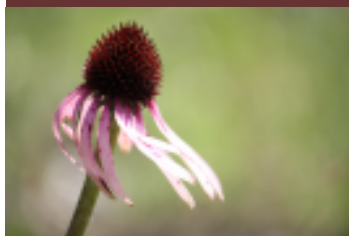
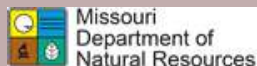


Summer 2011



ST. FRANCIOS STATE PARK

Nature Notes

From the Naturalist



From glade restoration to flooding, the staff at St. Francois State Park have seen a busy spring. In early may, 180 scouts from the St. Louis Area Boy Scout Council joined Missouri State Park staff for a day of service in the park. Scouts spent the entire day on Saturday, May 7 to help park staff clear and mark all the park's trails, reroute portions of the Pike Run trail, and aid with restoration of two of the park's glades. The scouts and the scout leaders together donated over 1,200 hours of service to the park. Their efforts were very much appreciated, and helped park staff work on many projects that we simply couldn't do without help!



Queen Anne's Lace fritters are on the menu again this summer.

This spring also saw the return of spring floods to the park. This flooding is not that unusual, especially with spring rains. This year the river came out of its banks twice, but neither event was very severe or caused any damage.

Now that summer is here, staff is looking forward to

several annual summer events and programs. On July 16, I will once again offer visitors the opportunity to sample several dishes made with edible wild plants found in the park. This program is extremely time consuming and difficult to put together, so it only happens once a year. Be sure to mark your calendars!

We will also be having our annual Sky Watch Party for the Perseid meteor shower on Saturday, August 13. The full moon will rise early, which could limit the number of meteors we see, but gives us a fantastic opportunity to get the telescope out to view the moon's surface. Mark your calendars and hope to see you in the park this summer!

-Jamie

Popular Program Tantalizes Taste Buds

Each summer, the park naturalist prepares a delicious buffet of tasty treats made from edible plants that are found in the region.

While one would have a hard time playing Survivor-man in the Missouri woods,



there are many dishes that can be enhanced with the

use of wild edible plants.

On Saturday, July 16 at 8 p.m., the Wild Edible Buffet will return. On the menu this year: watercress soup, blackberry jelly, Queen Anne's Lace fritters, sassafras tea and more. Don't miss it!

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Volunteer Naturalists Needed!

Do you enjoy working with people? Do you love nature and want to share it with others? Then we could use your help!

- Park interpreter (that means naturalist!) Jamie Hubert is looking for volunteers. We have several projects ongoing that we could use help with, such as: presenting programs, taking care of the wildflower garden, doing historical research or assisting with special events and surveys.
- Must be at least 18 years old. For more info, email Jamie at Jamie.hubert@dnr.mo.gov

July Interpretive Program Schedule

Date	Programs
Saturday, July 2	8 p.m. Missouri Ozark Stories
Sunday, July 3	2 p.m. Creek Walk 8 p.m. Bats: Myth and Reality
Saturday, July 9	2 p.m. Herpetology Hour 8 p.m. Owl Prowl
Saturday, July 16	8 p.m. Wild Edible Buffet
Saturday, July 23	2 p.m. Explorer Hour 8 p.m. Missouri's Comeback Kids
Saturday, July 30	2 p.m. Mountain Lions, Cougars and Pumas-Oh My! Mountain lion activities and games 8 p.m. Return of the Mountain Lion

August Interpretive Program Schedule

Date	Programs
Saturday, Aug. 6	2 p.m. Herpetology Hour 8 p.m. Nature at Night: Night Hike
Friday, Aug. 12	8 p.m. Cosmic Vacation
Saturday, Aug. 13	2 p.m. Explorer Hour: Star Chart craft 9 p.m. Sky Watch 2011: Perseid Meteor Shower
Saturday, Aug. 20	2 p.m. Herpetology Hour 8 p.m. Nature Jeopardy
Friday, Aug. 26	2 p.m. Energy Olympics 8 p.m. Spider Sniff
Saturday, Aug. 27	2 p.m. Explorer Hour 8 p.m. Trials of a Snake's Life

ST. FRANCOIS STATE PARK

8920 U.S. Highway 67 North
Bonne Terre, MO 63628
Phone: 573-358-2173
www.mostateparks.com/stfrancois.htm



GET OUT AND PLAY
IN MISSOURI STATE PARKS!



Find us on Facebook!

New Camping Rates for the 2011 Camping Season (On Season Rates)

Basic Campsite- \$13.00

Electric Campsite- \$21.00

Electric/Water- \$23.00

Sewer/Electric/Water- \$26.00



\$2 discount for seniors and persons with disabilities.

*Note that at St. Francois State Park, we only have BASIC and ELECTRIC campsites. To make a reservation, call 1-877-422-6766.

Halloween Happenings Returns

In 2009, the Halloween Happenings event drew a crowd of over 400 people to the park to laugh at our Halloween vaudeville and go out on the Creatures of the Night walk.

Last year, the event returned to its original home of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. The naturalists at each site have decided to host the event on a rotating basis, so now St. Francois will be hosting on odd-numbered years. We are happy to announce that the Halloween Happenings event will be held this year at St. Francois on Saturday, Oct. 22.

The Halloween Vaudeville features skits, jokes, stories and songs around a specific theme. This year's theme is yet to be determined. The Creatures of the Night Walk has several hilarious characters along the trail for you to meet. Space is limited on the walk, so reservations are required. Stay tuned to the website and Facebook page as details emerge. Call the park office for more details.

Creature Feature



Barred Owl
(*Strix varia*)

A familiar nighttime sound while you are camping in a Missouri State Park, the call of the barred owl is a camper favorite.

Did you know...

- The call of the barred owl seems to say, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?"
- Owls can't spin their heads in a full circle, only 270 degrees.
- An owl's eyes are so large they take up 51% of its skull, which doesn't leave a lot of room for brains. The idea that owls are wise is a myth.
- Owls have one ear slightly higher than the other, giving them three dimensional hearing.