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# Disabled Veterans Spring Turkey Hunt

MARCH 18TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Disabled Veterans Spring Turkey Hunt

**Disabled veterans may apply for this hunt until March 31.**

**Cape Girardeau, Missouri** - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is hosting a Disabled Veterans Spring Turkey Hunt April 24-26 in Bollinger County. The event is open to any disabled veteran with service-related injuries.

“We want to proudly honor those who have defended our freedoms,” said Conservation Agent Alan Lamb.

The goal of the program is to assist disabled veterans who are not able to go turkey hunting on their own. The event begins April 24 with morning turkey hunts on April 25 and 26.

MDC Outdoor Skills Specialist DeeDee Dockins said all participants will be given basic instruction on how to pattern their shotgun the evening before the first hunt.

“Then the veterans will hit the field the next morning for some top notch Missouri turkey hunting,” said Dockins.

Each veteran will be guided by conservation agents or MDC employees. Other activities planned include target shooting and fishing. Hunting and camaraderie will continue until the event concludes on the afternoon of April 26.

“We’re dedicated to providing veterans with positive recreational opportunities,” said Lamb. “It isn’t just a hunt, it is an experience and we get as much out of the program as the veterans do.”

Lodging at an MDC facility and all meals and equipment will be provided throughout the event. The event is free to participants but applicants must apply and purchase the necessary permits. Applications are available at the MDC Southeast Regional Office in Cape County Park North or by emailing Dockins at [DeeDee.Dockins@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:DeeDee.Dockins@mdc.mo.gov). The application deadline is March 31.

The Veterans of Valor Turkey Hunt is in cooperation with the Southeast Regional Disabled Veterans Recreational Program which provides outdoor recreational opportunities for disabled veterans.

For more information, or to apply, call the Southeast Regional Office at (573)290-5730 or email Dockins at [deede.dockins@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:deede.dockins@mdc.mo.gov).

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## Remedy for Fishing Fever is March 1st Trout Opener

FEBRUARY 12TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Remedy for Fishing Fever is March 1st Trout Opener

**Missouri** - As the wintery season winds down, anglers throughout the Show-Me State are beginning to show some signs of trout fever. Symptoms include: tying flies, putting new fishing line on reels, checking waders for holes, and practicing casting. Most anglers who get trout fever get rid of it by doing one thing—visiting one of Missouri's four trout parks to participate in the catch-and-keep trout season.

Tuesday, March 1, marks the opening of catch-and-keep trout fishing at Bennett Spring State Park near Lebanon, Montauk State Park near Licking, Roaring River State Park near Cassville, and Maramec Spring Park near St. James.

"This year's trout opener should be good and comparable to previous years," said MDC Fisheries Unit Chief Bruce Drecktrah.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) operates trout hatcheries at all four parks. To help predict angler turnout on opening day, hatchery staff rely on permit records going back more than 70 years. Montauk, Bennett Spring, and Roaring River hatchery staff expect crowds of about 2,000 anglers at each location and Maramec Spring staff are planning for a crowd of about 1,500. Based on these predictions, hatchery staff will stock three trout per expected angler on opening day for a total of more than 22,500 fish averaging around a foot in length. The hatcheries will also stock a mix of "lunkers" ranging in three to 10 pounds.

### Trout Season Outlook

Due to the heavy rain and record-breaking flood that took place this past December, MDC

crews have been inspecting flood damage and evaluating the impact these floods may have on hatcheries, fish production and fish numbers.

"We have plenty of fish for this year's trout season," said MDC Fisheries Division Chief Brian Canaday. "But due to the heavy rains and flooding our trout stocking will be slightly reduced throughout the season. We will stock approximately two fish per trout tag sold at each trout park instead of our usual 2.25."

Canaday added that MDC staff will continue to evaluate hatchery fish inventories, stocking plans, and make adjustments throughout the season as appropriate.

## **Permits**

It's important to know anglers need a daily trout tag to fish in Missouri's trout parks. Daily trout tags can only be purchased at each of the four trout parks. Missouri residents 16 through 64 need a fishing permit in addition to the daily tag. Nonresidents 16 and older also need a fishing permit.

## **Economic Outlook**

Trout hatcheries are just one way that conservation pays in Missouri. MDC stocks more than 800,000 trout annually at the state's four trout parks and approximately 1.5 million annually statewide. Trout anglers' spend more than \$100 million each year in the Show-Me-State, which generates more than \$180 million in business activity, supports more than 2,300 jobs and creates more than \$70 million dollars in wages. About 30 percent of Missouri trout anglers come from other states, so a substantial portion of trout fishing expenditures is "new money" for the state's economy.

For more information on trout fishing in Missouri, visit <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/where-fish/trout-areas>.

**REMINDER TO TROUT ANGLERS:** To prevent the spread of the invasive alga called didymo or "rock snot," the use of shoes, boots or waders with porous soles of felt, matted or woven fibrous material is prohibited at all trout parks, trout streams, Lake Taneycomo, and buffer areas. Go online for more information to <http://on.mo.gov/1V6qc6W>.

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# Two Hunter Education Skills Sessions Set

FEBRUARY 11TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Two Hunter Education Skills Sessions Set](#)

**Cape Girardeau, Missouri** - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer skills sessions Feb. 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., and March 10, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center.

Hunter education is required to buy a firearms hunting permit in Missouri for any hunter born on or after Jan. 1, 1967. Hunters must complete step one, a knowledge portion, and step two, a skills session, in order to become hunter education certified. Either of these two scheduled skills sessions will meet the step two requirement.

“Hunter education has reduced hunting accidents and deaths by more than 70 percent since it became mandatory,” said DeeDee Dockins, MDC outdoor skills specialist. “This is why we recommend all hunters become hunter-education certified.”

Before registering for a skills session, individuals must first complete part one online, through self-study, or by attending a classroom session. To attend the skills session, they must bring their skills session qualifier certificate or a student manual with their completed review questions. Hunter education student manuals are available everywhere hunting permits are sold. Manuals are also available by mail. A final exam is administered at the end of the skills session.

Students must be 11 years of age at the start of the class and those 15 and under must provide proof of age. Students are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes before the beginning of the skills session to make time for registration.

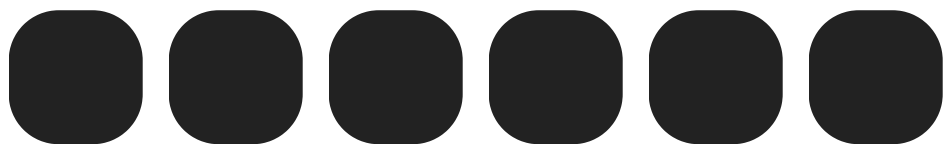
Hunter Education Program provides a foundation in hunting safety and ethics. It instills responsibility, improves skills and knowledge, and encourages interaction between beginner and veteran hunters. Missouri hunter education includes information on how firearms work and firearm safety, wildlife identification, game care, survival and first-aid skills, hunting techniques, awareness about wildlife conservation and management and rules and information unique to hunting in Missouri.

To register for one of these two skills sessions, or to find other courses and more information on hunter education in Missouri, go online to [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov).

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# Duck Season Zone Workshop Slated for Dexter

JANUARY 28TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Duck Season Zone Workshop Slated for Dexter](#)

**Dexter, Missouri** - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites Missouri waterfowl hunters to upcoming public workshops where Department staff will gather hunter input about duck season dates and zone boundary locations for the 2017-2020 hunting seasons. Participants will have the opportunity to review long-term data about weather, migration, habitat use, harvest, and hunter opinions, and to discuss season date and zone preferences with other hunters and MDC staff. MDC will use the hunter input gathered through the workshops, along with results of hunter-opinion surveys, to help establish Missouri's 2017-2020 duck season dates and zones.

Before attending a workshop, MDC encourages hunters to review information compiled by Department biologists on migration, harvest, weather, and hunter preferences for each region of the state. This information will be posted on the MDC website by the end of January at [on.mo.gov/1giLHme](http://on.mo.gov/1giLHme).

The following workshops will be held in Southeast Missouri between Feb. 1 and March 9 and all will run from 7-9 p.m. No reservations are necessary.

**Dexter on Feb. 17 at the National Guard Armory, 1702 Missouri Hwy 114. For more information, call 573-290-5730.**

Jackson on Feb. 18 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3305 N. High St. For more information, call 573-290-5730.

Kennett on Feb. 16 at the National Guard Armory, 1450 North Bypass. For more information, call 573-290-5730.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gives states the opportunity to change the number and location of duck zones every five years," explained MDC Resources Scientist Andy Raedeke. "At these times, states can also select a continuous season or split season, which refers to a season that is open for a period of time, closes, and then reopens for a second period of time."

Raedeke added that once selections are made, Missouri then keeps the same season-date formulas for multiple years, with the next ones being 2017 to 2020.

"Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt waterfowl. As hunters know, hunting conditions can vary tremendously from one year to the next," he said. "During some years, the best hunting can occur early in the season. During other years, it can occur late. Limiting changes to every four or five years helps the Department of Conservation evaluate the effectiveness of zone boundaries and season dates over a range of conditions."

Raedeke noted that recommended changes for a given period depend primarily upon hunter input.

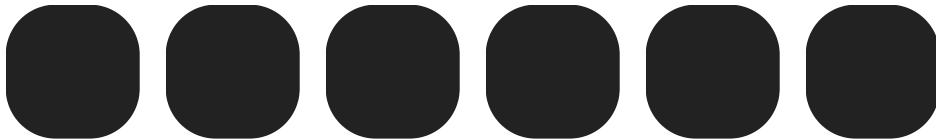
"If most hunters from a particular region prefer a different season structure or season dates, we will likely recommend a change," Raedeke said. "Hunter input from the last series of workshops prompted MDC to make two changes to the boundary of the south hunting zone."

He added that given the range of hunter preferences, not all hunters will be completely satisfied with season dates and zone boundaries.

"Our aim is to accommodate at least a portion of most hunters' desires. We listen to what waterfowl hunters want and sincerely appreciate their time, effort, and input."



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# No MOrE Trash Contest

JANUARY 04TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[No MOrE Trash Contest with MDC and MoDOT](#)

**Missouri Department of Conservation and MoDOT invite schools to fight litter through "No MOrE Trash!" contest. Win School Funds While Having Fun Trashing Trash!!**





**Jefferson City, Missouri** - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) invite Missouri public, private, and home-school students in grades K-8 to help fight litter in the Show-Me State -- and to have creative and educational fun -- by participating in the 2016 "Yes You CAN Make Missouri Litter-Free" trash-can-decorating contest.

The annual trash-can contest encourages school classes and groups to join in the fight against litter by decorating and displaying a large trash can with the "No MOre Trash!" logo and a litter-prevention message using a variety of creative media.

The annual contest is sponsored by MDC and MoDOT as part of the state's "No MOre Trash!" (NMT) statewide litter campaign. This partnership between MDC and MoDOT, along with thousands of volunteers, is working to prevent and reduce litter in Missouri through education, prevention, and cleanup activities.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American generates about four pounds of trash each day.

“Missouri’s six million residents produce nearly 26 million pounds of garbage in one day. That’s more than nine BILLION pounds of trash per year!” said MDC NMT Coordinator Joe Jerek. “Much of that trash shows up on our streets and roadsides, natural areas, and waterways. Litter harms our fish and water quality, plants, and hurts wildlife. Litter also hurts property values, landscape appearance, and our overall quality of life.”

Jerek added that littering is illegal in Missouri and can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and one year in jail.

"In addition to teaching kids about how litter hurts them, their communities, and their environment, the No MOre Trash! contest gives students an opportunity to help prevent littering by creating and providing trash cans with the No MOre Trash! message in their schools and communities," said MoDOT NMT Coordinator Stacy Armstrong.

## **CONTEST DETAILS**

**Schools may submit one entry in each competition category: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Entries are judged based on creativity, adherence to contest rules, and effective use of theme and logo.**

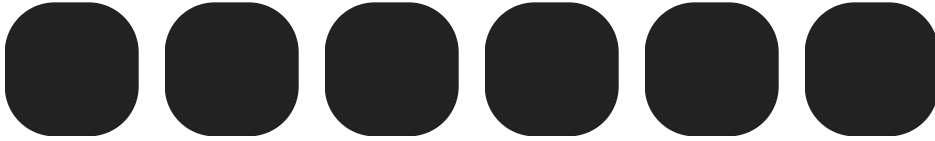
**First-place winners from each competition category receive \$200 awarded to the sponsoring schools. All first-place winners are then eligible for a grand prize of a trophy and \$600 awarded to the sponsoring school.**

**There is no entry fee for the contest. Participating school groups must submit a completed entry form online with up to three photos to [nomoretrash.org](http://nomoretrash.org) by Friday, March 18. Contest rules, entry forms, logo, past contest entries and winners, and educational information can also be found at [nomoretrash.org](http://nomoretrash.org).**

## **2015 WINNERS**

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