



MoNews

Darrell Taylor

Winter trout fishing in select areas for January

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) began stocking 73,000 rainbow trout in 32 urban-area lakes around the state for winter trout fishing. Some areas allow anglers to harvest trout as soon as they are stocked, while others are catch and release until February 1. See short.mdc.mo.gov/Zo6 for locations.

The daily catch-and-keep limit is four trout with no length limit. All Missouri residents over age 15 and under age 65 must have a fishing permit. All anglers must have a Missouri trout permit.

"Stocking selected lakes and ponds around the state during the winter months provide close-to-home trout-fishing opportunities in parts of Missouri that you normally won't find trout," said Andrew Branson, MDC Fisheries programs specialist.

You can purchase fishing permits online at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits or through MDC's free mobile apps, Mo Hunting and Mo Fishing.



Catchable trout like this are being stocked in select urban areas around the state. Photo: MDC

Two bison hike dates set for Prairie State Park

Enjoy a "First Day Hike" to see bison. Hikers should meet at the Regal Tallgrass Prairie Nature Center. Since the guides will not know the actual location of the bison herd, the actual hiking trail and duration will be unpredictable.

Plan for cold winter weather and open prairie winds, which can produce uncomfortable wind chills. Be prepared for a 2-mile hike over uneven terrain and wear sturdy boots or shoes. Hikers often bring water and snacks, and binoculars will be useful in looking at bison as well as other wildlife. Pets are not allowed on the trails because of the presence of the bison.

Hike dates are December 3, 2016 and January 1, 2017. Times are 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The address is: 128 NW 150th Lane, Mindemines, MO 64769. Call 417-843-6711 for additional information.

27,301 Missourians log 5.5 million miles in Missouri's Mile Challenge

A message from Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor:

Fellow Missourians,

Welcome to the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge! The First Lady and I are excited to take this journey for the third time. When we launched the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge to celebrate Missouri's distinction as the "Best Trails State" in America, it was as a way to promote the health benefits of outdoor physical activity. As we head into the third year of the challenge, we are so proud of what our participants have accomplished.

From the beginning, the response from Missourians all across the state was overwhelming, as Missourians logged

over 1.1 million miles on Missouri trails in 2013. They nearly doubled that in 2014 by notching 2.1 million miles, pushing our total to over 3,000,000 total miles over the first two years of the challenge. From cities and suburbs to our small towns and rural areas, Missourians have tackled this challenge as an opportunity to get active and healthy, while enjoying Missouri's beautiful outdoors.

This year, the First Lady and I are encouraging Missourian families to join us as we take advantage of the award-winning trails and waterways found throughout the Show-Me State during the 2015 Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge.

Once again, we are challenging Missourians to complete "100 Missouri Miles" of physical activity by the end of the year. Whether you run, walk, bike, paddle, swim or roll, everyone can participate. This initiative is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, improve your health and—best of all—have fun with family and friends.

Please continue to visit MO.gov or 100missourimiles.com for forthcoming details, announcements and updates to this year's Challenge. Remember, the great thing about the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge is that you can choose your own path. From urban greenways to backcountry hiking trails, Missouri's trails offer something for all ages, interests and ability levels.

Thank you for taking the Challenge, Governor Jay Nixon

To date, 27,301 Missourians have logged over 5.5 million miles running, walking, hiking, biking, paddling and swimming. Anyone wishing to participate in the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge may register at 100missourimiles.com.

MDC and its partners host Big Muddy Duck Hunt

The fifth annual Big Muddy Duck Hunt in Holt County gave 22 youths ages 11 to 15 a chance to learn basic waterfowl hunting skills and the chance to experience a guided hunt this past October.

"We're trying to reach out to kids who normally wouldn't get to waterfowl hunt in this kind of environment," said Conservation Agent Jade Wright, who co-founded the event along with Anthony Maupin, another agent.

The event was held in marshes with blinds at various private waterfowl hunting clubs in the Missouri River bottoms of Holt County. Wright and Maupin realized blinds at private hunt clubs were not being utilized during the waterfowl youth hunt weekend. After discussing a sponsored youth hunt, the clubs offered blinds, funds or volunteers.

Now, the annual hunt has evolved into a non-profit corporation that accepts donations from organizations and businesses, such as civic groups in the Mound City community serving lunches. MDC is the organizing partner.

The daylong event started with training, mostly from conservation agents, and included duck identification, hunting regulations and hunting opportunities on public lands such as MDC conservation areas. The youths were then given lessons in duck calling, hunting strategies, waterfowl biology and using decoys. Instructors demonstrated how to prepare harvested ducks for cooking. Then, youths were given basic instructions in shooting, including firearm safety, followed by



A youngster gets shooting instructions at the Big Muddy Duck Hunt.



After the hunt, youths are shown how to prepare the ducks for cooking.

training shooting at clays pigeon targets that simulate shooting in a hunting blind.

In late afternoon, the youths headed out to the marshes to hunt with volunteers serving as guides. They got a chance to try out duck calls and shotguns in a true hunt, with a lot of support.

The youths harvested 17 ducks this year.

"That's not a bad tally," Wright said, "as duck numbers vary early in the season according to weather. All the youths saw

ducks on the wing and most fired shots."

The Big Muddy Duck Hunt accommodates 25 participants, and activities are free. Organizers offer 10 slots for the general sign-up, while another 15 slots are reserved for partner organizations that have youth outreach programs. Youths may only participate one year. For more information or to register for the 2017 Big Muddy Duck Hunt, visit bigmuddyduckhunt.org. **MWO**



Rick McFail
309-781-8312
cabinfeveril.com

- Daily Hunts and Memberships
- Five Lakes
- Heated Field and Lake Pits
- Aerated Lakes
- Overnight Stay

EXCELLENT WATERFOWL HUNTING



QUAD CITIES, IA

Mississippi Valley Sportsmen, Inc.

Merry Christmas!

We are a Quad Cities sportsmen's club. Our main objectives and goals of the organization are as follows:

To promote conservation, preservation, management, habitat development and other activities related to youth development and good sportsmanship.

We host a fun Shoot in the summer that gives us a chance to get together and have some outdoor fun and establish bragging rights for the year.

We will also participate in other activities as available. All monies raised are kept and utilized locally.

We are currently accepting new committee members to help organize our events and provide input on the direction of the Group.

If you have an interest in joining this great organization, please contact **Rob Cain** at rcain@citiesig.com or call **563-340-4918** to learn more on how you can get involved.

Chairman
Darrell Day

Treasurer
Garry Ruddish

Secretary
Rob Cain

Iowa Board
Jeff Dellitt
Stan Erickson
Aaron Faulk
Adam Baetke

Illinois Board
Mike Peters
Mike Hixson
Ric Love
John Massarolo

All above persons have volunteered to serve.