

**HUNTING, FISHING & OUTDOORS GUIDE**

# Spring Fever

April 7, 2021 | Pages 1B-12B  
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE

GASCONADE  
COUNTY

**Republican**



# Hunters could see more young turkeys this spring

BY JOE JEREK

Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – Missouri turkey hunters can expect this spring season to be about as challenging as the past few spring seasons according to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The spring turkey hunting season starts with a youth-only weekend April 10 and 11 followed by the regular spring season April 19 through May 9.

“A great deal of what makes for a good spring turkey season depends on the hatch two years prior because it affects the number of two-year-old gobblers on the landscape,” said MDC Turkey Biologist Reina Tyl. “These young gobblers are not associated with hens as often as older, more dominant birds and are the most likely to respond to hunters’ calls.”

According to MDC, turkey production was generally poor statewide in 2019. Therefore, hunters can expect fewer two-year-old gobblers available for harvest during this year’s spring hunting season.

“However, some regions of the state, especially north Missouri and counties along the Missouri River in central and east Missouri, saw significant improvements in production during 2020,” Tyl said. “It’s possible that hunters in those areas with better production last summer might see an overall increase in the number of turkeys on the landscape this spring due to an increase in the number of young birds.”

Considering the prospects for the 2021 spring season, hunters who aim to harvest a gobbler that is two-years-old or older should be prepared to put in a bit more effort to be successful this year.

“When gobbler numbers are down, it becomes even more important to spend time scouting for flocks before the start of the season,” Tyl said. “Hunters should get out to their hunting areas as much as possible to listen for birds gobbling at daybreak.”

Tyl noted that hunters should also take the time to learn where turkeys are spending most of their time after they fly down from the roost.

“Use binoculars to spot turkeys feeding in open areas or look for signs of where turkeys have been feeding in the timber,” she said. “This will help hunters be in the right area when the hunting season gets here.”

Although the prospects for this year’s spring season aren’t encouraging, this isn’t the first-time poor turkey production has reduced turkey numbers in Missouri. After reaching a population peak in the early-to-

mid 2000s, Missouri’s turkey population experienced four years of poor production from 2007–2010, causing the population to decline. However, Tyl noted that turkey numbers rebounded following several years of improved production.

“In much of the state, we observed improved production during 2011, 2012, and 2014,” said Tyl. “As a result, turkey numbers increased, and hunters generally had better hunting seasons in the years that followed.”

She added, “We are again in a period of lower turkey abundance on a statewide scale driven by poor production in recent years. However, turkey numbers may start to rebound a bit in those regions of the state with improved production in 2020.”

#### GET MORE INFORMATION

Get detailed information on spring turkey hunting from MDC’s 2021 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](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/spring-turkey-hunting-regulations-and-information)

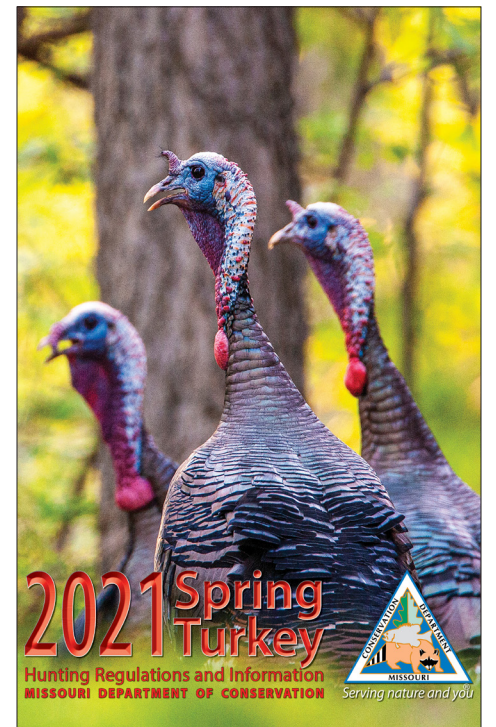
For more information about spring turkey hunting, visit MDC’s website at [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey)

Buy Missouri hunting permits from numerous vendors around the state, online at [mdc.mo.gov/buypermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/buypermits), or through the MDC free mobile app — MO Hunting — available for download through Google Play for Android devices or the App Store for Apple devices.

#### HUNTER SAFETY

Tyl stressed that hunters can easily avoid the main cause of turkey-hunting incidents — mistaking or being mistaken by another

See **Spring Turkey**, Page 3B



**GET INFORMATION** on spring turkey hunting from MDC’s 2020 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](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/spring-turkey-hunting-regulations-and-information).

# B & H

## Thanks

to all the local farmers who have given so much support to our business over the past 29 years!

- Complete Water Well Installation
- Repair On Existing Equipment
- Geo Thermal Wells & Looping
- Cobett Waterers and Water Lines Installed

**We Hope We Can Help In The Future!**

3 Service Trucks & 2 Drill Rigs Available at all times

**FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW WELLS**

**573-455-9111**  
**bhwelldrilling.com**



## Join MDC online April 21 to learn about mushroom hunting

BY JOE JEREK

Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – Warming spring weather brings nature to life with trees, shrubs, and bulbs sending out their spring flowers. It also prompts the popping up of another spring favorite for many Missourians – MORELS!

The elusive and edible morel mushroom shows itself during April and into May and is a flavorful favorite for many mushroom lovers. Morels aren't the only wild edible mushrooms in Missouri though. Chanterelles can be found growing from May through September. Chicken of the Woods is a seasonal favorite from May into November. Puffballs appear from July into October. Shaggy Manes pop in September and October. Hen of the Woods show themselves during September into November and Oyster mushrooms grow year-round.

Join MDC for a "Wild Webcast on Mushroom Hunting" Wednesday, April 21, from



noon to 1 p.m. to learn about varieties of edible mushrooms found growing wild in Missouri, where to find them, and how to prepare them. Also get important information on how to identify and avoid the many poisonous kinds of Missouri mushrooms – including the deadly False Morel.

MDC scientist and mushroom expert Malissa Briggler will share her expertise and insights on mushroom hunting and how to find and identify both edible and poisonous mushrooms. She will also offer cooking tips and answer participant questions.

Register in advance for the free, live "Wild Webcast on Mushroom Hunting" online at [mdc.webex.com/mdc/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6b13117ae8687c1d7ee649d81420cc60](http://mdc.webex.com/mdc/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6b13117ae8687c1d7ee649d81420cc60). Participants will be emailed a registration confirmation and instructions for joining the live webcast on April 21 at noon to 1 p.m.

Learn more about the many kinds of mushrooms in Missouri through the MDC online Field Guide at [nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/search](http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/search).

Get more information through MDC's free Guide to Missouri's Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms, which was written by Briggler. View and download it at [nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/activities/mushroom-hunting/guide-missouri%E2%80%99s-edible-and-poisonous-mushrooms](http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/activities/mushroom-hunting/guide-missouri%E2%80%99s-edible-and-poisonous-mushrooms).

Find mushroom recipes and more with MDC online at [nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/recipes/all?field\\_ingredient\\_tid=5842](http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/recipes/all?field_ingredient_tid=5842).

### Spring Turkey

from page 2B

hunter for wild game.

"Each year, most turkey hunting incidents typically involve hunters who fail to identify their targets," said Tyl. "Unless you are certain that what you're looking at is a wild turkey, remember that any movement you see or any sounds you hear while you're hunting could be another hunter."

She also advised hunters to wear some hunter-orange clothing when moving through the woods or fields, particularly when hunting public land.

"Bringing along an orange hat or vest is an easy way to stay safe", said Tyl. "Wear one when you're moving and put it away when you sit down to work a bird."

Tyl also noted that many turkey hunting incidents involve members of the same hunting party. "If you're hunting with someone else and you split up, be certain you know where your hunting partner will be at all times," she advised.

**Order Now For Summer**

## Troutt & Sons, Inc.

*Serving Your Outdoor Recreational Needs for 49 Years*

YOUR CHOICE

**\$15,400**



**New 2021 Blazer 1752 Custom Boat**, .080 Gauge, rear cross seat, (2) 18" livewells, Standard 40" front deck, 2 Wyse seats, standard console. New 2021 Mercury Jet 40, remote, stainless steel impeller, fuel tank and battery. New 2021 Rivercraft 4" Tube Trailer, powder coated, LED lights, spare tire. Added options are available at additional costs.



**New 2021 Blazer 1752 Custom Boat**, .080 Gauge, rear cross seat, standard 40" deck, 2 Wyse seats, 2021 Mercury Jet 40 Fourstroke with big tiller, stainless steel impeller, fuel tank and battery and 2021 Rivercraft 4" Tube Trailer with spare, LED Lights, powder coat. Added options are available at additional costs.

**Safes In Stock**



**Fiberglass Gig Poles & Gigs In Stock**



- Outboard Jet Drive Specialists
- Open Boat Storage Available
- Boat Fabrication & Welding Work

**ENGEL Coolers**

St. James MO: Exit 195 – Right on B Hwy – Right on CR 1000 • 18050 CR 1000  
OPEN: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Saturday 8am-Noon

**800-843-9677**

**www.trouttandsons.com**



## OUTDOORS IN THE OZARKS

# Night crawlers

One of the ways I made money as a boy on the Big Piney was digging and selling night crawlers. Those were earthworms that averaged from 8 to 12 inches long as big around as a pencil. I got three cents apiece for them, but provided them free to the clients I took on float trips. With a good potato fork in specific spots in the bottoms, you could dig a hundred or so in about 30 minutes.

Of course we used minnows and crawdads and hellgrammites too, but a night crawler was the best bait a kid could get if he was after rock bass, the Ozark river species we referred to as goggle-eye.

Old-timers in the pool hall often said you could start catching goggle-eye when oak leaves were “the size of a squirrels ear”. My grandpa was a trotliner and he always said when the oak leaves were the size of a squir-

rels ear the flathead were really active. Of course you could catch all species before then but that’s about the time, in early April, that my dad and I would float the river before the

spawn, using small spinner baits we called shimmy flies. Those were the hottest lures there were in early spring when the water was clearer than normal. Shimmy-flies were made by a fellow named Varney from over around

Salem Missouri. They were small spinner baits with brown- or black-haired jigs wrapped around a yellow and black core that looked a lot like a bee’s body. If you hopped ‘em over the substrate of the right places in the river you could catch big goggle-eyes,

from eight to ten inches long, 20 or 30 a day.

I had a cousin by the name of Dwain McNew, who was a year older than me. His dad had a farm on the river and when I was 13 or 14 he and I roamed all over the bottoms there, after goggle-eyes and black perch mostly. Actually, black perch, were known to most local folks as green sunfish. Back then they often got just as big as a goggle-eye. One of my granddad’s wooden johnboats was always on the river down at the Sweet ‘tater eddy and we’d paddle it upstream past the mill eddy nearly to the paw-paw bottoms and then back down river through the Ginseng hole to the McKinney eddy. We fished that mile or so of river with old fiberglass rods, casting reels made by Pflueger and Shakespeare and South Bend, all with braided line and a two-foot monofilament leader. Most fishermen called that clear leader line ‘cat-gut’. My dad protected his shimmy flies, and well he should have. Dwain and I would have left a lot of them on submerged logs and snaggedy rocks in water too deep to get them loose. We did fish some old Lazy Ikes and Flatfish lures, but

when we wanted to bring in a big stringer, we took the potato fork along and dug a coffee-can-full of big fat night crawlers. Then we looked for root wads and log-jams, where goggle-eye and largemouth hung out. Smallmouth hid beneath and around big boulders, and they liked the night crawlers too. But there weren’t as many bass as there were black perch and goggle-eye. They were really plentiful. Then there was the nemesis of the night crawler fisherman pesky little long-eared sunfish we called punkinseeds. They were thick as tadpoles in a spring branch, and could take a night crawler off a hook without getting caught. When you did hook those tiny-mouthed pests, there were never any big enough to eat.

The Piney had so much water back then, and deep holes where big rocks protected all kinds of river life. Today I can show you where they were, but most are partly or completely covered by sand, silt and gravel. The deeper waters where smallmouth and goggle-eye and flathead are found are still

See **Dablemont**, Page 5B



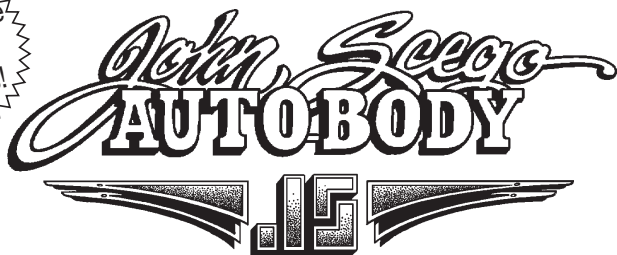
by **LARRY DABLEMONT**

If you miss this sign...



Look for ours!

Serving the area for 30 years!



302 North First Street, Owensville • 573-437-2240

## OWENSVILLE GUN CLUB

1515 Highway 28 W • PO Box 518 • Owensville, MO 65066

### 2021 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 11

Sunday, June 6

Sunday, July 11

Sunday, Aug. 1

Sunday, Sept. 12

Sunday, Oct. 3

**Shotgun Triathlon: 9AM-2PM**

Sunday, May 2

Sunday, Oct. 31

**50 Bird/Trap Derby: 6PM**

Field Captain: Glenn Oder 573-764-3220

Held every Monday, April 5

thru Oct. 4, except May 31

& Sept. 6

**NRA HP Rifle Match:**

Field Captain: Mark Ehlert 573-569-0614 or 573-764-4653

Sign up 8AM Start 9AM; 8

Sunday, June 20

Sunday, July 18

**CMP vintage Rifle, M1 Garand**

**& Carbine: 9AM-3:30PM** Field Captain,  
Jim Miller 636-583-8613:

Sunday, April 18\*

Sunday, May 16\*

Sunday, June 27\*

Sunday, Aug. 15\*

Sunday, Sept. 19\*

Sunday, Oct. 3\*

**\*M1 for Vets Presentation at 08:00 AM;**

Field Captain: John Colombo 314-604-3005

**Board Meetings: Thursdays, April 8, June 24, Sept. 16 & Nov. 11**

President: Glenn Oder 573-764-3220

Vice Pres.: Jim Lairmore 573-619-5696

Secretary/Treas: Linda Thiedke

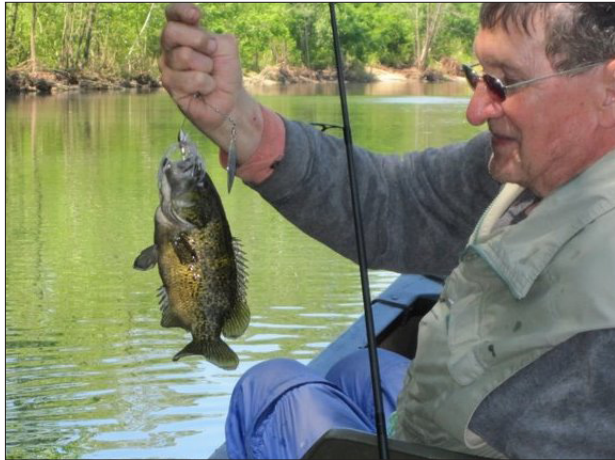
**CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR UPDATES: [www.OwensvilleGunClub.org](http://www.OwensvilleGunClub.org)**

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



## Dablemont from page 4B

there on lower portions of the river, but more rare today than I ever would have believed, in that day of plenty. If you didn't live in that time, you would never believe that most Ozark creeks and rivers have about 25 to 30 percent less water today. But there isn't 25 to 30 percent less goggle-eye today in the streams of the Ozarks. It is more like 60 percent less. I wonder if they can ever come back, if maybe our conservation folks would just try a rock bass catch and smallmouth catch and release program for about 3 years. I try to convince all the folks I come across who are fishing any Ozark streams in Missouri and Arkansas to release ALL smallmouth and rock bass, but there are still so many local folks that you just can't reach with that message. And I understand them. While I



seldom eat fish anymore I recall how happy dad and I were to take home a stringer of fish from the Piney for supper. BUT, back then there were about 5 percent as many fishermen fishing the river and that's what makes the difference.

I urge readers to look at my website some time, [www.larrydablemont.com](http://www.larrydablemont.com) and also check my blogspot from time to time for photos and information I can't put in today's newspapers. That computer site is [larrydablemontoutdoors.blogspot.com](http://larrydablemontoutdoors.blogspot.com)

Contact me by writing Box 22, Bolivar, Mo 65613 or emailing [lightninridge47@gmail.com](mailto:lightninridge47@gmail.com).

## Missourians asked to send ticks for research

BY JOE JEREK

Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – Most people who have ventured through Missouri woods, fields, yards, and other outdoor environments have encountered ticks. These small, creepy crawlers climb on and cling to clothes and skin in search of a blood meal. Some tick species and the bacterial pathogens they carry can also cause illnesses in people.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and A.T. Still University in Kirksville are asking people to save ticks they encounter and mail them to the University. The ticks will be used for a new scientific research study to help better understand the statewide distribution of tick species and the human pathogens they carry.

Missouri is home to three common species of ticks that bite humans: lone star tick, American dog tick, and deer tick. Adult ticks are about a quarter-inch long and grow to nearly double that when engorged with blood. Learn more about ticks from the MDC online Field Guide at [nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/ticks](http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/ticks).

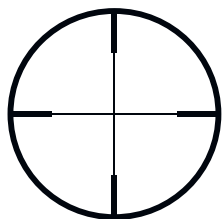
MDC and A.T. Still University are partnering on a two-year research study

to determine the presence of tick species throughout Missouri as well as the pathogens they may harbor. The study will begin in April and conclude in September 2022. During that time, MDC and the University are asking Missourians mail ticks to A.T. Still University to be identified by species and life stage and tested for four species of bacterial pathogens.

“We need the help of many Missourians around the state,” said MDC Ecological Health Unit Science Supervisor Matt Combes. To help with the research efforts, people are asked to place each live tick in a plastic zip-top bag with a piece of damp paper towel or moist cotton ball, then fold the bag and place it inside another plastic zip-top bag with a completed sample-submission form. The sample-submission form is available for printing from the University website at [www.atstu.edu/missouri-ticks-and-tick-borne-pathogen-surveillance-research](http://www.atstu.edu/missouri-ticks-and-tick-borne-pathogen-surveillance-research).

People are then asked to place the bag and completed sample-submission form in an envelope and mail it to: A.T. Still University, ATTENTION: Deb Hudman -- Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology, 800 W. Jefferson St., Kirksville MO 63501.

### Hunting for a Great Trailer to haul your gear?



Look no further.

# JT TRAILERS

Sales, Service and Parts

2073 South Highway 19 • Swiss, MO • 573-486-0212  
[www.JT-Trailers.com](http://www.JT-Trailers.com) | [@JandTTrailers](https://www.facebook.com/JandTTrailers)

# GEAR UP



Your most important piece of gear is the one that gets you there!



Go Further

Call 573-486-3113 for your No-Obligation Price Quote from our Internet Department.

## HERMANN FORD



614 Market Street • Hermann, MO 65041  
 573-486-3113 • [www.HermannFord.com](http://www.HermannFord.com)



## Support hummingbirds during spring migration

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

JEFFERSON CITY – Clean out those feeders and fill them with nectar – hummingbirds will soon arrive in Missouri. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages the public to learn more about these tiny fliers during their spring

migration.

“It’s time to prepare those feeders! Hummingbirds will start to make appearances in Missouri in mid-April,” said MDC State Ornithologist Sarah Kendrick. “Some have already been reported in Arkansas.”

Ruby-throated hummingbirds spend the winter in Mexico and Central America and begin their spring migration north

as early as March. To track their migration and report hummingbird sightings, Kendrick recommends visiting Journey North at <https://maps.journeynorth.org/map/?map=hummingbird-ruby-throated-first&year=2021>. This real-time site shows where the birds have been seen this year as they make their way back to the U.S. and Canada.

Kendrick explained hummingbirds can lose up to half their bodyweight during their journey.

“During migration, many fly non-stop over the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan Peninsula to the Gulf Coast of the U.S. – and then they do it again in the fall,” she said. “That’s why so many use feeders in the spring – they’ve just arrived, and they’re hungry!”

The diet of a hummingbird consists of flower nectar, tree sap, and even small insects. Those who would like to put out feeders are urged to steer clear of adding red dye to sugar water.

“Adding red dye to hummingbird nectar is completely unnecessary – the birds are still attracted to the red of the feeder and the dye could be harmful to the birds,” Kendrick stressed. “Hummingbirds drink the sugar water without the coloring. May as well save yourself a step and err on the side of caution.”

To make your own sugar water, dissolve one part sugar with four parts boiling water. Cool the mixture before filling the feeder and replace sugar water before it gets cloudy. In hot weather, feeders should be emptied and

cleaned twice per week with hot water and a weak vinegar solution. In cooler weather, feeders can be cleaned once per week.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is Missouri’s smallest nesting bird and the only hummingbird that nests in the Eastern United States. Despite their petite size, they make a big impact in the ecosystem.

“Hummingbirds are important pollinators for many plants that require a long-billed pollinator and they also eat numerous insects,” Kendrick noted. “They bring a lot of joy to many people who feed and watch them, and draw people in to learn more about other birds and nature.”

In addition to putting out feeders, growing native plants is another great way to help hummingbirds and other migratory birds.

“Native plants, shrubs, and trees attract the most native insects, which are a vital food source for breeding birds and their nestlings. Great native options for hummingbirds include cardinal flower, jewelweed, and trumpet creeper.”

To learn more about native plants for your landscape and to find retailers, visit [grownative.org](http://grownative.org).

**DID YOU KNOW:** Ruby-throated hummingbirds average 55-wing strokes per second! These speedy birds often hover, but can also fly upside down and backwards. Males will show off their skills by flying back and forth in a U-shape to attract a female. Learn more about this species by visiting MDC’s online Field Guide at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZZL>.



**MILWAUKEE: 2825-20ST M18 FUEL STRAIGHT SHAFT STRING TRIMMER**  
Provides up to 1-hour of run-time per charge. Variable speed trigger with high and low speed settings.

**MILWAUKEE 2727-20 M18 FUEL 16 IN. CHAINSAW**  
With the power and speed to cut faster than a 40cc gas chainsaw, the M18 FUEL 16 in. Chainsaw

**NOW IN STOCK: HERCULES SAFETY GLASSES**

### Trailers for any job



**Utility Trailers: 12' - 14' - 16'**  
Perfect for hauling ATVs, UTVs and Zero Turn Mowers

Doolittle Trailer Authorized Dealer

**THE LIGHT BULB EXPRESS**

Lighting & Electrical Supplies

2482 Hwy. 50 • Rosebud, MO 63091

573-764-3600 or 314-604-2094



**A FEMALE** ruby-throated hummingbird refuels at a feeder. Missourians are encouraged to learn about these small-but-mighty fliers during their spring migration.

PHOTO BY MDC STAFF, COURTESY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION.





**LEARN ABOUT** the neotropical migrant birds who'll be flying through Missouri this spring, like this prothonotary warbler. MDC is holding a free Virtual Spring Warbler Identification program Tuesday, April 13 from 6:30-8 p.m.

PHOTO BY MDC STAFF, COURTESY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION.

## Discover who's passing through at MDC's virtual Spring Warbler ID program April 13

BY DAN ZARLENGA  
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

ST. LOUIS —Spring is finally here, and none could be happier than neotropical birds. It's the time of year when they fly thousands of miles north to reach they're breeding grounds, so they can raise and rear their young.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to introduce you to these avian visitors as they travel through the Show-Me-State this spring. Join MDC naturalists for a Virtual Spring Warbler Identification program Tuesday, April 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. This is a free online program open to all ages.

Bird lovers will learn about both the common and rare warblers that call Missouri home, even if only for migration. MDC naturalists will delve into identification of birds by both sight and sound. The program will also offer ideas on where to go to see these beautiful birds.

Some of the birds covered will include the northern parula, black and white warbler, yellow-throated warbler, prothonotary warbler, cerulean warbler, Louisiana waterthrush and others. In addition to identification, participants will discover facts about these birds' migratory patterns and timing, and where they overwinter. The program will also cover which species breed in Missouri, and which ones just move through.

The Virtual Spring Warbler Identification is a free program; however, advanced online registration is required at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zzo>. Attendees will receive an invite email with the link approximately 24 hours prior to the event. Please check junk mail/spam folders if you do not receive the link.

This ID program will be followed by a limited in-person warbler hike on Wednesday, April 28, for which separate registration is required.



JOHN DEERE



SYDENSTRICKER  
NOBBE



**ADDITIONAL**  
*Savings*

ON ALL 1-5 SERIES

**COMPACT  
TRACTORS**

OFFER ENDS 4/30/21. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

**26**

**LOCATIONS TO  
SERVE YOU**

**COMPACT TRACTOR  
PACKAGE**

**HEADQUARTERS**

**SNPartners.com**



# MDC to offer five permits for 2021 elk-hunting season

BY JOE JEREK

Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Conservation Commission approved Missouri’s second annual elk-hunting season at its March 26 meeting. The Commission approved the Missouri Department of Conservation’s (MDC) recommendation of issuing five permits for hunting bull elk for the 2021 season. At least one permit will be for qualifying area landowners with the remainder for the general public.

Missouri’s second elk season comes after years of restoration efforts of the native species by MDC, numerous partners including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and many supporters including local communities and landowners.

During last year’s inaugural elk season for Missouri, all five hunters that were drawn harvested an elk. Learn more about their hunts, including tips for a successful hunt, from the April issue of the Missouri Conservationist article, “Talking and Stalking: Inaugural class of elk hunters share lessons learned,” online at [mdc.mo.gov/magazines](http://mdc.mo.gov/magazines).

MDC has designated a nine-day archery portion running Oct. 16-24 and a nine-day firearms portion running Dec. 11-19. The five permits will be for bull elk and will be valid for both portions. All permits will be assigned through a random drawing. Only Missouri residents are eligible to apply for and purchase elk-hunting permits in Missouri.

“The timing of the season was designed to come after the peak of elk breeding during late September and early October and to avoid, as much as possible, the elk season coinciding with portions of the firearms deer season,” explained MDC Elk and Deer Biologist Aaron Hildreth.

MDC will require a \$10 application fee for all applicants. Those selected for each of the five permits must pay a \$50 permit fee. All permits are nontransferable.

MDC will limit the random drawing to one application per-person, per-year with a 10-year “sit-out” period for those drawn before they may apply again.

Beginning this year, at least 10 percent (with a minimum of one) of the elk-hunting permits will be awarded to approved landowners with 20 or more contiguous acres in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties. This year there will be one permit set aside for qualifying landowners.

All elk-hunting permits, including those allocated to approved 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



**JOE BENTHALL** of Mount Vernon was the first of five Missouri hunters to harvest an elk in Missouri. He is shown with his 5x5 bull elk harvested on National Park Service property near Log Yard in Shannon County. MDC will issue five permits for hunting bull elk for the 2021 season.

PHOTO BY MDC STAFF, COURTESY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION.

will be the same as for deer hunting,” Hildreth said. “The permits will allow for the harvest of one bull elk with at least one antler being six inches or greater in length. Successful hunters must Telecheck their harvested elk by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest, like for deer.”

## APPLY AND CHECK ONLINE

To apply for an elk permit, applicants must be Missouri residents at least 11 years of age by the first day of the hunt. Those selected to receive a permit must have their hunter-education certification or be exempt by age (born before Jan. 1, 1967) before they may purchase the permit. All applications must be completed online or at a local vendor.

Apply for the random elk-permit 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.

To be considered for the elk-hunting permits allocated to approved landowners, qualifying landowners that have at least 20 acres in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties are required to submit their property information through MDC’s Landowner Permit Application at [mdc.mo.gov/landownerpermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/landownerpermits) before applying for an elk-hunting permit.

Results of the random elk-permit drawing will be available by July 1. Applicants can check to see if they have been selected for an elk-hunting permit at [mdc.mo.gov/buypermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/buypermits) by logging into “Manage Your Account” and selecting “View My Special Hunt History.”

For more information on elk hunting in Missouri, visit [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/elk](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/elk).

## MDC elk restoration efforts

Elk are a native species in Missouri that disappeared from the state due to unregulated hunting during the late 1800s. With the help of numerous partners and supporters, including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, MDC reintroduced about 100 elk to a remote area of the Missouri Ozarks in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Most were cow

elk with some calves and immature bulls.

Their numbers have grown to more than 200 with an annual herd growth rate of over 10 percent and a herd ratio of more than one bull elk for every four cow elk – three key biological benchmarks that needed to be met prior to the establishment of an elk-hunting season in Missouri. Their range has

expanded in recent years to cover portions of Carter, Reynolds, and Shannon counties. The elk restoration zone consists of nearly 80 percent public land interspersed with tracts of private property. Learn more about elk restoration in Missouri at [short.mdc.mo.gov/ZYJ](http://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZYJ).



## MDC announces first black-bear season

BY JOE JEREK

Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) announces the state’s first black-bear hunting season is slated for this coming fall, Oct. 18–27.

The Missouri Conservation Commission gave final approval of MDC’s season framework, permit and harvest quotas, and other related regulations for hunting black bears in Missouri at its March 26 open meeting. The approved regulations limit bear hunting to Missouri residents and restrict bear hunting to designated areas of southern Missouri. Missouri residents will be able to apply during May for the Oct. 18-27 hunt with permit selection by July 1 through a random drawing of applicants.

Missouri’s estimated 800 (600 – 1000) black bears are found south of the Missouri River, and primarily south of Interstate 44. 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.

Permit and harvest quotas for the upcoming Oct. 18-27 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.

The limited hunting season will be restricted to Missouri residents and will begin each year on the third Monday in October

and run for 10 days or until BMZ-specific quotas are reached. Once the specific harvest quotas are filled for each BMZ, the season for that BMZ will be closed.

“Being able to add this iconic species to the long list of hunting opportunities for Missourians is a testament to the decades of bear research and management by MDC staff,” said MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley. “A limited annual hunting season will help manage the growing number of black bears in the state.”

MDC proposed a limited and highly regulated black-bear hunting season following several years of public comment, including informational open houses in 2019 and a public-input process in the spring and fall of 2020.

“A bear-hunting season in our state will provide opportunities for Missourians to participate in the sustainable harvest of this valuable wildlife species,” said MDC Bear Biologist Laura Conlee. “As our black bear population continues to grow, a highly regulated hunting season will be an essential part of population management into the future. The timing and length of the season, allowed hunting methods, and a limited permit allocation coupled with a limited harvest quota will ensure a sustainable harvest of our growing bear population.”

Hunting hours will be a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. 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.

See **Bear**, Page 11B



### “Customized Inboard Jets”



## Our boats are custom made to fit your requirements.

Marine carpet and accessories, Aluminum Welding & Fabrication

#### STANDARD EQUIPMENT

- 350 Vortec GM Engine
- Front and Rear Decks
- Carpet
- Full Instrumentation
- Auto Bilge Pump
- Bilge Blower • Paint
- Single Axle Trailer • Cooler / Live Well
- Running Lights • Fire Extinguisher/Paddle
- 12/24 volt Trolling Motor System • American Turbine SD 309
- Pump Clean Out on Outside of Boat



**Got a Inboard Jet Boat? Need Service Work? WE CAN HELP!**

We can work on all Inboard Jet Boats, any make, any model. We can perform warranty work on the engines and jet drives upon approval from the manufacturer. Call us for all of your Inboard Jet Boat needs.

Watch for our 18th Annual **POWER RUN**

Saturday, June 19, 2021  
watch our Facebook page for updates

All Profits go to the St. Louis Children's Hospital



Like us on Facebook to see pictures and stay up to date on the latest news and specials!

I-44 Exit UU (North Side of Hwy) 2 Miles East of Cuba

**573-885-0052**

[www.gatorjetboats.com](http://www.gatorjetboats.com)

Check out our web site for boats in stock!

**Jet Pump Parts & Repair Available**

## Get Your ATV or UTV ready for HUNTING SEASON

Servicing All Makes & Models of:

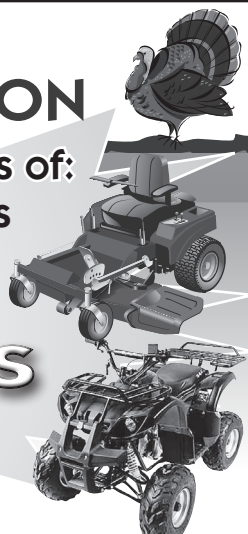
- ATVs/UTVs • Motorcycles
- Side-by-Sides
- Lawn Mowers

### POWERSPORTS Service & Repair

Kirk Terrill ~ 30+ Years Experience

3608 Hwy. EE • Owensville • 573.789.6593

1 Mile south of Owensville on Hwy. EE at Triple L Towing





## DRIFTWOOD OUTDOORS

# Don't overlook the excitement of white bass

White bass are running up creeks right now. This means you need to drop what you're doing, find a buddy with a boat small enough to navigate shallow water, and head to your favorite feeder creek at dusk. All you need is a good light action rod, a few jigs and a strong arm.

White bass are migratory. They spend

most of their life in open-water chasing shad. Each spring, they run up tributaries to spawn. At the peak of this event, the best creeks can become so crowded with white bass you expect to catch one on every cast.

The average size of a white bass is about 12-inches long and weighs around a pound. Big ones can be closer to three pounds. The

world record, which is tied out of Virginia and Louisiana, is 6 pounds 13 ounces. Most states have liberal limits on white bass. In Missouri, the daily limit is 15. Only four of those may be longer than 18 inches.

White bass are found across much of North America. They can be caught in Canada and all the way down to the Rio Grande River. Yet, right here in the Midwest, we have what I suspect is the best white bass fishing available. With so many reservoirs that have many feeder creeks and larger tributaries, we have plenty of places to target this tough fighting, tasty table fare species of native fish.

Nathan "Shags" McLeod and I recently joined our good friend and outfitter, Kris Nelson for a white bass adventure on Stockton Lake in southwest Missouri. I've written about Nelson a number of times and the incredible crappie trips we have taken with him. This white bass run helped shine some light on his expert prowess as an angler.

"I've been coming up this creek to catch white bass for as long as I could walk," Nelson said. "It's over a mile to get in here by foot. That's a long way to walk out when you're eight carrying a 20 to 30 pound stringer of fish."

On this trip we were using a jet boat to navigate water that at times was less than 6-inches deep. At one point, we all had to get out of the boat to pull it over a gravel bar. The extra effort was worth it. While a few dozen boats were stacked up at the mouth of the creek, we had the backwater all to

ourselves. Nelson learned about the place as a boy, and today uses that knowledge to put clients on fish like you wouldn't believe.

We showed up a couple of hours before sunset. During that time, we didn't catch a single fish. Even with Shags fishing like

it was the last time he'll ever go. The man has a motor for fishing like few others I have ever met. Nelson assured us not to worry, the bite would turn on right at dusk. He knew what he was talking about. After hundreds of fruitless casts, I caught the first fish of the night. Then I caught three more on three casts. Before long,

the bottom of our boat was filled with fish. Within an hour, we'd caught what we came for and peeled out to head back to the lodge.

I've heard people say they don't like to eat white bass. I don't know where they went wrong, but when cleaned properly, I find white bass to taste as good as any panfish. Well, maybe not yellow perch, but they're right up there with crappie and bluegill, in my book. There is some red meat, like you find on walleyes. Trim that off for a less fishy taste. I've been a loyal fan of Shore Lunch Original Recipe fish batter for as long as I can remember. I coat my fish in it, heat peanut oil to 375 degrees and fry my filets for seven minutes. I like mine a little crispy.

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.



by **BRANDON BUTLER**

## Hunter's Special

**DON'T FORGET ALL YOUR GEAR!**





**MUD GEAR**

6ply ATV Tires

Starting at

**\$75<sup>00</sup>**



**AVENGER**

HEAVY DUTY 8 PLY ALL TERRAIN RADIAL AIRLOC

**AirLoc Avenger**

Heavy Duty 8 Ply All Terrain Radials

Starting at

**\$91<sup>00</sup>**

Established 1955

**Jost** Co. Inc.

**Tire**

Owensville, MO

116 East Peters Avenue,  
Owensville, MO 65066

573.437.TIRE (8473)

573.437.3123

**KELLY** TIRES

**TTAN**

COOPERTIRES



**PIC: WHITE** bass, which are great to eat, are easy to limit out on when you find them up the creeks in the spring.





**MDC ANNOUNCES** the state's first black-bear hunting season is slated for this coming fall, Oct. 18–27. It will be limited to Missouri residents and restrict bear hunting to designated areas of southern Missouri.

PHOTO BY MDC STAFF, COURTESY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION.

## Bear from page 9B

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. Bear hunters must wear hunter orange, make reasonable efforts to retrieve shot bears, and may not leave or abandon commonly edible portions.

All harvested bears must be telechecked by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest. Harvested bears must remain intact as a field-dressed carcass or quartered until the bear has been telechecked.

MDC will also require the submission of a tooth from each harvested bear within 10 days of harvest. This will help MDC staff with black bear research and management.

Hunters who are issued permits must call MDC each day before they intend to hunt to determine if the BMZ-specific quota has been reached. If harvest quotas are not reached, the season will close at the end of the 10 designated hunting days.

### PERMIT PROCESS

MDC will offer an online bear-hunting permit-application period May 1-31 with a fee of \$10 per applicant. Individuals must be Missouri residents and will be allowed to apply to hunt in one of the three designated BMZs. Apply 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.

Permit selection will be determined by July 1 through a random drawing of all eligible applicants. There will be no "sit-out" period for those selected to receive permits. Applicants can check to see if they have been selected for a permit at [mdc.mo.gov/buypermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/buypermits) by logging into "Manage Your Account" and selecting "View My Special Hunt History."

Those selected will then be eligible to buy a permit at a cost of \$25. Selected hunters must be 11 years of age or older and have completed hunter education (or be exempt) by the time of the hunt to purchase a permit.

MDC is not issuing landowner-specific black bear hunting permits, however, a minimum of 10 percent of zone-specific resident black bear permits will be allocated to qualifying landowners. Zone-specific permits can be used anywhere in the specified zone on public or private property (with landowner permission). To qualify, landowners must have at least 20 contiguous acres within the BMZ for which they are applying.

Qualifying landowners must first submit their property information through MDC's Landowner Permit Application at [mdc.mo.gov/landownerpermits](http://mdc.mo.gov/landownerpermits) before completing a black bear permit application.

Learn more about bear hunting in Missouri at [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/bear](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/bear).

FIND THE BEST TRUCK ACCESSORIES AT ACCESSORIES UNLIMITED



**TRUXEDO**  
TRUCK BED COVERS  
**PRO X15**  
PREMIUM ROLL-UP TRUCK BED COVER

ALL-NEW,  
PREMIUM ROLL-  
UP COVER WITH  
AN XTRA-LOW  
PROFILE

## RetraxPRO XR with Integrated Trax Rail System



The XR Series combines the PRO MX with the integrated Trax Rail System that allows for unique and **personal customization** above your tonneau cover. The Retrax-PRO XR, our premium Aluminum Series cover, combines industrial strength aluminum construction with an incredibly resilient matte finish.

The XR Series optimizes cargo capacity with the cover open or closed, providing the ultimate versatility in cargo management. The Trax Rail System will work with most T-slot accessories from Yakima, Thule, Rhino Rack and many more offering endless possibilities.

Pairing the Trax Rail System with accessories offers **double the cargo capacity**. This unique technology frees up the hitch with the ability to **mount bikes, coolers, outdoor gear and more** on top of the bed cover by combining the Trax Rail System with the t-slot accessories.



## WeatherTech FloorLiner™ DigitalFit®

1st, 2nd, 3rd Row & Cargo Liners  
custom-fit for your vehicle to  
provide absolute interior protection!

Available in:

Made in the USA



**REFLEX**  
Sprayed On  
**TRUCK LINERS**

Enhances & Protects New - Used Trucks  
OEM Paint Code Color Match Available  
Preferred Over Drop-In Plastic Liners

### COUPON

**\$25 OFF**

- Sprayed On Truck Liners
- Truxedo X15 Tonneau Cover or
- RetraxPro XR Matt Alum. Bed Cover

Good thru April 30, 2021 • Limit 1 coupon. Cannot be combined with any other sale or discount.

**Accessories**  
UNLIMITED

Complete Line Of Quality Accessories

[www.EAccessoriesUnlimited.com](http://www.EAccessoriesUnlimited.com)

- Running Boards
- Tool Boxes
- Bug Shields
- Nerf Bars
- Bed Liners
- Bed Covers
- Professional Installation
- Performance Products
- Mud Flaps • Floor Mats
- Sprayed On Truck Liners
- Brake Controllers • Hitches
- Lift Kits & Much More...



5475 Hwy 100 East Washington, Mo.

(636)390-9300





## New state record yellow perch caught

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

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) congratulates Sharon Christopher of Cedar Hill for catching a new state record yellow perch. Christopher was fishing at Bull Shoals Lake March 7 when she caught the 2-pound, 7-ounce fish.

“I got lucky because I am not an avid fisherman,” laughed Christopher. “My husband and I were out crappie fishing with some friends of ours when I reeled in this big fish. I wasn’t quite sure what it was, but luckily our friends immediately recognized it as a yellow perch. The funny thing is, they were in a separate boat pretty far away from us and could tell how big it was.”

Later that evening, Christopher said her husband was cleaning the crappie they caught and saved the perch for last.

“My friend stopped him just in time and said, ‘Don’t touch that fish!’,” she recalled. “That perch was about to go under the knife, but my friend just said, ‘I think she’s got something.’ And sure enough we put the fish on our scale and saw that it beat the current record.”

After getting in touch with MDC staff, the perch was weighed on a certified scale at MDC’s Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery in Branson. It’s the first state-record of 2021.

“I’m super excited,” Christopher said. “Again, I got really lucky. I’m a nurse and work a lot of long hours. I use fishing as a way to relax and enjoy myself, so when I caught this, I was showing everyone I work with the pictures!”

The previous record was a 2-pound,

3-ounce fish caught from Bull Shoals Lake in Jan. 2020.

Christopher said the fish is going to be mounted.

“The funny thing is I do not eat fish! My

neighbor’s son is a taxidermist and he is mounting the fish for us,” she said.

Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include:

trotlines, throwlines, limblines, banklines, juglines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

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



**DK  
10**  
45-55 HP

**FREE  
LOADER\***



**0%  
FINANCING\***

**UP TO  
72**

**MONTHS**



**UP TO  
\$5000**

**CASH BACK\* (T-L-B)  
ON SELECT MODELS**

**Purchase a CK2510, NX or DK10 (excluding DK10SE) model Kioti tractor and receive a FREE Loader\***



**SHARON CHRISTOPHER** of Cedar Hill is the first record-holder of 2021 after catching a 2-pound, 7-ounce yellow perch March 7 from Bull Shoals Lake.

**PHOTO BY MDC STAFF, COURTESY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION.**

241 Hwy. 50  
Rosebud, MO 63091  
573-764-3393

**ROSEBUD TRACTOR**

visit us at: [www.RosebudTractor.com](http://www.RosebudTractor.com)

1325 Main Street  
Linn, MO 65051  
573-897-2249

**KIOTI.com**

\*Offer available February 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021. Rebates and/or financing based on the purchase of eligible equipment defined in promotional program. Pricing and rebates in US dollars. Additional fees including, but not limited to, taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges may apply. Financing must be through DLL using one of the available financing options. Financing is subject to credit approval. Customers must take delivery prior to the end of the program period. Some customers will not qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer available on new equipment only. Prior purchases are not eligible. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. 6 Year Warranty for Non-Commercial, residential use only. 6 Year Warranty applies to CS, CX, CK10, DK10 and NX model Kioti tractors and must be purchased and registered between September 1, 2016 – May 31, 2021. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. © 2021 Kioti Tractor Company a Division of Daedong-USA, Inc.