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Wickliffe-Cairo Bridge One Lane

AUGUST 04TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Wickliffe-Cairo Bridge One Lane

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Cairo, Illinois – If you are traveling to Kentucky this week leave a littler earlier as the US 51 Ohio River Bridge will be one lane between 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. Delays should be minimal.

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the bridge will be inspected daily over the next two weeks.

Drivers should be alert for equipment, flaggers, and inspectors on the bridge deck close to traffic flow.

Every two years the Wickliffe-Cairo Bridge gets a detailed inspection with long-span river and lake bridges getting an additional walk-through inspection every year.

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Greenwing Event a Success at Otter Slough

JULY 31ST 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Greenwing Event a Success at Otter Slough

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Dexter, Missouri - Year number six of the Otter Slough Greenwing Event has come and gone. If you missed it then you missed a good time. Fisheries Management Biologist Mike Reed got the crowd of approximately 200 started on the right foot with some nice largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill which were shocked, tagged and returned to Cypress Lake. Mike told the 80 or so youth who crowded along the shoreline around his boat, "Catch one of these fish with a red tag and I'll buy you a chocolate milkshake." That's all it took for at least one young angler who turned to his dad and said, "I want to fish here!"

From fish the group moved to banding doves, shooting ducks on the Ducks Unlimited laser shot game, watching a Labrador retriever do his thing and then to the main event of banding and releasing wood ducks. The day was topped off with an explosive demonstration of a rocket net as Wildlife Biologist Tommy Marshall managed to capture three snow goose decoys to show folks a common wildlife capture technique.

Several MDC staff members were on hand to answer questions and help with the work at hand. In addition, volunteers from four area Ducks Unlimited committees helped remove ducks from trap and net sites. Some volunteers were up at 4:00 am in order to get to their assigned stations on time. Mike Wilburn of the Dexter Ducks Unlimited committee commented, "It was just like getting up for duck season only without the shotgun!" DU volunteers handed out commemorative duck bands, duck calls and other free items to youth who attended. Wilburn told the youth, "Now you've been banded too!"

This year's event was the biggest and best yet. We captured more birds and had more youth ready to band and release them. DU volunteers and a bunch of eager kids helped trap, band and release a total of 76 wood ducks, mourning doves and one hen mallard. We are already making plans to improve our catch rates and hopefully continue to grow the event. Getting kids excited about the outdoors and conservation is the best part of my job and Saturday's event definitely accomplished that. We hope that everyone makes time to head outdoors and we will see you next July about 7 am on a Saturday morning as Area Manager Kevin Brunke and his staff host the next Otter Slough Greenwing Event.

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National Mutt Day

JULY 31ST 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

National Mutt Day

Submitted by

Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor

United States - How much do you love your pet? Do you find yourself spending more on your dog than you do on yourself? Probably not, but it may feel that way sometimes. But who else would give you unconditional love and look into your eyes with those sad puppy expression than you "mutt"?

Each year National Mutt Day is celebrated not just once for these pampered pets, but twice. On July 31st and again on December 2nd. On these days you can embrace, save, and celebrate the mixed breed dogs of the world.

Desperately longing for a new home, there are millions of loving and healthy mixed breed dogs, in shelters across the United States, awaiting for someone to come and adopt them.

For more information regarding National Mutt Day, see:
<http://www.nationalmuttday.com/>

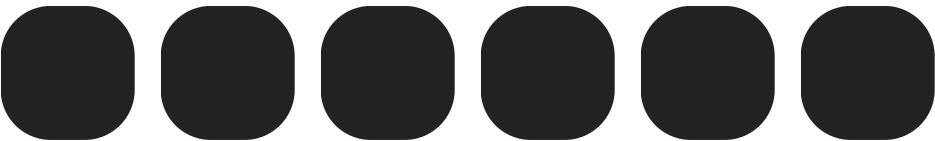
NATIONAL MUTT DAY HISTORY

National Mutt Day, an “unofficial” national holiday was created in 2005 by Celebrity Pet Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate, Colleen Paige. This day is celebrated on both December 2 and July 31 of each year.

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Discover Nature Girls Camp Hosted by MO Conservation

JULY 28TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Discover Nature Girls Camp Hosted by MO Conservation

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Wappapello, Missouri - Thirty-six girls ages 11 to 15 recently attended Discover Nature Girls Camp at Camp SEMO, near Wappapello, for three days and two nights. Conservation agents, biologists and other conservation staff members led the camp, hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

“Our goal with this camp is to get more young women involved in the outdoors and conservation,” said Conservation Agent Christa Cox. “We find that not as many women continue to take part in hunting or other outdoor activities throughout their lives as men do. So, we hope this camp will help to form a foundational appreciation for the outdoors that will keep these young women more involved in the outdoors and conservation well into the future.”

Activities at the camp included learning about archery, shooting skills and firearm actions, tree stand safety, outdoor safety, water safety, fish identification and fishing, orienteering, camp cooking and a bat trapping demonstration.

“Many of the girls were excited about the archery session,” Cox said. “We were able to watch many of them improve their skills in this event. They also enjoyed the nature trails and canoeing quite a bit.”

Shawndra Burkhart, of Jackson, sent her 11-year-old daughter, Carrisa, to the Discover Nature Girls Camp. Burkhart said the camp worked out so well for Carrisa, she hopes to be able to send her younger daughter to the camp next year.

“The fact that they were able to do their hunter safety test at the camp was very helpful, and all of the outdoor safety rules that they learned are valuable for everyday living,” Burkhart said.

Burkhart said her daughter “wouldn’t stop talking about how much fun she had.”

“She learned a lot but she also had a blast. She liked the boat ride especially, but there were a lot of different things she enjoyed,” Burkhart said.

Cox said that as a woman working in conservation, seeing that enthusiasm from the campers and sharing her outdoor knowledge with the younger women is rewarding.

“Passing along my knowledge and skills on to other females and sharing the joy that I have experienced in the outdoors with them was exhilarating,” she said.

Cox said this year’s camp was a success and she believes the experience will have a positive impact on the girls that attended.

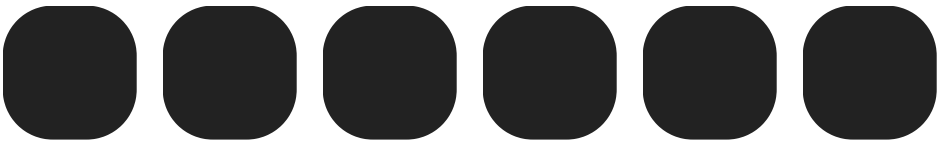
“I encourage every young girl of any interest or skill level in the outdoors to attend one of these camps,” Cox said.

Cox said the Discover Nature Girls Camps will continue throughout the state as well as in Southeast Missouri. Information on future Discover Nature Girls Camps throughout the state can be found online at mdc.mo.gov.

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Fire Departments Receive Matching Grant Money

JULY 25TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Fire Departments Receive Matching Grant Money

Submitted by

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter Fire Department and the Bell City Fire Department are among several Southeast Missouri fire departments to receive matching grants from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) foresters are delivering Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFA) matching funds grant checks to rural fire departments during July and August.

Of the 177 fire departments receiving checks, 31 of those fire departments are in Missouri's southeast region.

The checks, which range in amounts of no greater than \$4,000 are purposed to help the departments' purchase personal protective gear and firefighting equipment. The gear and equipment is used in fighting wildfire as well as in structure fire suppression efforts, according to Joe Garvey, forestry regional supervisor for the MDC's Southeast Region.

"These grants are an example our mission to work with communities and citizens to ensure our forests are around for the long haul," Garvey said.

The total funding awarded to Missouri fire departments through the VFA matching funds grant program this year is \$378,665. Fire departments are required to match 50 percent of the funds which are provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service, Volunteer Fire Assistance Program.

Throughout the last 30 years, more than \$7.5 million has been distributed to rural fire departments to help increase the safety of firefighters and provide better firefighting equipment.

Fire departments and protection districts in southeast Missouri that received matching funds grants are:

Bell City FD, Biehle Community FPA, Bloomsdale Volunteer FPD, Caruthersville FD, Charleston Dept. of Public Safety, Cherokee Pass FD, Desloge VPD, **Dexter Fire Department**, Doe Run FPD, East County FPD, Ellington VFD, Fredericktown FPD, Fruitland Area FPD, Glen Allen FPD, Goose Creek Lake FPD, Gordonville FPD, Hayti FPD, Lake Timberline VFD, Leadington FPD, Leopold VFD, Marble Hill FD, North Cape County (Friedheim) VFD, Northern

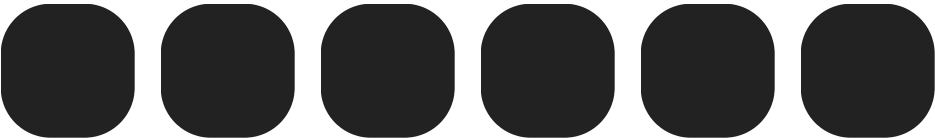
Reynolds County FPD, Park Hills FPD, Rural Perry County FPA, Scott City FPD, Scott County Rural FPD, SICFPD, St. Mary FPD, Terre Du Lac FD, Wappappello VFD, and Wolf Creek FPD

For more information on the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program, go online to mdc.mo.gov. For specific information on matching grants in your local area, contact your local fire department.

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