

Local News



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2,500 Student Archers Competing at MoNASP State Tournament

FEBRUARY 28TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

2,500 Student Archers Competing at MoNASP State Tournament

MDC encourages community support at MoNASP state tournament in Branson March 24-25.

Jefferson City, Missouri - About 2,500 student archers from schools around the state will compete at the Missouri National Archery in Schools Program (MoNASP) ninth annual state tournament on March 24-25 at the Branson Convention Center. The public is welcome to attend to support the participants. This year's tournament will have a gate fee of \$7.

MoNASP is coordinated through the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) in partnership with about 600 participating schools and numerous supporting organizations throughout the state. More than 170,000 Missouri students participate in the program. MoNASP is an affiliate of the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) and promotes education, self-esteem, and physical activity for students in grades 4-12 through participation in the sport of archery.

"Missouri is a great place to hunt and fish, and a great place for shooting sports such as archery," said MDC MoNASP Coordinator Eric Edwards. "MoNASP not only teaches students the lifelong skills that come from archery, but it also helps them excel in the classroom."

More than 12,000 student archers around the state have competed so far this winter in local tournaments with the hope of qualifying for one of the 2,500 spots at the state tournament. Student archers, who shoot qualifying scores at the state tournament, will earn spots at the NASP national tournament this spring in Louisville, Ky.

Shown in the submitted photo: Student archers from around the state will compete in the MoNASP ninth annual state tournament on March 24-25 at the Branson Convention Center.

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Angler Gigs State Record Gizzard Shad

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Jefferson City, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports Riley Nolan of Fenton became the most recent record-breaking angler in Missouri when he giggered a gizzard shad on the Big River in Jefferson County. The new “alternative method” record fish caught by Nolan on Jan. 30 weighed 2 pounds, 6 ounces with a length of 17 inches. Nolan’s recent catch broke the previous state-record of a 2-pound, 5-ounce gizzard shad giggered in 2013.

“My dad and I didn’t really know what type of fish we had in the boat until we got back to the boat ramp,” said Nolan. “We thought it looked like a shad, but really couldn’t believe that it was because of its size.”

Nolan added this fishing trip was only the second time he was out giggering.

“Believe it or not, that shad was the only fish my dad and I got that evening,” he said.

Once MDC gave Nolan confirmation he had a state record, Nolan said he was in shock. “I couldn’t believe it! I never thought anything like this would happen to my dad and me,” he said. “This is an once-in-a-lifetime experience!”

MDC agents verified the gizzard shad’s weight at Valley Park Elevator and Hardware.

Nolan added he plans on having the state-record gizzard shad mounted.

“2017 is shaping up to be a year for state-record fish,” said MDC Fisheries Programs Specialist Andrew Branson. “The mild weather we have had this year means more anglers are fishing, and catching big fish.”

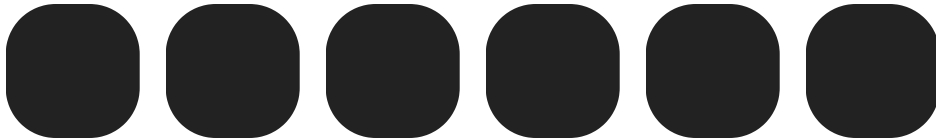
Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: throwlines, trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug

lines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

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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.

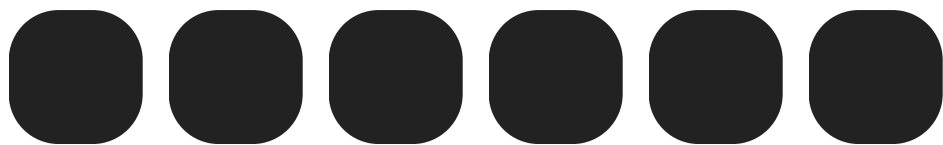
Since 1988, the academy has graduated more than 850 students through a competitive application and interview process.

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.

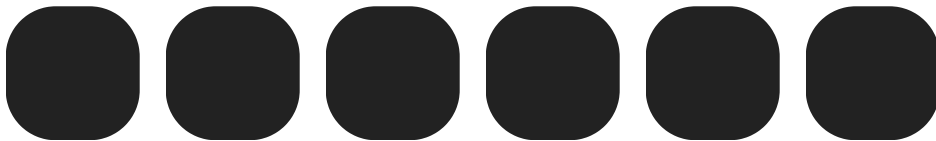
Photo and article Submitted

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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