



Fall & Winter
HUNTING GUIDE

**OHS Trap Shooting
At Gun Club**

**Bowhunting
Rutting Bucks**

**Fishing Out of the
Trunk of Grandpa's
'66 Buick Special**

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OCTOBER 24, 2018

OHS trap shooting at local gun club



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

OWENSVILLE HIGH School FFA Trap Team member Austin Gregory fires a round (left) during an Oct. 9 Postal Match against Belle and Hermann high schools held at Owensville Gun Club. Also pictured on the firing line (from left) are Zach Adams, Sam Sellers, Bryce Blankenship, and Wesley Kandlbinder. **AREA HIGH SCHOOL FFA** chapter advisors (above, from left) Chris Mertz (Belle), Wade Orscheln (Owensville) and Doug Ridder (Hermann) tally the scores from the Oct. 9 match as the next school prepares to shoot a round. Each advisor took turns controlling the launcher.

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RUFFED GROUSE are native to Missouri and the population has been declining due to aging forests. MDC and Wisconsin DNR are working together to change that by restoring Missouri's population through grouse translocations and intensive habitat management.

MDC and Wisconsin DNR partner to restore Missouri's ruffed grouse

BY LUCAS BOND
MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are working together to help restore Missouri's ruffed grouse population. MDC's plan is to trap and relocate 300 grouse from northern Wisconsin to the River Hills region of east-central Missouri over a three-year period (2018-2020).

The goal is to trap and relocate 100 grouse a year to Missouri. MDC worked with Wisconsin DNR staff to conduct trapping efforts in Wisconsin from Aug. 15-Sept. 15 with 100 grouse relocated to Missouri to complete this year's efforts.

"This year's grouse restoration effort went very well," said MDC Resource Scientist Jason Isabelle. "Between constructing, setting and running traps, processing, transporting and releasing birds, managing habitat, and all the logistics involved with a project like this, it was truly a team effort that wouldn't have been possible without the support of many dedicated individuals."

Ruffed grouse are a native species in Missouri, but numbers have declined over the last several decades as forests have aged. Grouse require extensive areas of young forest habitat to survive. Without the cover that these areas provide, grouse simply can't thrive on the landscape.

Extensive habitat management has been conducted in the River Hills region of east-central Missouri to maximize success for grouse restoration. Ongoing habitat management will continue to make sure grouse are in an environment that they can thrive in.

"The River Hills region was a former strong-hold for the ruffed grouse," Isabelle said.

Efforts to create young forest habitat within the region have been ongoing for many years now. Isabelle notes that these efforts must continue if grouse are to thrive in Missouri.

"Our agency will continue to create habitat for grouse on public lands within the region and will work with landowners and partners to do so on private lands as well," he said.

See **Ruffed Grouse**, Page 5B

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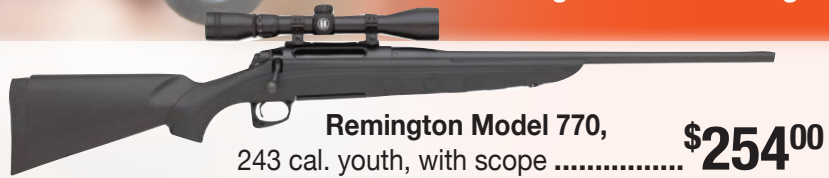
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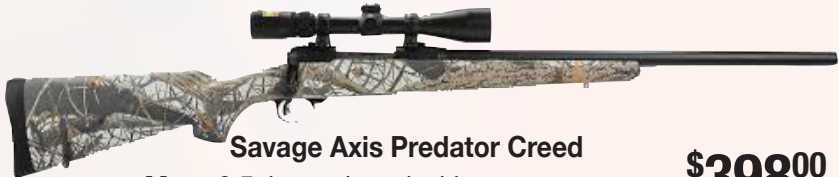
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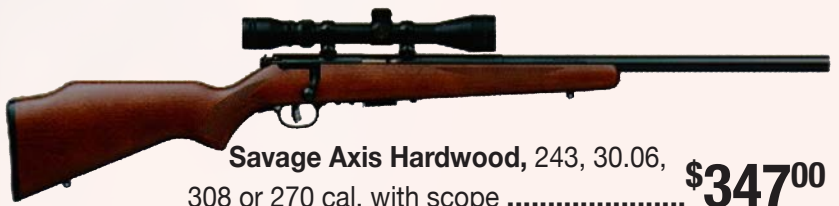
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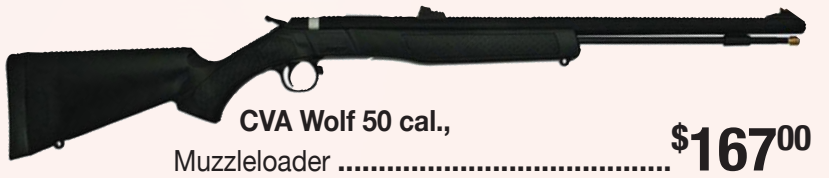
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PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

WADE ORSCHELN, an FFA chapter advisor at Owensville High School, talks with Trap Team members about how to properly rotate to follow clay birds which are launched toward the sides of the range after they had completed a match on Oct. 9. **HERMANN HIGH** School FFA Trap Team members (below) wait for their rounds to begin with their coach, Doug Ridder. **CHRIS MERTZ**, FFA advisor at Belle High School (top), loads up the launcher with the clay discs between rounds.



Ruffed Grouse • from page 3B

In return for the ruffed grouse, MDC will be making a donation to Wisconsin DNR that will be used to create habitat for grouse in the areas where trapping is taking place. This work will benefit grouse and other wildlife species that depend on young forests to survive.

“Strong partnerships are critical to keep conservation thriving and moving forward,” MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley said. “We value this long-standing partnership with Wisconsin DNR and are grateful for their willingness to provide grouse for our ongoing restoration efforts here in Missouri. Without their support, this effort wouldn’t be possible.”

Translocation of wildlife between states is commonly

used to establish or bolster wildlife populations. MDC and Wisconsin DNR are continuing a partnership that dates back decades when MDC provided Wisconsin with turkeys to reestablish their now thriving population.

Watch a video of a ruffed grouse being released by MDC staff in the River Hills region on MDC’s YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/2pxxTeC>. Learn more about ruffed grouse on MDC’s website at <https://bit.ly/2xIH5K>

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MDC predicts fall turkey hunting likely to be challenging

BY LUCAS BOND
MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — With fall firearms turkey season and archery season underway, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) advises hunters it could be a challenging season.

This year's annual wild turkey brood survey shows statewide turkey production was below average. The statewide poult-to-hen ratio (PHR) for this year was 0.9, which was 13% higher than last year's ratio, but 25% lower than the previous five-year average. Regionally, PHRs ranged from 0.7 in the Ozarks West to 1.4 in the Northwest region (see related map). Turkey production was higher in north Missouri this year than in the southern part of the state.

MDC Turkey Biologist Jason Isabelle indicates that although this year's late spring delayed nesting, conditions during the nesting and brood-rearing periods were favorable throughout much of the state. Yet, despite favorable weather, Isabelle indicates that this year's low production isn't surprising when you consider the trend in PHRs from previous years.

"During the late 1990s, turkey production steadily increased before declining during the 2000s. After once again increasing throughout much of the state from about 2009-2014, we experienced lower production during the last three years," said Isabelle. "The PHR trend the last several years would have suggested production was going to be low this year."

Isabelle adds that because weather often varies considerably from one year to the next, MDC staff would expect to see much more variability in the PHRs if annual weather variability was the primary driver of turkey production.

"The longer we collect turkey production data, the more it appears that annual variability of weather may not be quite as influential as we once believed," said Isabelle. "That's not to say that weather doesn't affect turkey production. However, the cyclical patterns we're seeing in PHRs suggest it's a bit more complicated than that."

Isabelle acknowledges there is still much to be learned about the factors that affect turkey production—something he and his colleagues are working on. "We're looking at our long-term turkey brood survey dataset and trying to tease apart how turkey numbers,

weather, landscape, and their interactions affect production. This research should help explain some of the trends we're seeing in turkey production," Isabelle said.

The good news—Isabelle expects turkey production to bounce back.

"The pattern we're seeing in PHRs would suggest that turkey production will steadily increase during the coming years," he said. "This would certainly be welcomed given the production we've experienced the last several years."

How the poult-to-hen ratio is determined

Each summer, as part of the state's wild turkey brood survey, MDC staff and citizen volunteers record the number of hens and recently hatched turkeys they see, which are called poults. These observations are then tallied to determine the success of the hatch, which is most often reported as a poult-to-hen ratio, or simply the average number of poults per hen observed during the survey. Isabelle explained that the poult-to-hen ratio is a good measure of nesting success and poult survival.

"Each year, thousands of citizens participate in the survey and we are grateful for their contribution," Isabelle said. "During the three-month survey, participants typically report sightings of 60,000-80,000 turkeys, which is a testament to the large number of dedicated volunteers that take time to participate in the survey each year."

Fall hunting prospects

With below-average production throughout much of the state, Isabelle says fall turkey hunting is going to be more challenging this year.

"Because we have fewer young birds on the landscape this year, hunters are going to have to put in more time to be successful. This will be especially true in areas where we have good acorn production, which tends to shift turkeys out of open fields and into the timber, and also reduces their movements," he said.

Isabelle noted that relatively few people hunt turkeys during the fall season, which results in low hunting pressure and little competition among hunters. Unlike the spring season, when about 100,000 turkey hunting permits are purchased in Missouri, typically only about 10,000 hunters purchase

See **Fall Turkey Hunting** page 7B

MDC offers free voluntary CWD testing statewide all season

BY JOE JEREK
MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants deer hunters to know that it is offering free chronic-wasting-disease (CWD) sampling and testing of deer harvested anywhere in the state throughout the entire deer hunting season—Sept. 15 through Jan. 15, 2019. The sampling is voluntary and hunters can also get free test results for their deer.

Hunters can have their deer sampled at 11 select MDC offices around the state. Hunters can also take their deer to 64 participating taxidermists and meat processors located in the 48 counties of MDC's CWD Management Zone. (See map for CWD Management Zone counties.)

Find locations and more information on voluntary CWD sampling at mdc.mo.gov/cwd under "Voluntary CWD Sampling All

Season."

MDC asks hunters to Telecheck their deer before taking them to a CWD sampling location. Hunters can bring the entire deer -- preferably field dressed -- or the head with at least 6 inches of the neck in place. Heads that have the cape removed for taxidermy can also be sampled.

CWD test results can take up to four weeks from the time of sample submission. Hunters can get test results for their CWD-sampled deer online at mdc.mo.gov/CWDTestResults.

Mandatory CWD sampling Nov. 10 and 11 in 31 counties

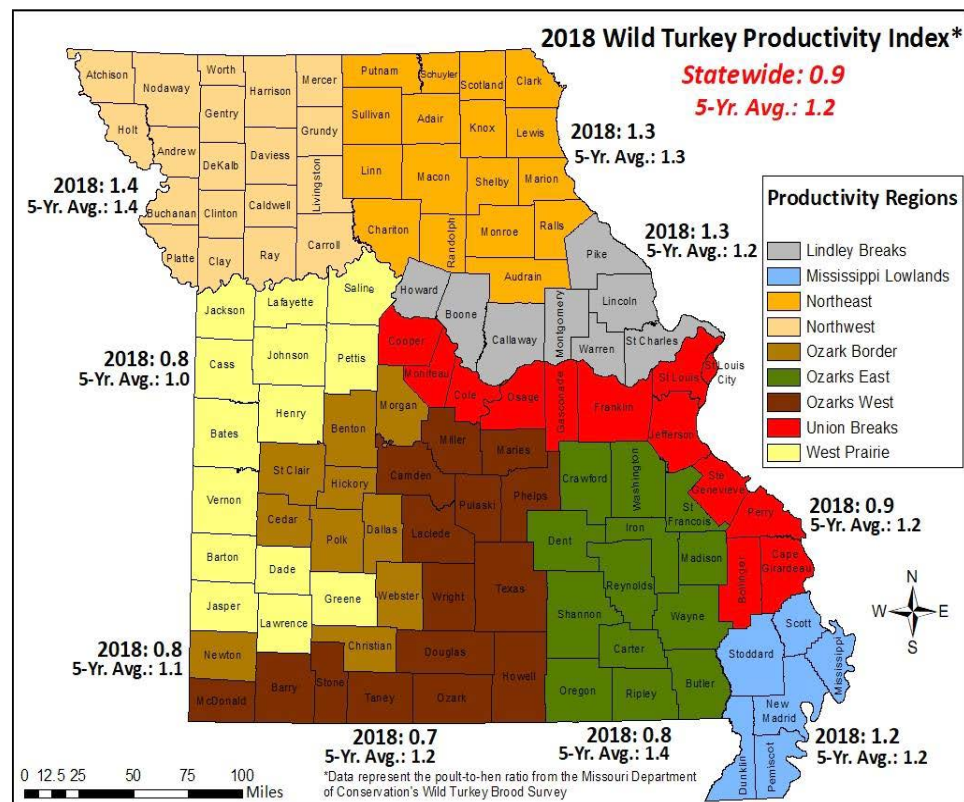
MDC will again conduct mandatory CWD sampling in 31 of the 48 counties of its CWD Management Zone during the opening weekend of the fall firearms deer season, Nov. 10 and 11. The counties include new ones added to the CWD Management Zone,

counties with previous CWD positives, and counties very near previous positives.

The 31 counties for mandatory CWD sampling are: Adair, Barry, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Cedar, Cole, Crawford, Franklin, Grundy, Hickory, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Macon, Madison, McDonald, Mercer, Moniteau, Ozark, Perry, Polk, Putnam, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Warren, and Washington.

Hunters who harvest deer from these counties Nov. 10 or 11 must take their deer -- or the head with at least 6 inches of the neck in place -- on the day of harvest to one of 61 MDC CWD mandatory sampling stations. Deer may be presented at any mandatory sampling station.

Find locations for mandatory CWD sampling at mdc.mo.gov/cwd under "Mandatory CWD Sampling Nov. 10-11."



Fall Turkey Hunting • from page 6B

fall firearms turkey permits.

"Although the woods tend to get a bit busier towards the end of October with the deer rut approaching, hunting pressure is relatively light during early-to-mid-October, even on public lands," said Isabelle.

Hunting hours for the fall firearms turkey season, through Oct. 31, are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Fall archery turkey hunting runs until Nov. 9 and resumes Nov. 21 to Jan. 15. Shooting hours for the archery season are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Both seasons have a limit of two turkeys of either sex. Details about fall turkey hunting regulations can be found in the 2018 Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet available wherever hunting permits are sold, from MDC offices and nature centers, or online at <https://bit.ly/2pamBwF>.

Buy permits from vendors around the state, online at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits or through MDC's free mobile apps, Mo Hunting and Mo Fishing, available for download through Google Play for Android devices or the App Store for Apple devices.



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DRIFTWOOD OUTDOORS



by **BRANDON BUTLER**

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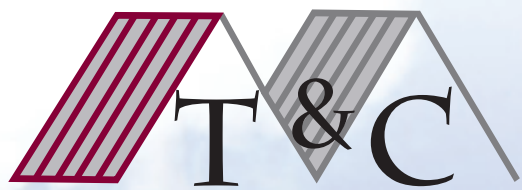
The last week of October and the first week of November. These are the two weeks white-tailed deer bowhunters live for. The rut will be kicking in, and deer will be on their feet during daylight hours. It's

See **Bowhunting** page 9B

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Bowhunting • from page 8B

a peaceful time to hunt before rifles begin to crack and a magical time of year to be in the woods, but wrapping your tag on a buck is far from a sure bet.

A round mid-October, whitetail bucks begin gearing up for the rut. During this time, bucks will work on establishing their hierarchy and territory. They'll mark their range by rubbing their antlers on trees, scraping away the bark and depositing scent from glands on their head. These "rubs" are signs announcing a buck's presence. Finding rubs lets you know a buck is in the area and clues you into to his home range.

As the pre-rut progresses, bucks will begin searching for does coming into estrous. With their hormones raging, they'll travel much further than normal to find that first doe ready to be bred. Hunting is best accomplished by placing a treestand or ground blind in a high-traffic travel corridor. Examples of such are funnels connecting two blocks of timber, along the edges of crop fields and at major creek crossings. Using calls and scents, such as grunt calls, rattling antlers and doe in heat urine, can be effective at luring mature bucks into range during the early stages of the rut.

The peak of the rut occurs when the highest number of does come into estrous at once. This is a busy time for bucks, as they have only one thing on their minds. Many will even forgo food for days as they continue to seek out and breed as many does as possible. During this time, bucks will be where the does are. Hunt a location close to a known doe bedding area, in hopes that a hot doe will be hosting or leading a buck to her bedroom.

Once a buck is through breeding a doe, he will move on in search of another. Bucks make scrapes on the ground with their hooves. These circular areas are scraped clean, so a doe can urinate in them announcing her estrous cycle has begun. She will

leave a scent trail for bucks to follow. Hunt near a scrape long enough during the rut, and there's a good chance a buck will show up to check for scent from a doe.

What I believe to be most important aspect of hunting the rut is simply staying in the woods for as long as possible. I still believe in dawn and dusk as the prime times to be on stand. However, there's a real good chance of catching a buck on his feet at any time of day during the rut. If you can stay in the woods, do it. Pack a lunch, sit in a comfortable stand and wait it out.

While you could virtually find a buck anywhere this time of year, the two areas you want to key on are known doe bedding areas and funnels. Bucks are looking for does, so chances are they're going to be cruising to and from as many bedding areas as possible. During most of the year, bucks travel less obvious trails through thick cover. Right now, you can find them running the heavily beat down deer highways leading to and from large tracts of woods or thick cover.

Funnels are my favorite. Sure, you'll see bucks running straight across wide-open expanses, but you'll find more running funnels. If you can locate a narrow strip of cover connecting two much larger tracts of timber or other deer habitat, then you should count on a buck cruising through there at some point. When I find the right funnel, I like to hang two stands, one on each side so no matter what the wind direction, I can hunt the area.

The rut is magical. Even if you don't tag a buck during this prime time, chances are you will still witness something incredible. Be it a buck fight, breeding behavior or just a glimpse of a true Indiana giant that spends the majority of the year moving at night, the rut will give you something. Best of luck to you wrapping your tag on what you consider to be a trophy.

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Fall Outdoors

WED., OCT. 24, 2018 ■ PAGE 10B

GASCONADE COUNTY **Republican**

A NEW ADVENTURE

Fishing out of the trunk of grandpa's '66 Buick Special

Growing up I had nicknames for my grandparents. I called my paternal grandparents (Ralph and Thelma Warden) "little" grandma and grandpa. My mother's parents (Ed and Alice Koepke) were "big" grandma and grandpa.

Ralph and Thelma were shorter than my mother's parents so the nicknames fit. Both of my grandfathers were avid fishermen, but it was my big grandpa, Ed, who I remember taking me fishing the most.

Grandpa had a green 1966 Buick Special. Seems like a lot of my stories include a reference to a car. Anyway, he always had everything he needed to go fishing in the truck of that old Buick.

When I was young grandpa would take me fishing in small local streams including the Dry Fork, Second Creek and the Bourbeuse. He would park the car at a low water crossing. Out of the trunk we loaded up with everything we needed. It was nothing fancy. Just a couple of Zebco rods and reels, a can of worms (hung from a belt loop), a small tackle pouch with the necessities: hooks, extra line, weight and a stringer (on another belt loop) to hold the fish.

We were not fishing for bass or catfish. We were after bluegill and perch. Wearing old shoes and cut-off jean shorts we waded up the creek fishing from hole to hole. When the stringer started to get full, it was time to head back to the car.

Once at the car grandpa would pull out lunch from the trunk along with a couple of folding camp stools. Lunch for grandpa was canned sardines on saltines. I never developed a taste for sardines so I had canned chicken or tuna on my crackers.

After the day was done we headed home to clean that day's catch. Grandma Alice would fry 'em up. Those were good tasting fish.

One time, I must have been around 9 or 10-years-old, grandpa was taking us to a good fishing hole on the Bourbeuse. After getting permission from the landowner, an old friend of his, we started down an old worn path. He said, "this used to be a road." I sat on the hood of the Buick to watch for fallen trees hiding in the tall grass. Sure enough we ended up at the river.

At one of grandpa's favorite fishing stops on the Dry Fork we had at least two encounters with a western cottonmouth

snake, otherwise known as a water moccasin.

Some of my conservation friends will try and explain that there are no water moccasins around here. I just remember grandpa showing me the "cotton" mouth after he killed them.

According to the Missouri Department of Conservation the cottonmouth snake's northern most territory is Crawford County. My grandfather would have disagreed. Who am I supposed to believe, the Department of Conservation or my



by **DENNIS WARDEN**

grandpa?

Also, according the Department of Conservation, few people in Missouri suffer venomous snakebites. Most bites occur when people are trying to kill or handle the snakes. Grandpa did not handle them, he just killed them.

In addition to worms we would also fish with minnows caught in a glass minnow trap. The first encounter I remember, a cottonmouth ended up inside that minnow trap. That snake was not happy, and neither was grandpa. It's hard to catch minnows when your trap has a snake inside. Grandpa used a small stick to poke inside the trap and force the snake to stick it's head out. He used a baseball bat (that he had inside his trunk) to smash the head.

Another memorable encounter with a snake grandpa and I had; we were back at the car after a successful morning of fishing when grandma, who was also fishing with us that day, came running down the creek towards us yelling "Ed, Ed." It seems there was a cotton mouth chasing grandma. Well actually it was not chasing grandma, it was after the fish on her stringer.

Since we were at the car grandpa reached into the trunk of the Buick and grabbed his 20 gauge shotgun. That is how that snake lost it's life. If grandpa had only known what the snake was after

See '66 Buick Special page 12B



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I WAS just 6 years old in the summer of 1966 when this photo was taken with my grandfather Ed Koepke at our home in Owensville by his 1954 Chevrolet Bel Air. A couple years later he traded this car for a 1966 Buick Special.

Firearm Safety



With fall firearms season approaching, now is an ideal time to spend some time with your hunting weapons at the rifle range getting reacquainted with them.

Now is also the appropriate time to stress firearm safety and range etiquette. When handling firearms always remember the

10 Commandments of Gun Safety:

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Firearms should be unloaded when not in use.
3. Don't rely on your guns "safety". Treat every gun as though it can fire at any time, regardless of pressure on the trigger.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
5. Always use correct ammunition.
6. If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.
7. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
8. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
9. Don't alter or modify your gun. Have it serviced regularly by a qualified gunsmith.
10. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using before going afield with it. Not all guns are the same.

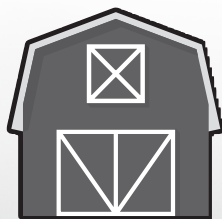
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Cost of membership is \$70 (\$50 membership fee and \$20 annual maintenance fee, due each Feb.). To join fill out the form below with check payable to Owensville Gun Club and mail to Owensville Gun Club, P.O. Box 518, Owensville, MO 65066.

I certify by signature that I am at least 18 years of age, and that I can legally own, and or possess firearms as specified in all Federal, State and Local Laws. I Further agree to abide by all club bylaws and range rules.

SIGNATURE: _____

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Take aim at ticks

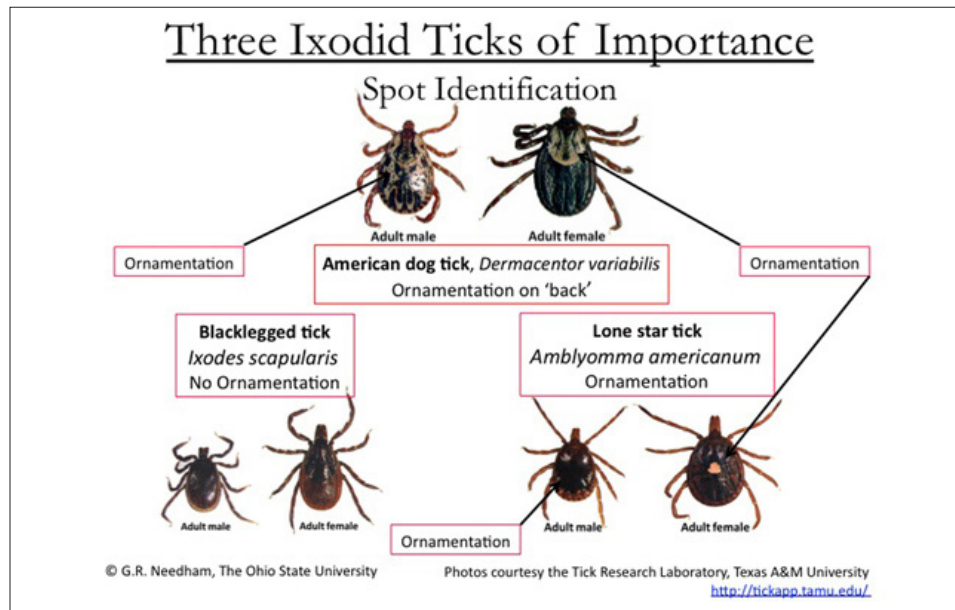
Cool autumn days and the inviting prospect of colorful foliage will lead many Missourians to head outdoors again after a long, hot summer. But, even though cooler weather has arrived, ticks are still active and can transmit diseases if precautions are not taken.

“Some ticks such as the lone star tick can be found year-round,” said Dr. Randall Williams, DHSS Director. “The lone star tick, which is the primary carrier of ehrlichiosis, tularemia, and Heartland virus and is a possible carrier of Bourbon virus, is well adapted to withstand Missouri’s winters. It can survive freezing temperatures by burying itself deep in the leaf litter and emerges when ground temperatures rise above 45 degrees Fahrenheit.”

With turkey and deer seasons ongoing, DHSS recommends that hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts keep a can of insect repellent in their backpack or tackle box.

“Remember to do tick checks,” said Williams. “Frequent tick checks increase the chances of finding a tick before it can transmit disease. If you find a tick, stop what you’re doing and remove it. And remind your companions to check themselves as well.”

DHSS recommends the following pre-



cautions to prevent tick bites:

Use an insect repellent with a minimum of 20% DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 on exposed skin and clothing. Choose a product that lasts several hours whenever you spend time outdoors. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age.

When possible, wear protective clothing (light colored, long sleeved shirts and pants)

when outdoors to keep ticks off skin.

Avoid tick infested areas including brushy areas, tall grasses, wood piles and leaf litter. When hiking, stay near the center of trails to avoid ticks.

Reduce ticks around your home by keeping lawns mowed short, shrubs and trees trimmed, and remove leaf litter, wood piles, fallen branches, trash and debris from yards.

People with pets should talk with their veterinarian about use of tick prevention treatments. You should regularly check your

pet for ticks.

Most tick-borne diseases are spread primarily through the bite of an infected tick. However, the bacteria that cause tularemia (commonly known as, “rabbit fever”) can be spread through the bites of ticks and deer flies or during contact with infected animals and their carcasses.

Preventing tick bites and prompt removal of attached ticks are the best strategies to avoid getting sick from diseases they can carry. Just one bite from a tick can lead to serious illness and the longer a tick is attached the greater the risk of infection. To remove ticks:

- Using tweezers, grasp the tick near its mouth and as close to your skin as possible.
- Pull the tick firmly, straight out, away from your skin. Do not jerk or twist the tick.
- Do not use alcohol, matches, liquid soap or petroleum jelly to remove a tick.
- Wash your hands and the bite site with soap and water after the tick is removed. Apply an antiseptic to the bite site.

If symptoms occur following a tick bite, or even after exposure to a tick habitat, be sure to tell your health care provider. For more information visit www.health.mo.gov/ticks.

More information about hunting seasons in Missouri can be found at the Department of Conservation page, <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/seasons>.



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'66 Buick Special • from page 10B

she may have dropped that stringer of fish. But then again we would have lost some good fish.

Just like Jackie Paper in “Puff the Magic Dragon,” I grew up and spent less time fishing with grandpa.

But that did not stop him from fishing. As long as grandpa had the strength he would fish out of the trunk of that '66 Buick. Instead of wade fishing up a stream he would back-up to a small lake, pond or a low-water crossing, pull out his camp stool and fish there.

If I close my eyes I can remember fishing with grandpa like it was yesterday.

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Share the Harvest Program offered in central Missouri

The Central Missouri Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI) will once again be the local coordinator for a Share the Harvest Program in Central Missouri.

This program gives deer hunters the opportunity to donate venison provided to charities serving the needy.

“Last year 19,247 pounds of venison were donated through this program that helped fill a great need and we are hoping for an increase this year,” said Walter Coleman, president of the Central Missouri Chapter of SCI. “We appreciate very much the support from deer hunters, Missouri Department of Conservation, Conservation Federation of Missouri, meat processors, charities and many other partners who make this program

possible.”

All hunters need do is have their deer processed at one of the meat processors in the program and indicate the number of pounds they wish to donate from one pound up to a whole deer. Processors processing whole deer donated through the program will have the costs paid by the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) at \$75 per deer and the Central Missouri Chapter of SCI will pay the remainder until a cap at each processing plant is reached and funds run out.

Hunters not able to donate a whole deer are encouraged to donate a portion of their deer. If successful hunters in the area donated just a few pounds of venison each it would help increase the amount

for the needy.

Processors participating in the program include R&R Processing, Auxvasse; Crane’s Meat Processing, Ashland; Heberle Packing, Co., Hermann; Hermann Wurst Haus; Horn’s Meat Processing, Fulton; Hanson Hills Campground, Kingdom City, and Tune’s Locker Plant, Centralia.

Deer hunters can take their deer to one of the processors in the program to donate to Share the Harvest or they can take their deer to another processor listed on the Missouri Department of Conservation website.

“There continues to be a big need for food to serve needy people in central Missouri,” said Mike Nolting, program coordinator for the Central Missouri Chapter of



SCI.

Those interested in helping with the program, or those with questions, should contact Mike Nolting, coordinator, via email at

michael.s.nolting@gmail.com or call 573-645-1705, or Earl Cannon, assistant coordinator, at earl.cannon.62@gmail.com or call 573-353-5030.

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OUTDOORS IN THE OZARKS

Shoot everything

It is a heck of a good time to spend a day in the woods, with a pack and a lunch, shooting everything you come across... with a camera. Mushrooms are plentiful this fall, and some of them surpass the spring morels as far as flavor and edibility. And they are very photogenic. Colorful... I reckon! There are so many different kinds... and there are few people confident in knowing the good ones from the bad ones.

Mushroom books show them all pretty well, but what is needed is a class in the early fall or late summer to show the best of edible mushrooms and teach folks how to find them. I am going to try to get my daughter to go out and collect specimens to freeze and use in such a class next year. Christy knows all the mushrooms like Audubon knew birds. She is a science and biology teacher and has worked many years as a park naturalist.

I can spend a day out in the woods with my camera now and enjoy myself more than

I did when I once carried a gun all day. In Canada a couple of weeks ago I got several extraordinary photos, one of a male ruffed grouse, just by easing along a Lake of the Woods trail. I will hunt deer some this fall, but only with the camera. What I know about Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy has ended the deer hunting for me.

News out of New York concerns that same disease in squirrels. Here is part of that news story...

"A 61-year-old who experienced a severe cognitive decline before his death may have had squirrel brains to blame.

A new report on the 2015 death in Rochester, New York, finds that he may have suffered from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), a rare brain condition you've likely heard of as "mad cow disease." The article ends with the statement..."There have been alarming findings related to CJD in humans—and a possible connection to deer."

You can read all of that story on my website, as well as the letter I received from a retiring enforcement officer who sent me information on the present day telecheck system hunters used to check deer and turkey by phone. No newspaper can print it, but we will use it in our lightning' ridge outdoor magazine's next issue. Being informed is being protected. That site is larrydablemon-toutdoors.blogspot.com

Lots of old time squirrel hunters ate squirrel brains. My grandfather was one of them. About this time of year he and I and my dad would float the river and hunt ducks and squirrels together. Back then, in my boyhood, wild ducks came into the lower Midwest much earlier than they do now. In a future column I will talk about how we used a blind on a wooden johnboat to hunt ducks along the river, and what a tremendous change duck hunting has gone through... and how much wild ducks have changed as well.

But back to the squirrels. Along the river, fox squirrels were plentiful and that's what dad and grandpa favored. Grays were good to eat too, but small. The meat on the lower back was what I favored but grandpa would crack open the skull of a fried squirrel, or one baked whole with dumplings, and eat the cooked brains.

In recent years it has been said that such a practice is unwise, a possible way to get 'encephalitis'. Now there is the knowledge that 'cjd' (what they call cwd if humans get it) may sometimes be found as prions in the



by **LARRY DABLEMONT**

brains of squirrels. We can add squirrels to the list containing cattle, elk, sheep, goats, caribou and deer, as animals found to have those prions in the brain. And hundreds of humans have died from prions in the brain as well.

It has been fairly well covered up because of the fear of a great loss of money due to declining deer tag sales. Scientists and doctors are beginning to think that the number of misdiagnosed deaths in humans may also be due to those prions, wherever they may have come from.

One study says that in examining the brain tissue of 230 Alzheimer deaths, more than 20 were found to contain those prions! That is scary. If you would like to receive copies of that study and others, I have compiled an eight-page printing of them and will send you a copy if you want to mail two stamps to me with your address.

I'll shoot lots of deer this fall... but only with that camera.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says that they are seeing Bovine Tuberculosis in deer in that state and they are worried about it spreading, and affecting cattle. They do not say if it could be any threat to humans, but who knows. You can read all about that on my blogspot as well, address given above. Or go to www.larrydablemon-toutdoors.blogspot.com

See **Dablemont**, Page 15B

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MDC offers youth deer clinic, hunt for beginners Nov. 23-25



MDC OFFERS a unique opportunity for youth who have never harvested a deer to participate in a deer clinic and mentored hunt Nov. 23-25 at Mark Twain Lake's Indian Creek Recreation Area. Youth ages 6-15 must apply by Nov. 16 to be eligible to attend the FREE program.

Dablemont • from page 14B

michigan.gov/emergingdiseases via computer.

I do not recommend going out to enjoy the woods with a camera when the gun season opens for deer, at least during the carnival atmosphere of the first weekend.

Do it now and you will be all by yourself. If you should see a sick deer anywhere, or a healthy looking one that seems tame, report it. If a conservation agent doesn't come to look at it, call me and I will. My office phone is 417 777 5227. Email is lightninridge47@gmail.com, mailing address Box 2, Bolivar, Mo. 65613



CHICKEN OF the Woods mushroom photo by Terry Morrison.

**BY ROBERT HEMMELGARN
MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION**

INDIAN CREEK, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer youth hunters an opportunity to learn about deer biology, management, and hunting tactics followed by a mentored hunt at Mark Twain Lake this November.

“Learn from experienced instructors wildlife identification, habits and habitats, regulations, safety, hunting strategies, equipment and game care, and increase your success in the field,” said MDC Outdoor Skills Specialist Rob Garver.

The event will begin with a mandatory deer clinic from 3-6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 23, at Mark Twain Lake's Indian Creek Recreation Area. Here, participants will learn about firearms safety, deer hunting tactics, deer biology and management, and sight-in deer rifles at the shooting range.

Mentored hunts will take place 5 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24, and 5 a.m. – noon on Sunday, Nov. 25.

Located just south of Monroe City, Indian

Creek Recreation Area is closed to public hunting, which provides unique opportunities for new and novice, youth, and disabled hunters. MDC partners with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Whitetails Unlimited, and other conservation partners to help introduce beginners to hunting opportunities in northeast Missouri.

This program, for youth ages 6-15 years old is FREE to participants. Mentors, equipment, lunch, and deer camp will be provided at no cost. Equipment including firearms and ammunition will also be available for those who need it.

Space is limited in this program and participants must apply for the chance to attend. Apply early at mdc-event-web.s3.amazonaws.com/Event/EventDetails/159332. Registration closes Nov. 16. All applicants will receive notification of application status, and those selected to participate will receive detailed agendas.

For more information about this educational hunting opportunity, contact Rob Garver at Rob.Garver@mdc.mo.gov (link sends e-mail), or (660) 785-2420.

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