

## Park Staff

- Chris Ferree  
Park Superintendent
- Richard Love  
Asst. Park  
Superintendent
- Andrea Grant  
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- Dustin Hillis  
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- Erik Veenstra  
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Worker
- Jonah Coakley  
Park Maintenance  
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- Vacant  
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- Angela Carson  
Park Ranger

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## Tales from the Campfire

If you've been camping here at Babler State Park you may have seen these familiar faces. Because our campground is open so frequently we have guests who spend most weekends here at the park in their campers. I was able to ask some of our guests some questions about why they camp at Babler & their favorite places in the park.

Here are their stories...

You've probably seen Rebecca Humes around the campsite or even purchased ice or wood from her. As camp host she is here all day every day taking care of the sites & some guest needs. "Camping is a way of life," she said. Rebecca and her late husband, Wayne, have been



Rebecca Humes, Babler Campground Host, with her granddaughter on patrol in the campground.



Babler's campground sites can be rented year-round. Currently the park has basic (non electric) sites, 30 AMP, and 50 AMP sites.

full time RV people for over a decade. "My husband went out and bought a camper and said I would like it. Twenty years later and we've been camping ever since, we love being away from the hustle and bustle." Her favorite place in the park is the basic trail loop in the fall. Be sure to check it out as she remarked how much she adores the colors of the leaves and trees when the sun hits them.

Most of the time our campers consist of groups of families and friends who have been coming back to the grounds weekend after weekend. Patrick & Tracy Ney joined their friends who remarked, "We keep coming back for the wide

open spaces and the trees soaking up the noise of the city." I asked them why they decided to start camping and Patrick said, "We had a pop up with our boys when they were younger and after getting away from it we got a camper. It's a reset and way to relax without having the rush of everyday life."

After talking with various guests it seems clear why they enjoy camping so much; being outside in nature and being able to relax without worrying about what's going on outside the campground. So come visit us at the park and see why people keep coming back to the campground!

-Emma Zahner,  
Seasonal Interpreter



Babler holds yearly Halloween Decorating contests in the campground. This event has become super popular and has created a fun, entertaining memory for campers alike.

# The Bear Truth

Have you ever seen a Missouri Black Bear? The truth is black bears are a vital part of Missouri's ecology that has been absent for decades....until now. The fact that Missouri has black bears entering the state naturally is a testament to the amount of healthy habitat that the state has to offer.



Black bear. Photo courtesy of MDC.

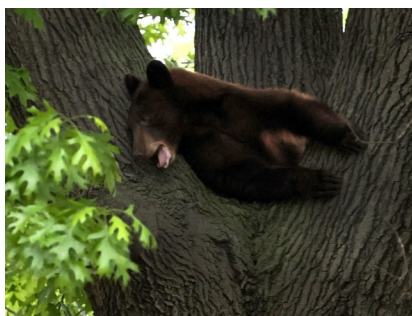
The American black bear is one of the largest and heaviest wild mammals in Missouri. It has a long muzzle with a straight facial profile; rounded, erect ears; rather short, stout legs; and a very short tail practically concealed in the long, heavy fur. For black bears in Missouri, the fur is predominantly glossy black; the muzzle is brown, and there is usually a white patch on the chest. The sexes look much alike, though females are usually smaller than males. Black bears are usually silent but can make a variety of sounds. they may grunt, mumble, squeak, roar, huff, bellow, hum, moan, or purr (MDC).

Black bears like to live in heavily wooded areas. In winter,

they will create a den in a hollow tree, cave, an excavated hollow in the ground or another type of shelter. In summer, they will sleep in trees or directly on the ground. Once abundant in the state, however, by 1850 they were rare and were nearly eliminated by 1931. Reintroduction efforts in Arkansas have increased their numbers in our state.

Black bears will eat a variety of foods. Plant matter includes grass, berries and other fruits, various seeds and nuts, the inner bark of trees and roots; this makes up 90% of a black bears diet. The other 10% consists of animal food which includes ants, bees and their honey, crickets and grasshoppers, fish, frogs, small rodents, fawns, bird eggs, and many kinds of carrion. Acorns are an important food source in the fall as bears prepare for winter, as this allows them to pack on the pounds before going into hibernation.

Mating for bears is in May or June but the development of eggs is delayed for 6 or 7 months. The eggs continue development about the time that bears enter hibernation, in



Black bear that was caught wandering the streets of Richmond Heights, MO. Photo courtesy of the St. Louis Post Dispatch.



Black bear sow and cub. Photo courtesy of MDC.

October or November. Young bears are born in late January or February, this happens sometimes while the mother is even still asleep. A litter consists of either 2 or 3 cubs. Winter inactivity usually extends into April, when bears leave their winter quarters and feed heavily. Cubs stay with the mother through the summer and will usually den with her the next winter. Mothers, or sows, will kick their young male cubs out of their territory when they become of age. This is to limit inbreeding within the group. The young sow cubs will be given a section of their mother's territory.

Even though we haven't had a confirmed sighting of a black bear in the park, doesn't mean that they aren't around. We have had multiple sightings within 20 minutes of the park in either direction. It is only a matter of time before these gentle creatures return to their home here at Babler. The fact that they are coming back so close to the park is milestone for the park, in knowing that we have suitable habitat in the area for these gentle giants to return home.

-Dustin Hillis,

Interpretive Resource Specialist III

## The Naturalist's Journal: Citizen Science Projects

Have you ever watched a monarch butterfly glide through the air or delicately dance between flowers? Now imagine a world with no monarch butterflies. How sad and less beautiful. With your help monarchs can make a comeback by joining others and planting native milkweed gardens and by checking on the individual health of monarchs. By joining Project Monarch Health, you will be directly checking the health of your monarch populations in your area and then reporting that data back to the project. This allows scientists to monitor the life cycle of this beautiful species and helps them to learn different ways of conserving the species for years to come.

Dustin Hillis,  
Senior Park Specialist



Monarch Health is a citizen science project working to track the prevalence of the protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) in monarch butterflies in North America. The program was started in 2006 by Dr. Sonia Altizer and then-undergraduate student Natalie Kolleda Tarpein (now a science teacher in SC), and since then has received over 60,000 samples from volunteers all over the US and Canada.

This long-term, widespread data allows scientists to better understand where and when this parasite is likely to be the most prevalent. Although this parasite does not infect humans, it can make butterflies very sick. Monarchs infected with OE may be too weak to emerge properly from their chrysalides, resulting in deformed wings and an inability to fly. In other cases, infected monarchs can look completely normal but cannot fly as well or live as long as healthy monarchs. This can impact their ability to complete their journey down to Mexico, where they hibernate during the winter.

For more information about this project visit:  
<https://monarchparasites.org/>

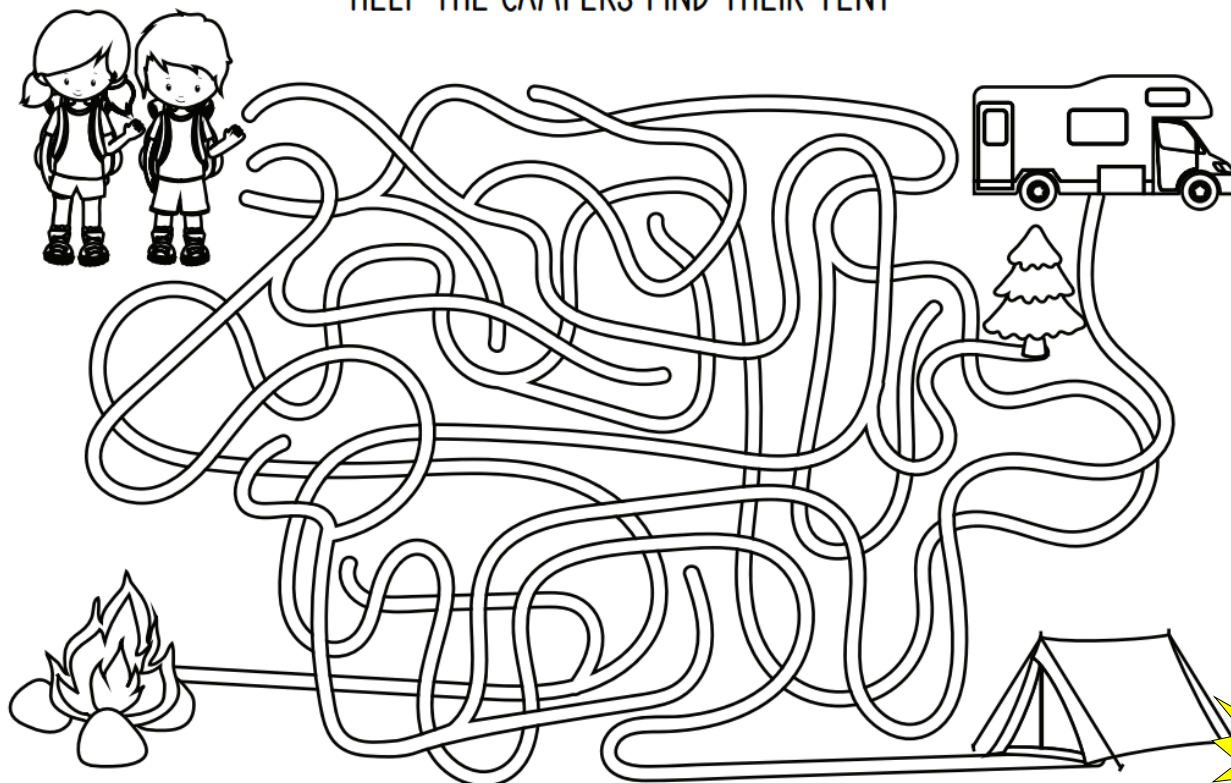
### We do school programs!

Contact Dustin Hillis, Interpretive Resource Specialist at Babler State Park at 636-458-3813 ext. 223 to schedule your programs.

# Explorer Corner

## CAMPING MAZE

HELP THE CAMPERS FIND THEIR TENT





## 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!

## June

### National Trails Day Hike

**Saturday, June 5**

Join us for a hike on the Dogwood Trail to celebrate National Trails Day. The dogwood trail is approximately 2 miles long and is of moderate grade. We will meet at the trail head found at the Guy Park Trailhead parking lot.



### Stream Team Volunteering

**Sundays from 10a.m.—Noon**

**June 13**

**June 27**

**July 11**

**Aug 15**

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, signup with this event to be selected to help out. Seats are limited to 15. 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)

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



## July

### WBS: Raptor Awareness

**Saturday, July 3**

Join the park staff in welcoming the World Bird Sanctuary to the park. WBS will be providing a live Raptor Awareness program and will have live birds of prey. The program will be held in the monument field from 4pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring either a blanket to sit on or lawn chairs. Park staff will have circles drawn on the lawn to aid in social distancing for the program. It is also encouraged that everyone in attendance wear a mask.

***\*There will be live birds flying over the audience.***



## 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.

# Park Happenings

## Babler State Park is on Facebook!

It 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. We have Eagle Scout projects available. Contact the Visitor Center for more information!

## 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. Like the Senior/ADA discount, there are acceptable forms of identification for the Military Discount, including CAC card or the DD Form 1173. The proper military identification must be shown at time of check-in. This discount applies to camping only. The discount does not apply to lodging (i.e., cabins, yurts, etc.). The qualifying party must show proper identification upon check-in.

## 2019 Camping Rate Increase

In 2019, the rates for campsites with electricity increased by \$2 during the on-season. The funds generated from this increase will be earmarked to fund various electrification projects. This past season we had several campsites that were not available to our customers due to electrical issues. With these potential improvements and repairs, Missouri State Parks will better meet the needs of its guests.

## **Volunteers Wanted:**

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

Contact the park for more information at 636-458-3813.

## *River Hills Visitor Center Gift Shop*

Start your spring adventures inside our store. 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: Glaser-Bothe

Louisa Hatz was born in Missouri to parents George and Anna, who were recently arrived immigrants from Germany. Louisa married Joseph Glaser, in 1859, a German immigrant who arrived sometime in the 1850's. In the 1860 census, Joseph is listed as a tenement farmer, living with wife Louisa and baby Joseph A. A deed dated December 11, 1865 shows that Joseph purchased 102 acres from Louis Sander and his wife, Theresa. This land would eventually become the entrance to our park. I believe that the family home was located on the hill to the south side of the entrance gate.

Joseph and Louisa would have 6 children - Joseph A., Frank, Johann, Rosena, August, and George. Mr. Joseph Glaser died in 1876 and after 3 years of widowhood, Louisa married Wilhelm Christian Bothe in January of 1880. In October of that year, the Bothes would have a son named Carl, only for tragedy to strike the next month when Johann Glaser would die

at the young age of 16.

In 1883, Louisa's last child, a daughter named Dorothea Sophia Bothe was born. But tragedy was not done with this family. Carl Bothe died at the age of 16 in March of 1897 and his father followed him in January of 1901. Louisa lived with her daughter Sophia Bothe Kranung (possibly Kroenung) and her husband, Peter, in the family home until her death in 1932 at the age of 92. Joseph Glaser, Johann Glaser, Carl Bothe, Christian Bothe, and Louisa Hatz Glaser Bothe are all buried in a small family cemetery located just north of the entrance gate.

Joseph A. Glaser married Susan Wardenburg and had 4 children. Frank Glaser married Wilhelmine Emma Sander. They lived on Wild Horse Creek Road and had 5 children. Rosena Glaser married Louis Conrad Fick. Their family lived on Manchester Road according to the 1910 census, and they had 4 children. August Glaser married



Glaser-Bothe Cemetery is located near the front entrance of the park on a ridgetop.

Mary Sander, sister to Emma Sander. The couple had 3 sons. George Glaser married Louise Fanter and had 4 children.

In the 1920 census Frank, August, and George Glaser all lived next to each other on Wild Horse Creek Road while eldest brother Joseph A. lived just down the road.

-Carley Wright,  
Volunteer

## CONGRATS!!!!

We are excited to announce that Dustin Hillis, Babler's Interpreter, has received the 2020 Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity Award in Customer Service. If you have ever attended one of Dustin's programs you should already know that he is very deserving of this distinction. During 2020, when in person programming was severely curtailed, Dustin took it upon himself to think out of the box and produce some very original online content. This ranged from story time readings, crafts, cooking demonstrations, Monarch butterfly hatching, the ever popular feedings of our education animals, plus many more.

Dustin was part of a small group that was recognized by Missouri State Parks' Grants, Recreation, and Interpretation Program to receive this award during a ceremony with Governor Mike Parson at the Capitol on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

We are all very thankful to have Dustin with us at Babler and look forward to what he comes up with next. I know he is eager to see all of you in person this summer.



Congratulations Dustin!

## Ticking Time Bomb

If you have been out in the woods hiking or camping you have probably run into a tick. They attach themselves on various parts of the body in hopes to gain nutrients from blood. Typically, they are found in the summer and hot weather. Since summer is coming soon, we have compiled some quick facts to learn more about them.



This is a lone star tick, one of the most common ticks found at Babler.

Ticks are about 3-5 mm long and are parasites. There are over 850 species of ticks in the world and four species can be found in Missouri: the Lone star tick, Black-legged tick, American dog tick, and Gulf Coast tick. Ticks are classified as arachnids, which is the family of invertebrates that houses spiders, scorpions, and mites. Ticks don't have eyes and find their prey through carbon dioxide output, similar to mosquitoes. They don't jump but instead crawl up long grasses or bushes and wait for an unsuspecting host to pass by where they then attach themselves with their back legs.

Ticks take between 24-48 hours to feed on their host and to limit the spread of disease it crucial that the host promptly remove them. Ticks can spread disease such as Lyme disease. They key to avoiding this outcome is by prevention techniques. Wear long pants and repellent while hiking and don't forget to check yourself after hiking for stowaways. If you do see a tick on you, use a pair of tweezers to grasp it as close to the head as possible and proceed to gently remove it. You

can collect your specimens and send them to the Missouri Dept. of Conservation to aid in research about ticks or you can put it in a jar of alcohol to dispose of it. It is not recommended to burn or flush the tick because it can still spread disease.

Ticks seem scary and like a pest to humans, however, they are a benefit the ecosystems they inhabit by serving as food for birds, mammals, etc. Hopefully, these facts give you an insight on tick prevention.

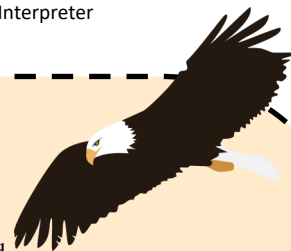
You can learn more about these tiny creatures by visiting: <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/ticks>.

If you'd like to learn more about the research being done on ticks you can visit: <https://www.atsu.edu/missouri-ticks-and-tick-borne-pathogen-surveillance-research>

-Kristin Brown,

Seasonal Interpreter

## The Eagle's Nest: Manager's Comments



It's May and spring is in full swing, Memorial Day is right around the corner (or past when you read this) and we have a few more slices of normality back in park operations.

In April we submitted a plan and was approved to reopen the River Hills Visitor Center. We have been operating in a reduced capacity to just weekends and the main lobby only open, but by Memorial Day, the Exhibit Hall should be reopened and expansion of our hours to multiple days of the week.

Bathrooms and water throughout the park came on as well as planned and we entered "on" season for the campground and day use areas. We are all excited to be getting back to a normal operation, seeing visitors, and moving forward on projects. We thank all of you for being understanding as we got back up to speed this past year.

Last time I reported that State Park Campgrounds have a one year reservation window and now here at Babler you have the option for same day reservation up till 7PM. We have also rescinded the minimum 2 day stay rule for weekends. Our campground has stayed busy before on season even officially began and we expect it to remain busy for the bulk of the year. Get those reservations in now!

Another exciting endeavor are a couple of projects that may be funded by bond revenue dollars. The issuing of State Bonds is working its way through the legislature currently and we hope to hear about final determination soon. Babler was identified to receive campground upgrades and project money for the Babler Lodge complex renovation. If you had not heard the Babler Lodge had been used by the Division of Youth Services since the early 1980's. That building is coming back into state park control. We are at the very early stages of planning for this area, so stay tuned for developments.

Another note is to mention of another full time staff hire. Jonah Coakley started as one of our Grounds Maintenance Technicians in March. This filled one of our two open positions. Jonah is no stranger to Babler, he had been a seasonal employee at the park since March 2019 and has taken on the challenge to learn all the intricacies (good and bad!) of park maintenance operations. We are excited to have him on board with us!

As things are still changing rapidly with our reopening plan a great way to stay connected is via our Facebook page. You can also find information on our summer programming as we start to have more offerings in person.

Hope to see you all out in the park and now you can stop in at the Visitor Center to say Hi as well.

-Chris Ferree,

Park Superintendent







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

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**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 30: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

**We're on the web!**

[mostateparks.com/babler](http://mostateparks.com/babler)

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



# WBS: Raptor Awareness



Sat, July 3rd

4PM @ Monument Field

