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The Babler Babble

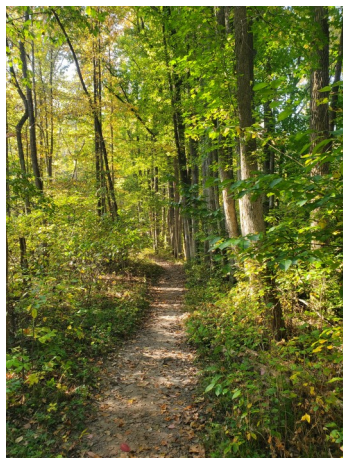
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SPRING 2022

Witnessing History

As a seasonal naturalist at Babler State Park, part of my job is to help people understand the historical and ecological importance of the area. Did you know that we have park residents that were actually around to see these historical events take place? They are called witness trees.

There is no succinct definition of a witness tree. However, a general description is a tree that was present in the area of a historical event. A bulk



The trees on the right side of Woodbine Trail (pictured above & to the right) are an example of witness trees. These sweetgums were planted by members of our Civilian Conservation Corps encampments during the '30s here at Babler.

of witness trees that are recognized by the National Park Service are found on old Revolutionary and Civil War battle sites. Babler State Park's trees are not registered by the National Parks Service. In order to be in the running, the trees must meet certain criteria. The age of the tree must be proven, or the existence of the tree at the time of the event must be confirmed by historical records for it to be put on the registry.

Witness trees are very useful historians. Their rings can show us average rainfall and keep records of fire events. They can give us a view of humans'

impact too, including fire suppression and logging practices. Many witness trees tend to be long-living species, such as white and short leaf pine, red cedar, American sycamore, hickory, and white oaks. An example of witness trees within Babler State Park is the row of sweetgum trees along the right-hand side of Woodbine Trail going away from the trail head. These trees were planted in row by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.

If you are outside this spring and see an older tree, take a moment to consider what it might have seen throughout its lifetime.

-Claire Jackson,
Seasonal Interpreter



Beginners Guide to Missouri's Spring Ephemerals & Wildflowers

As we here in Missouri feel the temperature rise and the trees bud new leaves, look to the ground for a colorful burst of beauty! Missouri's spring ephemerals and wildflowers are popping up and many can be seen along the trails of Babler State Park. Below are some of the more common flowers you can see on your next hike. If you see something not on this list that you would like to know the name of, come to the Visitor Center or to one of our programs and speak to our naturalist! For more information about Missouri's wildflowers stop by the Visitor Center, where you can pick up pamphlets and explore our exhibit hall. We also have several books available for purchase concerning native wildflowers, mushrooms, trees, and more!

-Kathryn Krydyski,

Seasonal Interpreter

Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)



With small white or pink flowers that resemble trousers on a clothesline. Dutchman's breeches are very distinctive, and they are found in many areas of the park. If you're looking, try the scenic rock outcrop of Hawthorn Trail.

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)



Spring Beauty is a small pink and white flower that is widespread across Missouri and is one of the first spring flowers to bloom. You can find it all over the park trails, as well as in the fields and picnic areas.

Wake Robin or Trillium (*Trillium sessile*)



2 A very unique Missouri flower, trillium has three large and three small speckled leaves and three petals. Their color varies, but they are most commonly a dark maroon. Find these along the trails in our oak and hickory woodlands.

Common Violet (*Viola sororia*)

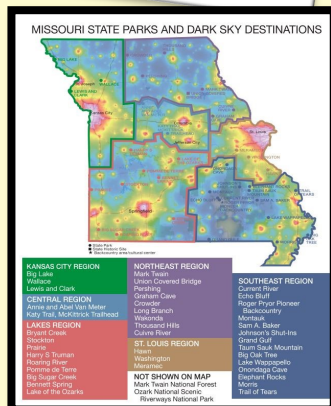


There are nearly 20 species in the genus *Viola* that can be found in Missouri, and identification of a specific species can be difficult. Violets can come in blue and white, and all have heart-shaped leaves. These flowers grow close to the ground and can be found in a wide variety of areas, such as woodlands and fields.

The Naturalist's Journal: Citizen Science Projects

Have you ever wondered why you can't see the night sky in certain areas of Missouri? Have you noticed that when you visit a Missouri state park your view of the night sky is clearer than your view from home? It can all be linked to light pollution. Join the Dark Sky Citizen Science Project to learn more about how Missouri's dark skies are vanishing and what you can do to help. Missouri State Parks has also teamed up with the Dark Skies Project to showcase the parks that have the best night sky viewing. Check out for their organization more info and to plan your next night sky viewing.

Dustin Hillis,
Senior Park Specialist



The "Dark Sky Citizen Science Program" is a collection of citizen science projects allowing patrons of public libraries to contribute data that will help scientists better understand the impact of artificial light on our night sky and life on Earth. The citizen science program is made available to libraries through SciStarter which was founded in 2014 to improve the citizen science experience. Partners of SciStarter include Arizona State University's School of Future Innovation in Society, the National Science Foundation, NASA Space Science Education Consortium and Globe at Night.

If you are interested in helping with the Dark Sky Citizen Science Project, go to website below:

<https://darksymissouri.org/>

We do school programs!

Contact Dustin Hillis, Senior Park Specialist, at Babler State Park at dustin.hillis@dnr.mo.gov or 636-324-7064 to schedule your programs.

Explorer Corner

Can you find all of the constellations?



Did You Know?

One million Earths could fit inside the sun – and the sun is considered a normal size star.

Did You Know?

The universe is nearly 13.8 billion years old and has been expanding ever since the Big Bang.

Did You Know?

Jupiter, Saturn,
Uranus, and Neptune
do not have a solid
surface!

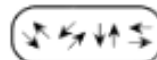
Did You Know?

If you could fly a plane to Pluto,
the excursion would take over
800 years!



ANDROMEDA
LYRA
ORION
HERCULES
CASSIOPEIA
PEGASUS

URSA MAJOR
DRACO
URSA MINOR
AQUILA
CETUS
GEMINI



What is a Constellation?

A constellation is a group of stars forming a recognizable pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or associated with a mythological figure. Modern astronomers divide the sky into 88 constellations with defined boundaries.

Did You Know?

The Milky Way is our galaxy. It is the place where our nearby planetary group exists, alongside many. The quantity of stars in the Milky Way runs from 100 to 400 billion.

Notwithstanding, the numbers are persistently evolving. New stars are being conceived as the old ones are vanishing.

All programs may be subject to change following Covid-19 guidelines.

Special Event Schedule

All programs are FREE and open to the public

Please contact the visitor center at 636-458-3813 for more program details or check our Facebook page!

Spring Wildflower Hikes

Saturdays from 10 a.m.—Noon

April 2

April 9

April 16

April 23

April 30

May 7

May 14

Join us for a Spring Wildflower Hike!

We will be hiking the Hawthorn Trail.

The Hawthorn Trail is approximately

1.25 miles long. We will explore the trail in search of the first flowers of spring 2022. Meet at the Alta Shelter Parking Lot.

All participants will need to signup via <https://icampmo1.usedirect.com/MSPWeb/Activities/Search.aspx>.

Stream Team Volunteering

Sundays from 10 a.m. -Noon

May 8

May 22

Are you interested in volunteering with the park for a one time event (or more) that allows you to help the park with a stream team activity? If you answered yes, sign up with this event to be selected to help out. Seats are limited to 20. If you are not able to attend this program that's okay—we will have more opportunities like this in the future. All participants will need to plan to get wet.

Sign up for these events via the link below:

<https://icampmo1.usedirect.com/MSPWeb/Activities/Search.aspx>



MO State Parks Explorer Program

Giving visitors a new appreciation and respect for the natural world and the historic setting around them along with an interest in preserving them is the main goal of the Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites Explorer Program. The patches and stars earned are visible symbols of a person's commitment to preserving the living environment.



The program has three parts to complete to earn the patches:

1. Interpretive Study—complete two programs learning about an animal, building or history related to the park or historic site.
2. Interpretive Programs—complete four programs: guided tours, evening programs, hikes, etc.
3. Identification—identify 10 significant things to a park interpreter (objects, people or other living things), giving the proper name and its importance to the park or historic site.

World Migratory Bird Day

Sunday, May 15

10 a.m. - Noon



Join us in celebrating World Migratory Bird Day! We will be hiking the Virginia Day Trail and recording any and all bird species that we come across. Bring your best pair of binoculars and your enthusiasm to look for our temporary avian guests. The Virginia Day Trail is about 1.5 miles long and consists of moderate terrain. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Follow us on Facebook to check for program updates and the Memorial Weekend programs.

Park Happenings

New Reservation System

In 2022, as part of the new reservation system, there will be a \$2 decrease in reservation fees for reservations made online and a 50 cent decrease in reservation fees for reservations made through the call center. Beginning 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, making an advanced reservation for campsites and group tent areas will result in the following nonrefundable reservation fees: \$6.50 for reservations made online at icampmo.com and \$8 for reservations made through the call center at 877-422-6766. Same-day reservations for campsites are accepted and do not incur a reservation fee.

2023 Camping Rate Increase

For reservations made with an arrival date beginning Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, camping rates will increase \$2 per night for basic and electric campsites and \$3 per night for Electric/Water 50 AMP and Sewer/Electric/Water 50 AMP campsites.

Military Discounts Now Available!

In 2019, Missouri State Parks started offering a military discount on camping stays. For stays beginning on April 1, customers who are retired, veteran or active-duty military personnel (including active-duty family members) are eligible for a \$2 per night camping discount. This discount applies to camping only. It does not apply to lodging (i.e., cabins, yurts, etc.). Like the Senior/ADA discount, there are acceptable forms of identification for the Military Discount, including CAC card or the DD Form 1173. The qualifying party must show proper identification upon check-in.

Babler State Park is on Facebook!

This is a great way to stay up-to-date on current program offerings, stay in contact with park staff, and post comments about the park. Please check us out on the social networking site at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park and "like" us.

Service Projects Available for Scouts

Park staff have recently compiled a new list of potential scout projects for the park. These projects include a variety of skill and time requirements, from a few hours to a full day, ongoing, group and individual projects. Scout projects are available now. Contact the Visitor Center for more information!

2021/2022 Deer Hunt Results

The November 2021 deer hunt allowed the park to remove 55 deer, while 5 were removed during the January 2022 hunt. During the hunts, park naturalists sampled 36 yearling and adult harvested deer for Chronic Wasting Disease. The 36 samples came back negative for CWD, meaning that the park's deer herd is healthy.

River Hills Visitor Center Gift Shop

Start your spring adventures inside our store. It has beverages, collapsible dog bowls, snacks, hiking sticks, apparel, plush toys, Frisbees, kids wristbands, souvenirs, insect spray and so much more!



Thank you for your support by continuously voting to renew the 1/10 of 1% Parks, Soils & Water Sales Tax.

It is through this constitutional tax, in which half of the funding generated is earmarked for the Division of Missouri State Parks. This provides about three-fourths of the division's budget for the operation and development of state parks. All additional funding comes from revenues generated in the state park system and some federal funds.

Babler's First Families: the Tylers

By the early to mid-1800s, the land in Virginia used for labor-intensive crops such as tobacco and hemp was becoming depleted. This led planters to search elsewhere, and the rich soil of the Missouri and Mississippi river valleys caught their eye. In 1837, the intertwined Tyler and Coleman families moved west to Missouri and settled on land that, 100 years later, would become Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. The Tyler property extended from south of Walnut Grove Shelter to the Missouri River.

Before leaving for his long

journey, Henry E Tyler sold the family estate, named Blenheim, to his eldest son, George. It was here where George's eldest son, James Hoge Tyler was born. James eventually served in the Virginia legislature and the Confederate army and later became Virginia's 40th governor (1898-1902).

Upon arrival in the area, the Tyler family probably erected log houses in an area near Walnut Grove Shelter before building their plantation home on the ridge near the stables. Labor was easily accessible, as the family enslaved 52 people, according

to the 1840 federal census. The Tyler and Coleman families were Baptist, allegedly erecting and attending Antioch Baptist Church at its original location west of the current intersection of Highway 109 and Wild Horse Creek and Eatherton roads.

Crops on the Tyler Plantation were wheat, corn and dew-retted hemp, with large herds of sheep and hogs. The labor-intensive hemp crop was only feasible because of the family's enslaved labor. According to the 1860 census, there were 57 enslaved people (including 26 children under the age of 10) living in seven "slave houses" on the property. The location of these "homes" is not currently known.

Henry and Lucinda Coleman Tyler had seven children, most of whom attended college. Daughter Huldah Ann married Edmond Nickerson, a prominent attorney. They built a home in Warrensburg, Missouri, named Selmo Park, which is currently part of the campus of the University of Central Missouri. Their other daughter, Elizabeth, married Robert Goodwin Coleman, youngest son of the Rev. Robert Goodwin Coleman. Robert served as a state senator until the Civil War began.



This is a picture of the Coleman-Tyler Cemetery. Due to years of weathering, some of the tombstones have broken off. The park is working to ascertain funding to fix these and other headstones within the park's half dozen cemeteries.

Son Spencer Coleman Tyler married Barbara Goodwin. They moved to St. Charles County, where they had several children who Barbara raised by herself after Spencer's early death in 1868.

William Elliot Tyler was born around 1832, and is noted in the 1860 census as living in St. Louis County but disappears from the records after that. There are some notes that say he died in the Civil War. Robert Hawes Tyler attended Westminster College, where he met Mary Catherine Larimore. They settled in Callaway County, where they had 12

children.

Henry E Tyler Jr. enlisted in the Confederate army on Aug. 5, 1862. He was captured almost immediately and sent to Gratiot Street Prison, then to Alton, and was finally exchanged in a prisoner exchange in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was also a prisoner of war in Louisiana from May 26, 1865, to June 7, 1865. He married Louisa Ophelia Stevens in 1867, and they eventually settled in Nashville, Missouri, just north of Joplin.

Note: I have tried in vain to find any photos of this family or its estate here in the park. If you have access to such (or anything else from nearby families), please email me at parkpool20@gmail.com or Dustin Hillis at Dustin.Hillis@dnr.mo.gov.

-Carley Wright
Park Volunteer

The Eagle's Nest: Manager's Comments



It's mid-February, and we have had a few winter storms these past weeks, but today it feels like spring. But I know that winter still has some time left and we're not quite there yet here in the St. Louis region.

Days like this bring a little bit of anticipation for the next season. We will quickly transition from snow plows and salt spreaders to putting diesel in our mowers and tractors and start mowing grass.

Just to remind you all, water and restrooms (including the campground and shower-house) across the site are scheduled to be turned on around April 1, weather permitting. We always seem to get stretches of "nice" weather before then and always get the questions of "Why is the water not on?" It's not as simple as just turning on a valve. When we winterize buildings, we blow the water out of the lines to prevent them freezing and causing damage. It takes the crew a little over a week to shut everything down (and again to open them back up), so it's not something we do until we are sure we are past the freezing temperatures.

This is also a good time to remind everyone that the River Hills Visitor Center will reopen as scheduled on weekends starting March 5 and then be open five days a week (Wednesdays through Sundays) on April 1.

We have spent some more time this winter enhancing the building's exhibits and have brought in some new Babler-specific resale merchandise. Come take a look!

Projects are still being planned (paved trail resurfacing, water tower repainting, campground improvements, and lodge renovation), and we hope to see some movement in completion of some of those this spring. It is also budget request time, and one of the large items to ask for will be a new playground at the Guy Park Trailhead area. This playground was destroyed when a large tree fell onto it during a severe storm.

We also have a new campground reservation, retail point of sale system. This also includes the ability to reserve one of our shelters or meeting rooms online or through our call center. I encourage you to take a look at the new web portal to see the improvements that have been made: <https://icampmo1.usedirect.com/MSPWeb/>.

Hope to see you all in the park! The blooming dogwoods and redbuds are not too far away!

-Chris Ferree,

Park Superintendent

Hidden Figures: Carley Wright

A Hero for Babler's History

Carley Wright has been volunteering here at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park since the summer of 2019. In that time, she has devoted herself to discovering new sites and uncovering all she can about the park's history, from the first homesteads to the CCC era and beyond. The new exhibit wall in the Visitor Center, labeled "First Families", is a fantastic showcase of her work here at Babler. This exhibit includes descriptions and photos of the Tyler and Coleman families, and the lesser-known families, such as the Kelpes, Bates, Glassers, Bothes and Kronungs, all of which lived here on park property before the Babler family bought and donated the land in the 1920s and 1930s.

Carley has made herself an integral part of the Babler State Park family; when asked about her time here at the park, she has said, "I'm so grateful for the people I've met, and the experiences I've had while volunteering here."

For more information on the first families, check out some of our older newsletters at mostateparks.com or come into the visitor center to check out the exhibits—you may even run into Carley herself!

If you would like follow in Carley's footsteps and volunteer here at the park just contact our resident naturalist, Dustin Hillis, at dustin.hillis@dnr.mo.gov.



Carley has volunteered at all three of our Babler's Howl-oween events. In 2020, she dressed up as a Ghostbuster.

Volunteers Wanted:

Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park is looking for people to help in the Visitor Center, in the campground and with general maintenance. Volunteers will help with nature hikes, educational camps, school groups and so much more.

Contact the park for more information at 636-324-7064.

Leaving a Mark

We want to take a moment to thank the Confluence Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists for the amazing work its members have done here at Babler. This group has done and continues to do so much for the park, from planting and caring for our wildflower gardens, planting native trees in mowing reductions zones and removing bush honeysuckle. We are so thankful for the group's hard work and dedication.

Keep up the good work!





**Dr. Edmund A. Babler
Memorial State Park**

800 Guy Park Drive
Wildwood, MO 63005

Phone: 636-458-3813

Fax: 636-458-9105

Email: dustin.hillis@dnr.mo.gov

River Hills Visitor Center Hours:

April-October: 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.—Wednesday-Sunday

November & March: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.—Saturday & Sunday

December-February: CLOSED

Generations of Missourians have passed through Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park's massive stone gateway for cookouts and family get-togethers or to spend time with friends. The park's camping facilities, Civilian Conservation Corps architecture, and hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails help all visitors find their place to get away from it all, just minutes from St. Louis.

Park Hours:

April 1 – Oct. 31: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Nov. 1—March 31: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

We're on the web!

mostateparks.com/babler

<https://www.facebook.com/DrEdmundABablerMemorialStatePark/>



Spring Wildflower Hikes

Every Saturday:

April 2nd-May 14th

10 a.m.- Noon Reg. Required

