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Sam A. Baker Park to Host Bluegrass Concert

JUNE 11TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sam A. Baker Park to Host Bluegrass Concert

Patterson, Missouri - A Bluegrass Concert featuring the Leevon DeCourley Band will be held at Sam A. Baker State Park on Saturday, June 13th. The public is encouraged to attend this concert sponsored by Missouri State Parks beginning at 7:00 p.m. Saturday.

Leevon DeCourley has been entertaining audiences all over the Midwest and Southeast for the better part of the last ten years. The concert will be held at the Park's amphitheater behind the Visitor Center. The event is FREE.

Sam A. Baker State Park is located four miles north of Patterson on Highway 143 in Wayne County. For more information about the event, call the park at 573-856-4514.

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MDC Managed Deer Hunt Applications Open July 1st

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MDC Managed Deer Hunt Applications Open July 1st

Missouri - Beginning July 1, deer hunters can apply online for a shot at more than 5,100 slots for nearly 100 Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) managed deer hunts. The managed hunts will take place from mid-September through mid-January at conservation areas, state parks, national wildlife refuges, urban parks, and other public areas. The online application period runs July 1-31.

To apply, visit the MDC website at mdc.mo.gov/node/11252 between July 1 and 31. MDC will post drawing results at the same website address from Sept. 1 through Jan 15. Applicants who get drawn will receive area maps and other hunt information by mail.

The hunts are open to Missouri residents and nonresidents and help achieve MDC's deer-management goals for the state while providing additional hunting opportunities. Types of

hunts include archery, crossbow, muzzleloader, historic methods, and modern firearms, plus youth hunts and hunts for people with disabilities.

Seventeen managed hunts will be held exclusively for hunters with disabilities. Eligibility varies by hunt so applicants should call the area hosting the hunt for details and to apply. Wheelchair-confined hunters may apply for more than one managed hunt offered at select conservation areas with a written request due by July 31 to: Missouri Department of Conservation, Attn: Managed Deer Hunts, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

All other hunters may apply for only one managed hunt per year. Hunters may apply individually or as groups of up to six, except for youth-only hunts. Youths age 11-15 years by the date of the desired hunt who are hunter-education certified may apply individually or with one other youth for youth hunts and must be accompanied on the hunt by a qualified adult mentor.

All applicants will need their nine-digit Conservation ID number to complete the application process. Conservation ID numbers are listed on hunting and fishing permits and Missouri Conservation Heritage Cards.

Resident or nonresident managed deer hunting permits are required to participate in managed hunts. These permits will be available to successful applicants beginning Sept. 1 from permit vendors, online through MDC's e-Permits at mdc.mo.gov/node/10901, or through MDC's free hunting mobile app -- MO Hunting.

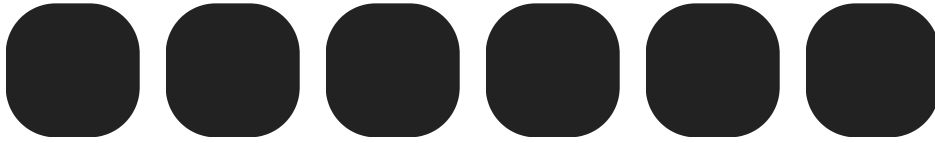
Hunter education is required for firearms managed hunts, unless the hunter is exempt by age or other reason. Hunter education classes fill up quickly as fall hunting seasons approach. For more information on hunter education options and classes, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/3095.

MDC uses a weighted-preference-point system to give previously unsuccessful applicants an advantage in future drawings. Hunters who apply for the first time or who were drawn for hunts the previous year are statistically less likely to be drawn than those who entered but were not drawn in previous years.

Details about managed hunts can be found in MDC's "2015 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information" booklet available in July at MDC offices and nature centers, from permit vendors around the state, and online at mdc.mo.gov.

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MDC Offers Frog Gigging Clinic in Mississippi County

JUNE 09TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[MDC Offers Frog Gigging Clinic in Mississippi County](#)

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites families to discover nature at a frog gigging clinic from 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, July 11, at Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area. The clinic is free and open to youth ages 7 to 17 and their parent or adult mentor. Preregistration is required by July 6.

“Frog gigging, or frogging, is a great way to enjoy Missouri’s fish, forests and wildlife while putting good food on the table,” said Conservation Agent Andrew Mothershead.

The clinic will start with a classroom session on the basics of frog gigging safety, equipment, identification and regulations. Participants will go frogging with the help of MDC personnel and learn how to clean and cook their catch.

“Catching frogs can be a fun and exciting activity for the whole family,” said Mothershead. “If all goes right, frog legs are the reward after a successful night of gigging.”

Frogs can be legally harvested with either fishing or hunting permits, as long as the method matches the permit. With a fishing permit, frogs may be harvested by hand, hand net, atlatl, gig, bow, trotline, throw line, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line during frog season. With a hunting permit, frogs may be harvested using .22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or pistol, pellet gun, bow, crossbow, atlatl or by hand or hand net.

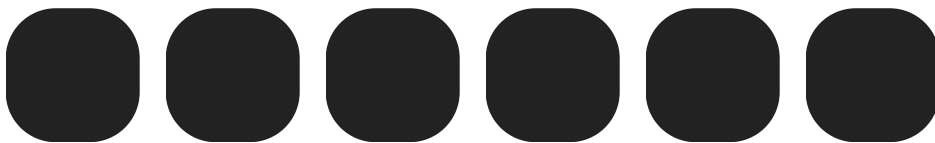
This year’s frog season begins at sunset June 30 and continues through Oct. 31. The daily limit is eight bullfrogs or green frogs and 16 in possession. Children under the age of 16 and adults over 65 are not required to have a permit.

To register for the frog gigging clinic, or for more information, contact the Southeast Regional Office at 573-290-5730.

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Stoddard County JAKES Event Slated for June 13th

JUNE 03RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County JAKES Event Slated for June 13th
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Mark Reed, Stoddard County Conservation Agent
Missouri Department of Conservation

Bloomfield, Missouri - If you are looking for a great way to get the kids' summer started, look no further. Local volunteers along with support from businesses, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Missouri Department of Conservation will be holding the Stoddard County JAKES Event on Saturday, June 13. This annual event has been a hit with kids and parents alike so if you haven't attended one yet, here is your chance. The day begins at 8:00 am sharp so arrive early. We will wrap up activities around 1:00 pm just after lunch and the ever popular candy cannon presented by the Crowley's Ridge Blackpowder Club.

The JAKES Event is open to all kids age 6 thru 16 and lunch is provided. The day is free thanks to financial support from the community and local businesses. As in past years, the event will be held at the Holly Ridge Conservation Area archery range and pavilion on Stoddard County Road 517. The easiest way to find the area is to travel east from Bloomfield on HWY E then turn south on CR 517. Stay on 517 and you will find us.

Popular activities include archery, trapping, target shooting, nature hike, primitive skills, and more. The kids are divided into small groups based on age and move around the area on a schedule, allowing everyone to participate in all activities. Friends and family will be able to stay together

throughout the day. The NWTF and MDC are strong supporters of family and introducing others to the great outdoors. The NWTF’s philosophy of “Share the Hunt” encourages avid sportsmen and women to take others along not only on hunting trips but also a variety of other outdoor experiences.

All equipment will be provided by the NWTF and the MDC so you don’t need to bring anything except an appetite for adventure and maybe some bug spray. Most of the day will take place in mowed areas but closed toe shoes are recommended for walks in the woods. Each activity will be supervised by experienced personnel to ensure a safe and enjoyable day.

There’s no better way to get the kids off their electronic devices and in touch with Mother Nature for a few hours than with this free and enjoyable day. As a bonus, we provide lunch and you don’t have to do the dishes. For more information, contact John Pyles at 568-3774, Mark Reed at 421-3240, or American Outdoors at 624-5421.

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Sign Up Now to Trotline for Catfish

JUNE 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sign Up Now to Trotline for Catfish

Want to Trotline for Catfish on the Mississippi River?

Fisheries biologists will teach safety and basics of trotlining on the Might Mississippi!

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) announces a catfishing clinic, Trotlining for Catfish on the Mississippi River, scheduled for Aug. 13-15. This free course, part of the MDC's Angler Recruitment Initiative, is designed to provide local anglers with information and skills needed to safely navigate and fish the mighty Mississippi.

"The Mississippi River is probably one of the best, yet overlooked, opportunities for catfishing in Missouri," said Dave Knuth, MDC Fisheries Management Biologist.

Knuth said the mighty Mississippi has earned a reputation for being difficult to navigate and fish. During the course of this hands-on workshop, anglers will learn how to safely traverse navigational hazards including floating debris, wing dikes, fluctuating river stages, and swift currents. They will also learn about necessary gear, species specific fishing information, and trot line safety and setting techniques.

The course will begin at the MDC's Southeast Regional Office in Cape Girardeau, Aug. 13. The next two days will feature hands-on activities at Red Star Fishing Access Ramp in Cape Girardeau. Thursday night will feature a catfish dinner. Participants will bait and set a 10-hook trotline Friday evening. Lines will be retrieved Saturday morning. All equipment will be provided. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Space is limited, so preregistration is required by July 2 by calling the Southeast Regional Office at (573)290-5730.

For information on fishing opportunities in Missouri, go online to mdc.mo.gov/fishing.

Anglers can also get weekly fishing reports, annual prospects, permit information and more through MDC’s “Find MO fish” free mobile app, available for download at mdc.mo.gov/node/15421.

Shown in the photo: Missouri Dept of Conservation staff hold a 45-inch, 50 lb., blue catfish collected while electrofishing on the Mississippi River. From left to right are MDC Resource Assistant Forest Copeland, Fisheries Management Biologist Dave Knuth and Conservation Agent Brian Shelton.

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