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Cicadas Begin Their Summer Sounds in July

JUNE 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Cicadas Begin Their Summer Sounds in July

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages people to discover nature this summer by learning more about cicadas. There are two types of cicadas, annual and periodical. As their names suggest, annual cicadas make an appearance every summer in July, whereas periodical cicadas emerge in 13 and 17-year cycles in late May.

Annual cicadas have dark eyes and greenish bodies, unlike the slightly smaller periodicals which have red eyes and blackish bodies.

After spending two-to-five years underground feeding on root juices, the annual cicada nymphs emerge and begin the search for mates using their raspy hum.

The cicada's endless drone seems to come from everywhere. Cicadas emit a sound that can reach up to 95 decibels, depending on proximity. That is the equivalent noise level of a Boeing 737 before landing.

Unlike crickets rubbing together parts of their wings to create a chirp, male cicadas rapidly vibrate a piece of their exoskeleton to produce their loud call.

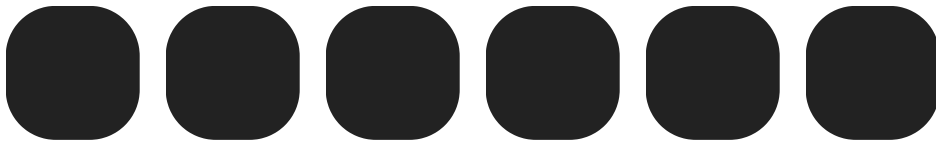
Despite the mild sound annoyance cicadas induce, the insect is a valuable food source for wildlife such as birds and other insects. In other countries it's common for people to chow down on the meaty bug due to its predictable emergence in the summer. Cicadas pose no threat to people and minimal threats to trees.

While Missouri doesn't have to worry about a large periodical cicada invasion this summer, states toward the east such as Ohio and West Virginia are dealing with a 17-year brood. The next 13-year periodical will not make an appearance in Missouri until 2024.

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MO State Highway Patrol Joins Operation Dry Water

JUNE 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

MO State Highway Patrol Joins Operation Dry Water

Missouri - Colonel J. Bret Johnson, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, announces the Patrol's participation in Operation Dry Water. Operation Dry Water is a national campaign in which marine law enforcement officers from across the country coordinate special patrols during the last weekend in June to keep our waterways safe from boaters operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Troopers will focus their efforts over the weekend of June 24-26, 2016, to detect and apprehend impaired operators.

Missouri boat operators found to have a blood alcohol content of .08% or greater will be arrested for boating while intoxicated. Intoxicated boat operators endanger themselves, their passengers, and other boaters utilizing our many waterways.

Last year, 582 local, state, and federal agencies participated in a weekend long event of heightened BWI enforcement known as Operation Dry Water. Officers removed 278 intoxicated boat operators from the water. In addition, law enforcement officers made contact with over 125,087 boaters concerning BWI or boating safety enforcement and awareness. From 2010 to 2015, over 1,870 BWI operators have been removed from the water by law enforcement officers during the Operation Dry Water weekends.

In 2015, during less than desirable boating weather, troopers arrested a total of three people statewide for boating while intoxicated, contacted 543 vessels and 1,531 boaters, and issued 85 boating violation summonses and 588 warnings on Missouri waterways. Marine operations troopers also issued 137 summonses for non-boating violations during the 2015 Operation Dry Water weekend. Special enforcement operations will continue throughout the summer months. Boaters are reminded that designating a sober operator is always the safest bet if alcohol is going to be included in their boating experience.

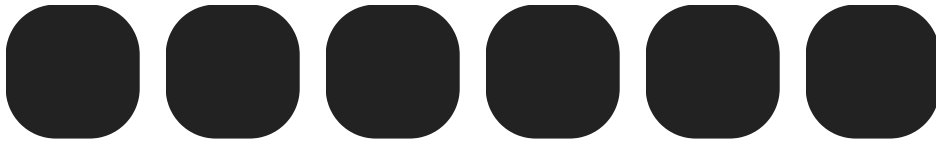
Watercraft operators must consider the effect their actions have on others: Share the waterway and use common sense, good judgment, and courtesy to ensure the safety of all. Life jackets save lives. Wear It!!

Shown in the photo is Lucas Foster, age 3, son of Matt and Miranda Foster of Puxico, Missouri.

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Route AC in Stoddard County will be Reduced for Pavement Repairs

JUNE 28TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Route AC in Stoddard County will be Reduced for Pavement Repairs](#)

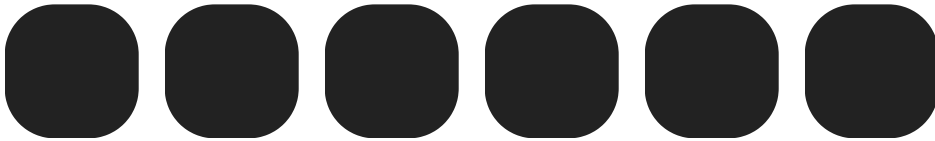
Stoddard County, Missouri - Route AC in Stoddard County will be reduced to one lane as Missouri Department of Transportation crews perform pavement repairs.

This section of roadway is located from Route 25 to County Road 237.

Weather permitting, work will take place Tuesday, June 28 through Thursday, July 7 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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City of Dexter Fireworks Display Set for Sunday Evening

JUNE 27TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[City of Dexter Fireworks Display Set for Sunday Evening](#)

Dexter, Missouri - The City of Dexter will host their annual fourth of July Fireworks Display on Sunday, July 3, 2016 at dusk at the East City Park complex. S&N Display

Fireworks of Lincoln, Illinois will be providing the pyrotechnics for the city.

The event is FREE and open to everyone. There will be parking at the East City Park Aquatic Center, along the Dexter Creek levee, the Stoddard County Fairgrounds, and also the parking area south of the ball field. The baseball and soccer fields will be roped off by the Dexter Fire Department prior to the event.

In case of rain on Sunday, July 3rd, the fireworks show will be held on Tuesday, July 5th.

Dexter city ordinance prohibits shooting of fireworks inside the city limits, but will be waived both Sunday, July 3rd and Monday, July 4th to allow residents a chance to celebrate the holiday.

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Randall Graham Named Director of Emergency Services

JUNE 23RD 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Randall Graham Named Director of Emergency Services

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Saint Francis Healthcare System is pleased to welcome Randall Graham, MBA, RN, to the role of director of emergency services.

In this role, Graham is responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising all of the non-physician functions within emergency services to ensure that services are provided in accordance with policies, procedures, philosophy and objectives of Saint Francis.

Graham most recently served as manager of the emergency department at Christian Hospital in St. Louis. Prior to that, he was manager of emergency and trauma services at St. John's Mercy Hospital in Washington, Mo. He earned his MBA from Webster University in 2012.

Saint Francis Medical Center is a 284-bed facility serving more than 713,000 people throughout Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. Guided by its mission to provide a ministry of healing and wellness inspired by its Christian philosophy and values, the Medical Center has become a progressive, innovative regional tertiary care referral center. Saint Francis' major service lines, which have received national recognition, include the Neurosciences Institute; Orthopedic Institute; Family BirthPlace, featuring the region's first Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; Heart Hospital; Emergency and Level III Trauma Center; Cancer Institute; and Fitness Plus.

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