of your life more clearly.

Many of us know this because we've experienced it all of our lives. It seems so rudimentary to even say. Yet, there are countless urban and suburban dwellers who rarely, if ever, venture into natural environments. If they would do so, they'd likely find peace and serenity hard to locate in a concrete jungle filled with noise and light pollution.

According to a recent study led by a team at the University of Exeter, just hearing the sounds of nature calms us. In the study, data was collected from 7,500 people who listened to sounds from a range of natural environments. Including, coastal and woodland settings in the United Kingdom and a tropical rainforest in Papua, New Guinea.

According to the outcomes, participants reported therapeutic effects from listening to landscape elements such as breaking waves or falling rain. Hearing wildlife in these environments, and birdsong in particular, enhanced their potential to provide recovery from stress and mental fatigue even further.

Alex Smalley, who led the research at the University of Exeter, said in a press release, "As towns and cities fell quiet in recent lockdowns, many people rediscovered the natural sounds around them. Our findings suggest that protecting these experiences could be beneficial for both mental health and conservation behavior. But they also provide a stark warning that, when it comes to nature, memories matter. If we hope to harness nature's health benefits in the future, we need to ensure everyone has opportunities to foster positive experiences with the natural world today."

The press release states, crucially, the team's results also suggested these outcomes could be strongly influenced by people's past experiences. Those who had memories triggered by the sounds not only found them more restorative, but this increase in 'therapeutic potential' fed directly into their desire to protect the soundscapes for future generations. Worryingly,

soundscapes without the sounds of wildlife — reflecting a decline in environmental quality — reduced this potential for psychological benefits, with people's motivation to protect those ecosystems also appearing to follow suit.

Becky Ripley, producer of Forest 404, a BBC podcast series, said, "The planet is undergoing unprecedented ecological collapse, and with it, the sound of the world is changing around us. Yet how we might experience these changes has

never previously been explored. Our findings demonstrate that people not only highly value the sounds of birds and animals, but they also feel a loss when these sounds are missing."

I lost a life-long friend to suicide last week. He left behind three young children

(6, 4 and 2), and wife who has no idea of how she's going to make it on her own. This friend never really knew nature. He moved to Chicago immediately upon graduating from college and began his failed pursuit of becoming a dominant player in the financial world. His aspirations outpaced his achievements, and all I can come up with to rationalize his last decision is, eventually the stress of chasing the unattainable wore him out.

I have never shied away from discussing mental illness. Nathan "Shags" McLeod and I even produced an entire episode of our Driftwood Outdoors Podcast called "Getting your mind right," that featured my friend who is a licensed therapist. We did this on an outdoors themed podcast because we know how many people struggle with depression and other mental illness issues. We want to make it very clear that there is no shame in seeking help for your mental health, just as you would for your physical health.

While I don't dare proclaim all one needs to do is go outside to get their mind right, I will stand behind saying, I believe time

in nature, hearing natural sounds and seeing natural sights, is good for your mental health. If my friend would have spent more time taking his kids for walks in the nature preserves near his house instead of watching the stock tickers online, would he still be here? I don't know. But I have to think there's a chance he would be. If he could have just found my glory in life's simple pleasures.

Fishing, hunting and all outdoor activities are my therapy. When I'm outdoors breathing fresh air and letting my skin soak in some sunshine, my problems take a back seat. I can clear my head and think more deliberately. I believe appreciating and interacting with nature puts in perspective what truly matters in life, which is your people, food and shelter. The rest is clutter. Carrots dangling from sticks.

If you are struggling with your mental health, please seek help. You may not realize it in the moment, but you are loved. You are loved by those closest to you, and in general by your fellow man. Seek help.

See **Nature**, Page 11B



by **BRANDON BUTLER**

# B & H

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**THE SIGHTS** and sounds of natural environments are proven to benefit mental health.

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDON BUTLER**

## Nature from page 10B

It's out there waiting for you. And get out of the house. Turn off the electronics. Find a trail and go for a walk. Listen to the birds. Look at the beautiful wild flowers. Take deep breaths of fresh air. Such experiences will help you.

See you down the trail...

For more Driftwood Outdoors, check out the podcast on [www.driftwoodoutdoors.com](http://www.driftwoodoutdoors.com) or anywhere podcasts are streamed.

## MDC invites you to celebrate native trees through Arbor Days in April

**BY JOE JEREK**  
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invited people to celebrate the value of Missouri trees and forests during Arbor Days in April by planting native trees and practicing proper tree care. Missouri Arbor Day is Friday, April 1. Missouri has been observing the state's official



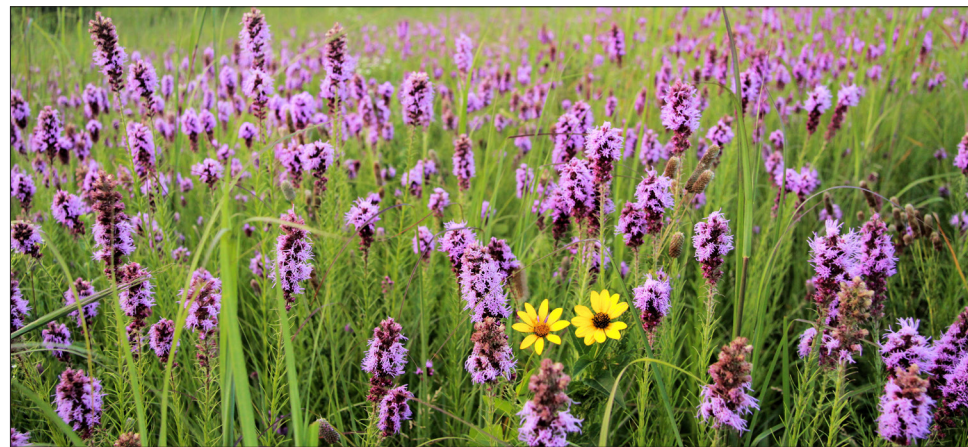
Arbor Day on the first Friday in April since 1886 when the General Assembly declared that day be set aside for the appreciation and planting of trees. National Arbor Day is recognized on the last Friday of April, which is April 29 for 2022.

Get information on backyard tree care – including types of trees for urban and other landscapes, selecting the right tree for the right place, planting tips, watering and pruning info, and more – at [mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-care](http://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-care).

The MDC George O. White State Forest Nursery near Licking offers a variety of low-cost native tree and shrub seedlings for reforestation, windbreaks, erosion control, and wildlife food and cover. Orders are accepted to April 15. For more information, visit [mdc.mo.gov/seedlings](http://mdc.mo.gov/seedlings).

Communities around the state also hold local Arbor Day activities. For more information on Arbor Day and Missouri's Tree City USA communities, visit the Arbor Day Foundation at [arborday.org/](http://arborday.org/).

Missouri forests cover about one-third of the state and provide outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, natural beauty, and watersheds for stream and rivers. Spending time in Missouri forests can provide a natural health benefit, too. Exposure to nature contributes to physical well-being, reducing blood pressure and heart rate, relieving stress, and boosting energy levels. Get more information at [mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/forest-care](http://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/forest-care).



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**MDC CONGRATULATES** Jim Dain of Pittsfield, Ill. on becoming the second state record holder of 2022 after snagging this 140-ound, 10-ounce paddlefish at the Lake of the Ozarks March 18.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## Illinois man now holds Missouri paddlefish state record

BY JILL PRITCHARD  
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) congratulates Jim Dain of Pittsfield, Ill. for snagging a monster 140-pound, 10-ounce paddlefish March 18 at the Lake of the Ozarks. The latest record breaks the previous record of 140-pounds, 9-ounces set in 2015 on Table Rock Lake.

Dain said he was on a fishing trip with his family and almost didn't get the boat out that day because the weather kept changing.

"The forecast was calling for storms, and then it changed to no rain, so we went out, but it just kept getting colder," Dain recalled. "We weren't having much luck, but decided to fish for another hour so we took another turn. And that's when the drag on the reel started. It felt like a tree was on the line!"

Dain said it took at least 20-minutes before they ultimately got the fish in the boat. After getting back to the boat ramp, Steven Henson of Bonne Terre, who happens to hold the Missouri state record for river carpsucker, was in the area and mentioned Dain should get in touch with MDC.

"He was at the boat ramp and happened to hold a state record," said Dain. "He's looking at the fish and says to me, 'Boy, I think you should get that checked out because it could be a state record.'"

Dain contacted MDC Camden County Agent Tyler Brown, who advised him to go to Tom's Slaughterhouse in Montreal to use a certified scale that could handle weight more than 100-pounds. His paddlefish is the second state record fish caught in 2022.

"We got 16 one-gallon bags of meat out of this catch," laughed Dain. "We've fried it, grilled it and made paddlefish tacos the other night. We'll be having paddlefish for a while!"

Missouri state record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: trotline, throwline, limblines, bank line, jug line, gig, bow, crossbow, underwater spearfishing, snagging, snaring, grabbing, or atlatl.

For more information on state record fish, visit <http://bit.ly/2efq1vl>.

"A duck call in the hands of the unskilled is one of the conservation's greatest assets."  
– Nash Buckingham

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