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MO Dept of Agriculture Needs 30 H.S. Sophomores

JANUARY 17TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

MO Dept of Agriculture Needs 30 H.S. Sophomores

Missouri - ATTN HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES! The Missouri Department of Agriculture is offering 30 High School sophomores the opportunity to explore careers in agriculture through the 2017 Missouri Agribusiness Academy.

It is a competitive program for those interested in pursuing agriculture related degrees and careers.

The program will be held June 5th - 9th. Students interested in participating must submit an application by February 1, 2017.

The schedule will be finalized in the spring and will include visits with industry and agribusiness leaders and tours of their facilities.

To be eligible for the Missouri Agribusiness Academy, students must come from a farming family or be an active member of the National FFA Organization or 4-H.

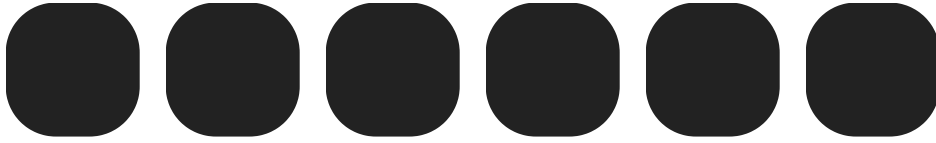
Since 1988, the academy has graduated more than 850 students through a competitive application and interview process.

Applications for the 2017 class are available at agriculture.mo.gov.

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Schools Invited to Fight Litter and Win Prize Money

JANUARY 12TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Schools Invited to Fight Litter and Win Prize Money](#)

Missouri Department of Conservation and MoDOT invite schools to fight litter through "No More Trash!" Annual Can Contest!

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 2017 "Yes You CAN Make Missouri Litter-Free" trash-can-decorating contest. The annual contest is sponsored by MDC and MoDOT as part of the state's "No MOre Trash!" statewide litter campaign.

The 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. 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 by Friday, March 17. Contest rules, entry forms, logo, past contest entries and winners, and educational information can also be found at nomoretrash.org.

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.

Photo and article Submitted

Shown in the photo: Teacher Gail Forsyth and her students in the Second Grade Recycle Club at East Elementary in Waynesville won the 2016 "No MOre Trash!" trash-can contest with their winning entry, "Box-up your recyclables, Missouri's State Reptile: 3-toed Box Turtle." They won the K-2 Grade Category and also the Grand Prize.

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Enjoy Eagle Days at Duck Creek, Mingo, and Wappapello Lake

JANUARY 08TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Enjoy Eagle Days at Duck Creek, Mingo, and Wappapello Lake](#)

Enjoy Eagle Days at Duck Creek CA, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Wappapello Lake

All three areas combine efforts to offer live eagle presentations, eagle viewing in the wild.

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers will host Eagle Days, Feb. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Eagle Days event includes live eagle presentations at Mingo

National Wildlife Refuge every hour and wild eagle viewing locations at Mingo, Duck Creek CA and Wappapello Lake.

Pat Holloway, an MDC education consultant, said families and visitors of all ages can expect a fun, adventurous event that will help conquer cabin fever.

“Join us for an outdoor nature experience and discover cool facts about bald eagles, which were chosen as our nation’s symbol in 1782,” Holloway said, adding that visitors are encouraged to dress appropriate for outdoor winter weather.

The Mingo National Wildlife Visitor Center will display items related to eagles. Several outdoor spotting scope sites on Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Duck Creek CA and along Wappapello Lake will provide opportunities to view eagles, ducks and geese in the wild. All three of these locations are expansive areas, so visitors are encouraged to pick up a brochure containing a map of the eagle viewing stations when they arrive.

All Eagle Days activities are free. Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and Duck Creek CA are located along highway 51, north of Puxico.

The Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center at Wappapello Lake is located at 10276 Missouri Hwy. T in Wappapello. From Poplar Bluff travel east approximately 5 miles on Hwy. 60, head north approximately ten miles on Hwy. T. The destination will be on the left. From Puxico take Hwy. 51 south one mile, turn right on Hwy. T, travel 9 miles to Hwy. D, turn left, cross the dam, your destination is on your right.

For more information about Eagle Days events, call Mingo National Wildlife Refuge at (573) 222-3589. To learn more about eagles and places to view them in Missouri, visit mdc.mo.gov.

Article and photo submitted. Shown in the photo: In flight, mature bald eagles are relatively easy to identify. They have a dark brown body with white head and tail. In Missouri, they are observed near lakes, rivers, and marshes, particularly in winter. (Credits - Noppadol Paothong)

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MDC Awards Angel Pierce for Outstanding Public Outreach

OCTOBER 21ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[MDC Awards Angel Pierce for Outstanding Public Outreach](#)

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recently named Angela Pierce of Cape Girardeau the winner of the 2015 Outreach and Education Achievement award. Pierce is a naturalist at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center.

Pierce receives this award for her coordination of the Southeast Region's "Day on the River" event. This annual event attracts more than 2,000 people and helps connect them to the Mississippi River and its importance as habitat and as a natural resource.

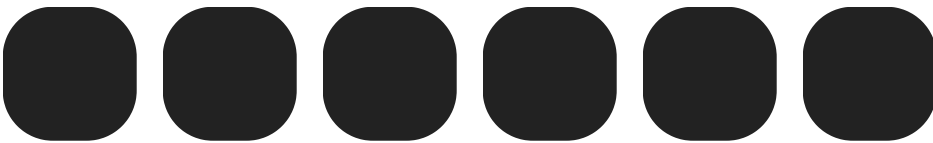
“While most people in the area see the Mississippi River, many don’t know much about the history and dynamics of the river. Pierce’s efforts with this event fill this void,” said Sara Turner, MDC manager of the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center. “Coordinating this large event successfully is an achievement by any standard.”

Day on the River typically occurs in early September. However, the nature center has regular programs to help people discover nature all year long.

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Ten New Conservation Agents Hired Throughout

Missouri

OCTOBER 10TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Ten New Conservation Agents Hired Throughout Missouri

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recently added 10 new agents. The conservation agent class of 2016 graduated during a special ceremony at the Department's Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City on Wednesday, Oct. 5. During the graduation, the new agents were pinned with a badge by their families and also took the oath to become conservation agents.

“Conservation agents are a very important piece of conservation in this state,” MDC Interim Director Tom Draper said. “These new agents will be some of the finest this agency has. They will be recognized as the face of conservation. We thank you for that and we thank all of your families for sharing you with us.”

These 10 new agents will be joining the 180 existing MDC agents in serving and protecting Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife.

The class of 2016 conservation agents and their assignments are:

Nicholas Bommarito: New Madrid County

Derick Childers: St. Clair County

Sarah Ettinger-Dietzel: Iron County

Christopher Horn: Cole County

Clayton Lewis: Madison County

Parker Rice: Buchanan County

Caleb Sevy: Washington County

Zachary Swindle: Shannon County

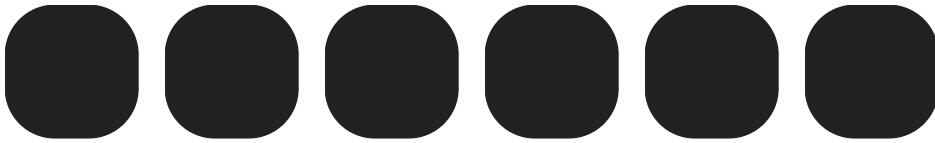
Matt Wheaton: Putnam County

Zachary White: Clinton County

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