



Insect Mania

Blueprint for a Bug's Abode


Friday, July 18
7:00-9:00pm

*Crafts*Games*Live Insects

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Permit 274

Tupelo Times

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Tupelo Times

JUNE & JULY 2008 VOL. 4, NO. 3

The Newsletter of the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center**

Family Camping – Family Fun

“We’re all ready to go, Mom! We’re just waiting on you,” I hear my daughters exclaim as I climb into the truck. The trailer’s all packed, the dog’s in the back seat, everything’s been double checked and we’re off again on another camping adventure. This is the next trip in a long line of family trips, way too long to even begin to count. We started camping as a family before our children were born and now after being married for twenty-four years, we still can’t wait to set off on another weekend escapade. Our daughters, ages 16 and 21, still look forward to this time that we share together and are tremendously disappointed if their busy schedules prevent them from joining us. We’re often asked by other families about how we still keep our kids interested in camping with the family. Our reply is simply that we just made the whole camping experience a family thing and they just naturally don’t want to miss out on a good time.

Time away from home with no phones, no television, good food and good conversation are some of the high points to camping with your family. Because you have little outside influences, you are forced to get to know your kids as individuals. What a joy it is to watch your kids discover the wonders of a new trail, see a wildflower they’ve never seen before or, while canoeing, make it through a tough spot in a river that they just knew they would have to portage around.

If you’re the parents of young children and have never yet camped with your kids, then this summer would be a great time to start. Southeast Missouri has some terrific conservation areas and state parks that allow camping. Begin with campgrounds that are close to home that have

water sources nearby and provide electric hook-ups. Also, look for areas that have other activities to do, such as hiking, fishing, swimming or bicycle trails. These types of sites will allow you to gain confidence as you explore camping with your family.

There’s no need to invest in a ton of expensive equipment. Start out with a small tent. Using small tents allows one to be more flexible in choosing a site rather than have to try to find a spot to pitch a large shelter. If you’re on a tight budget, yard sales, flea markets and thrift shops are great places to pick up pots, pans, silverware and even sleeping bags. Inexpensive plastic boxes with secure lids are excellent for storing and carrying your equipment and supplies. When you get home after a trip, you can just clean everything and pack it back up so you’ll be ready to go on your next outing.

You’ll amaze yourself with the outdoor skills that you and your kids will gain while camping. In our family, each child has certain jobs that she does to set up or tear down camp. This directly involves each child and helps them feel that they are a necessary part of the family. It also helps kids learn to be team players so that necessary work gets done more quickly and efficiently. There’s nothing that can beat the joy your child will feel when they build and light their first campfire except your pride in knowing that you helped them make it happen.

Make this a summer that you and your kids will never forget. Learn new skills, blaze new trails, have fun and make memories. Load up your vehicle and head for the campground. Take your family camping.

Mary Jane Fieser, Naturalist



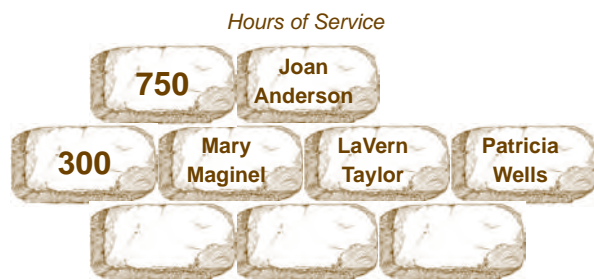
June 7 & 8

What better way to connect with friends and family than grabbing a fishing pole and heading to the water! Take advantage of free fishing throughout Missouri this weekend. Families can stop by the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center to borrow fishing poles and bait, then let the kids fish in the kids’ fishing pond for ages 15 and under. If this is your child’s first fish, stop by the nature center front desk to pick up an application for a First Fish Certificate. And don’t forget to recycle your used fishing line in the container at the nature center lobby.



This spring, thirteen nature center volunteers were graduated after spending 29 hours in hands-on training designed to make your experience at the nature center more enjoyable, educational and inspiring. By having more volunteers, we are able to offer more programs, interact with more people along the trails and in the exhibit gallery, and meet more of your conservation needs. Some additions include more rugged hiking opportunities, off-site family programs, hands-on workshops, discovery stations, and more interaction with you. Look for members of this volunteer corps in their blue shirts when you come and be sure to thank them for their time and service.

Volunteer Milestones



Get Involved

Are you interested in becoming a nature center volunteer? We hold a training class each winter for people who have a desire to share their talents and enthusiasm for conservation. It's a way to get involved, meet people, explore the outdoors and give something back to the community. Contact volunteer coordinator Steven Juhlin at 573-290-5218 to receive your application for next year's class.



Ken Jones, Melanie Sanders, Marybeth Rhodes, Ellen Hahs, Karen Fieser, Annie Garner, Hallie Fieser, Chelsea Burns, Judy Burford, Robert Bach and Jennell Bach
 Not Pictured: Susan Elrod and Michael Fiehler

Thank You

Donations of Time, Material, and Service

- Bridget Ulrich:** Drawing
- Sandra Francis:** Book
- Mike Seabaugh:** Monetary donation
- Various natural objects:
- Penny Wilson, Houston Burnett**

Paving the Way



Those purchasing paving stones for the Conservation Nature Center walkway:
Patricia & Harold Pobst
in memory of Brian Scott Pobst
Sara & Travis Turner and the Ramey Family
in memory of John H. Ramey

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm and is closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape

Educators' Niche



Well Water, Cave Life, and the Human Connection

This teacher's workshop will increase teachers' knowledge pertaining to karst, water quality in karst areas, and the promotion of karst and karst water quality educational activities in the classrooms. The Perryville Karst region will be the study area for the workshop. The Perryville Karst region encompasses a small southern section of Ste. Genevieve, most of Perry, and a small northern section of Cape Girardeau counties with Perry County having the highest number of caves than any other county in Missouri. The workshop will have a half day field trip to a cave in Perry County to illustrate workshop topics. Educators will also receive Project WET training as part of the course.

This course will take place on July 16-17 at the Cape Girardeau Regional Office. Graduate credit is available through Southeast Missouri State University for \$50.00. The class will run from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm each day.

Cave Ecology for Teachers

This workshop will illuminate ways to use cave ecology to meet the GLE's. This high interest topic will have your students reading and writing while unlocking the secrets of this underground world. Course includes field trips to area caves and hands-on activities with cave formations and cave life.

Participants will be responsible for two nights lodging and two evening meals. All other materials and meals will be supplied. Two hours of graduate or undergraduate credit is available for \$142. Course runs from noon on July 8 until 2:30 pm on July 10. This course will take place at Winona.

For more information or to register, please call Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5218 ext. 300.

Wildlife and CSI

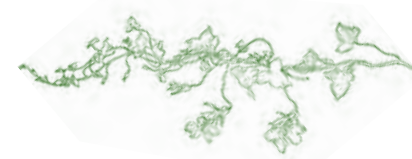
This class will look at ways wildlife mysteries can be solved. We'll look closely at ways to identify animals, determine time of death, wildlife laws, why people poach, and much more.

This class will take place Monday, July 28 and Tuesday, July 29 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Cape Nature Center. One hour of Graduate Credit is available through SEMO at a cost of \$50.00 or it can be taken for non-credit at no cost to you.

Coming In August Saturday, August 2, 9am-3pm Educator Open House

This Open House is a great opportunity for educators to come see what MDC offers. Pick up posters and habitat packs, sign up for classes, and check out Discovery Trunks. Also learn about field trip opportunities, outdoor classroom grants, and the Learning Outdoors School program. If you are an educator in the southeast region, you won't want to miss this information opportunity! Ages 18 and up welcome.

The Nature Shop



JUNE

Conservation Trails Guide

This guide highlights trails on conservation areas throughout the state. This third edition features improved maps and facility information. We've featured 98 trails on 40 of our areas. They range in length from .1 mile to 20 miles and go from level, paved paths to difficult trails.



Discounted price:
\$4.00 plus tax

JULY

Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri (softbound format)

The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri is the best identification guide for the price. This guide is ideal for both beginners and professionals, leaving users with a greater appreciation of these unique species.



Discounted price:
\$14.40 plus tax

20% Off

The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

Special monthly discounts ...
 (Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply)



June Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **June 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list July attend.

1 Naturalist's Notebook Outdoor Hazards Sunday, 2-3pm

Do you wonder what's stinging, biting and itching you? Southeast Missouri is home to numerous creatures and plant life that can make venturing outdoors a real dilemma. Join one of our naturalists to learn some of the common hazards that can be encountered as you spend time in the great outdoors. Learn how to identify hazards and what precautions can make your next outing more enjoyable. All ages. Youth groups welcome. No registration required.

3 Landowner Workshop Aquatic Plants Tuesday, 7-9pm

Aquatic plants are an essential part of a pond or lake. Plants keep the water oxygenated; provide food, cover and nesting sites for fish and other organisms. Plants also stabilize the shoreline and bottom. In the spring and early summer fisheries biologists handle numerous requests from landowners for help with aquatic plants in ponds. Requests can range from how to get rid of filamentous algae (pond scum) to what types of plants are best to plant in ponds. To help answer these questions Brad Pobst, Fisheries Management Biologist, will give a presentation on how to manage both desirable and undesirable aquatic plants in ponds and lakes.

Ages 12 and up. Registration required.

Early registration begins May 15



Free Fishing Weekend

At a pond, stream, or lake near you!

**Saturday and Sunday
June 7 & 8**

(See the *Wildlife Code*

of Missouri for details)



10 Camping 101 Tuesday 6-8:30pm

Missouri's
Outdoor
Families

Want to go camping but not sure where to begin? Learning and practicing some basics will help make sure your camping experiences are enjoyable. You'll have ample opportunity to try a variety of equipment, gain tips on what you will (and won't) need and develop outdoor skills. Families who attend this program are eligible to attend Camping 102. Families. Registration required.

13 Camping 102 Friday 6:30pm- Saturday 3pm

Put the skills learned in Camping 101 to use on your first family camping trip to Trail of Tears State Park. Gain confidence in family camping with assistance from nature center staff and volunteers. We'll provide some of the equipment, as well as a few activities, to get your family started on an adventure of a lifetime. **Each family is required to attend Camping 101 prior to Camping 102.** Families. Registration required.

Mudpuppies

Let's Go Camping

Saturday, June 14

9am, 11am or 1pm

Tuesday, June 24

9am, 11am or 1pm



Camping can be fun for everyone! Join us for some camping fun as we sit in a tent, roast some marshmallows and sing around the campfire! **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. Registration required.

15 Discovery Hike Castor River Sunday, 1-5pm



Spend Father's Day hiking along the Castor River. A highlight of this conservation area is the Blue Pond Natural Area, named for a deep, natural sinkhole pond with clear blue water. The trail meanders through an oak-hickory forest spread over steep, broken hills. Meet at the nature center to carpool or ride in our van. Trail rated moderate. Ages 8 and up. Registration required.

18 "Adults Only" Fly-fishing Basics

Wednesday, 6-9pm

Curious about fly-fishing, but not sure where to start? Dan Beard, university professor and fisherman, will teach you the basics of fly-fishing, from casting and hooking various types of fish to choosing the right equipment. No experience or equipment is necessary. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

Racers

Ready, Aim, Fire

Wednesday, June 18

5:30-8:30pm



Here's your chance to step outside and onto the range for an evening of clay target shooting. We'll take participants from the nature center to Apple Creek Conservation Area where Outdoor Skills Specialist, DeeDee Dockins, will provide basic firearm safety instruction and proven wing shooting techniques so you're sure to break a target or two. No prior experience is necessary. Please do not bring any firearms – all equipment will be provided. Release/permission forms signed by parent or guardian must be completed prior to departure. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17. Registration required.

19 Underground Exploration Thursday, 6-8pm

Missouri is the cave state with over 6000 caves. Perry County alone has 500. If you haven't explored this underground world, you should take advantage of this beginning course. The nature center is partnering with the SEMO Grotto of the National Speleological Society to offer a beginning caving course which concludes with a caving field trip on **Sunday, June 22 (participants must attend the evening program to visit the cave on Sunday)**. Attendees will learn how caves are formed, see wildlife species that live in this underground habitat, practice basic caving techniques and learn what equipment to use for safe exploration. Ages 18 and up (ages 14 and up with parent). Registration required.

snappers



Nature Center at Night

Friday, June 20, 7pm-

Saturday 9am

When the doors close and the lights turn down, the nature center comes alive. What do the animals do when the building has emptied? Explore White Oak Trace to discover what stirs after dark. Activities will include evening fishing, owl prowls, outdoor campfire and snakes alive. Don't miss the exciting chance to walk on the wild side. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. Registration required.

21 Ecological History Day Saturday 10am-4pm

Stop by the nature center throughout the day to learn how Missouri's landscape has changed through time. Investigate what Missouri was like during the last ice age. Bring your fossils and talk to the experts from the SEMO Fossil Club. Special auditorium programs are at **10:00 am** - Riverbluff Cave Paleontological Site: A Window Into the Ice Age of Missouri, **12 noon** - Sands of Time: A Look at the Geological and Ecological History of Southeast Missouri and at **2:00 pm** - Dinosaurs & Fauna of the Late Cretaceous Chronister Site of Southeast Missouri. A quarry pile will be available for young paleontologists to explore and collect their own fossil specimens. All ages. Youth groups welcome. No registration required.

28 Conservation Trails The Mountains! Saturday, 9am-5pm



Some of the most scenic sections of the Ozark Trail are found in the beautiful, rugged St. Francois Mountains. This challenging hike between Ketcherside Mountain Conservation Area and Taum Sauk Mountain State Park offers steep climbs through varied terrain. This lengthy, rugged hike is rated difficult. Meet at the nature center to carpool or ride in our van. Ages 8 and up. Registration required.

Tadpoles

Celebrate Summer

Saturday, June 28

10-11am



Summer breezes make us feel fine as we go on a guided nature stroll and look for signs of summer at the nature center. **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult. Registration required.

Temporary Display

Visit the nature center's gallery in June to view "Strokes of Nature," a collection of acrylic paintings by Benton wildlife artist, Michael Landeros.



July Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **July 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list July attend.

The nature center will be open July 4 from 8am-5pm. No fireworks are allowed on the nature center grounds.

5 Conservation Trails Peewah Trail Saturday, 9am-5pm



The 10-mile Peewah Trail stretching through Trail of Tears State Park features varied topography and offers spectacular views of the big river and the Illinois floodplain. Enjoy exploring this beautiful trail "in our own backyard." This 10-mile trail is rated very difficult. Meet at the nature center to carpool or ride in our van. Ages 8 and up. Registration required.

6 Naturalist's Notebook Primitive Survival Skills Sunday, 2-3pm

Hunting, fire-building and tool-making were skills essential to survival during primitive times. With modern day luxuries, civilization has lost the contact with nature that we once shared. Discover some of the skills once needed to coexist with nature. All ages. Youth groups welcome. No registration required.

8 Conservation Café Tuesday, 6:30-8pm

A southeast Missouri native, Michael Landeros inherited his talents from his father and learned to draw and paint at an early age. His career work has graced the covers of American Greetings and Hallmark cards and covers of Scholastics books. Whether through paint, airbrush or wood carving tools, his passion for wildlife and artistic expression unite to create masterpieces. See Michael's work at the nature center through June, then meet him at the Café in July. In this café interview setting, Michael shares more about himself and his passion for conveying the wonder of wildlife through art. Café treats and beverages are served. Ages 12 and up. Registration required.



Early registration begins June 15

snappers Outdoor Skills Tuesday, July 8 6:30-8pm



Discover the many outdoor skills available in southeast Missouri. Participants will apply skills such as using map and compass, archery and fishing on our kid's only fishing pond. Snappers will be taught the proper way to safely use the equipment while understanding the importance of each skill. After this program, you should be prepared to face the great outdoors. Snappers programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. Registration required.

Early registration begins June 15

Temporary Display

Visit the nature center's gallery in July to view "Buzz," a collection of insect photography by Donna Brunet.

Mudpuppies

Playin' Possum

Saturday, July 12

9am, 11am or 1pm

Tuesday, July 22

9am, 11am or 1pm



Trot on over to the nature center and find out about the opossum! Where do opossums live? What do they do with their tails? What makes them so special? Find out the answers to these questions as well as many others! **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. Registration required.

13 Discovery Hike Shepard Point Trail Sunday, 1-5pm



The 2-mile Shepard Point Trail loop at Trail of Tears State Park ascends to the top of a beautiful bluff overlooking the Mississippi. The great view makes the steep hike through gullies and along ridges well worth the effort! Meet at the nature center to carpool or ride in our van. Trail rated moderate. Ages 8 and up. Registration required.

13 Discovery Station Outdoor Hazards Sunday, 1-4pm

Bugs and bushes and snakes! Oh my! Don't be afraid to go into the woods! Come to our discovery station and learn all about outdoor hazards and how to stay safe while enjoying nature. All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration is required.

18 Insect Mania Blueprint for a Bug's Abode Friday, 7-9pm



Insects- they fascinate us, they surround us and they can be found in every habitat- but what would a summer evening be like without them? Hop into the world of insects as we focus on a blueprint for a bug's abode. All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.

20 "Adults Only" What's Livin' in the Creek? Sunday, 1-5pm

Get your feet wet in a cool creek on a hot day! With nets, seines and buckets in hand, join Fisheries Management Biologist Brad Pobst to discover what lives in the creek. We'll look at fish, aquatic insects and stream-side plants and find out how they all interact. Brad will also share insights into what makes streams healthy. Participants will travel from the nature center to Old Plantation Access, west of Jackson. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center front desk to find out what videos will be shown this month.



24 Nature Journaling Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm

You don't have to be a great artist to enjoy nature journaling. Join Conservation Education Consultant Bridget Jackson to learn some tips and techniques to improve your artistry. You will venture out and put these new skills to work while enjoying nature's beauty. No previous artistic experience necessary. Ages 12 and up. Registration required.

Racers

Gone Campin'

Friday, July 25, 5pm-

Saturday 3pm



This is your opportunity to camp, cook outdoors, canoe, fish, hike and much more during our jam-packed overnight camping trip. Our nature center staff and volunteers will lead you in the fun of exploring in the water and on land. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17. Registration required.

25 Carter & Connelley Everybody Needs a River Friday, 7-8pm

Inspired and creative singer-songwriters, Carter and Connelley have connected people to the land through music. Their passion for the Ozarks, rivers, swamps, forests, and prairies rings clear through their guitars and voices. More than wonderful music and stories, Carter and Connelley send an unmistakable message of the importance of our place in conservation and caring for the beauty that surrounds us. You won't want to miss this inspiring evening concert! All ages. Registration required.

31 Fishing with the Family Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Looking for something that the whole family can enjoy? Why not try fishing? Mark Hahn, a local pond and stream fisherman, will teach you the basic fundamentals to help make your next family outing a BIG success. Mark will demonstrate techniques for catching and cleaning, as well as common fish identification. Poles are available for participant use. Fishing licenses are required for adults and should be purchased in advance. Families. Registration required.



COMING IN AUGUST

16 Hummingbird Celebration! Saturday, 9am-4pm

Anyone fortunate enough to have hummingbirds around knows how amazing they are. Late July and August is prime time for hummingbird migration in our area and these ruby gems will be gearing up for their journey south. Master banders will be banding hummingbirds that are migrating through our area. Information stations and seminars will provide tips on attracting hummingbirds, gardening, feeder care and much more. All ages. No registration required.