



# Nature Notes

Spring /Summer 2010 Programs ----1601 S. Speck Rd, Independence, MO

39.086253° N

94.360487° W



Vol. 2, Issue 1

## Calendar of Events

- March 13 Bluebird House Class
- March 27 Easter Egg Hunt
- March 27 ISC Passport to Adventure
- April 17 Wildflower Hike
- April 17 Hiking Hounds
- April 24 Weed Warriors
- May 5 Outdoor Skills Series Begins
- May 29 MO Tree Hike
- May 29 Hiking Hounds
- June 3 Nature Story Time Begins
- June 5 EcoFest
- June 12 Fishing Derby
- June 19 Hiking Hounds
- June 25 Starry Night Hike
- June 26 Night Fishing
- July 23 Starry Night Hike
- July 29 Dragonfly Daze
- July 31 Night Fishing
- Aug 3 Geo-Quest Begins
- Aug 28 Night Fishing
- Sep 25 National Public Lands Day

**All programs located at George Owens Nature Park unless otherwise noted in description.**

## EcoFest

All Ages / Free Event



“It’s all about water” Explore the newest park in the Independence park system! Participate in a variety of fun, hands on activities that will entertain and educate about water quality and conservation. There will be live music, “EcoStreet” characters, exhibits, and food. Call 816-325-7370 for more information.

Date: Day: Time:  
June 5 Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Waterfall Park 4501 South Bass Pro Dr.

## Wildflower Hike

All Ages / Free Event

Join the park naturalist in beautiful Fairmont Park for spectacular spring wildflower blossoms. Bring your camera and a sturdy pair of shoes. The wakening terrain will be uneven. Plan on viewing Trout lilies, Dutchman’s breeches, ferns, Rue anemone, Redbuds, and more. Pre-registration required.



Date: Day: Time:  
April 17 Saturday 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Location: Fairmount Park 300 N. Home Ave

## Bluebird House Class

All Ages / Fee \$10



Give the birds a break! This class covers it all including building an Eastern Bluebird house, learning where to place it, ecology, nesting, and critical needs for the Bluebirds. We’ll also take a short hike along the park’s Bluebird Trail.

Date: Day: Time:  
March 13 Saturday 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.

## ISC Passport to Adventure

All Ages / Free Event

George Owens Nature Park is one member of the KC Interpretive Site Coalition, join us at this special kickoff event. Stop by the nature center and pick up your passport after March 27th. Visit a required amount of sites and receive a prize.

Date: Day: Time:  
March 27 Saturday 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

Location: Independence Bass Pro Shop  
18001 Bass Pro Drive



## Spring-Summer Park Hours

March 23rd to Sept 22nd

Tues-Sat 8:30am-8:30pm  
Sunday 12:00pm-8:30pm  
Mondays- Closed

## Easter Egg Hunt

Ages 1-9/Free Event

This annual event is a favorite for children ages 1-9 years. Visit with the Easter Bunny and then hunt for eggs hidden around the park. Exchange your eggs for treats at stations located in each area. After the hunt, take a hike in the nature park and read a story along the trail.

Date: Day: Time:  
March 27 Saturday 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Location: George Owens Nature Park



## Nature Story Time

Ages 2-5 / Free Event

Thursdays June 3 - July 22

Children are invited to participate in a nature focused story time and craft activity. A different animal and nature topic will be featured each session. Pre-registration is requested. Second session is the same activity. This activity is now offered partnership with the Kansas City Library- Sugar Creek Branch.

Date:	Day:	Date:	Day:	Time: (all dates)
June 3	Thursday	July 1	Thursday	10 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
June 10	Thursday	July 8	Thursday	11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
June 17	Thursday	July 15	Thursday	
June 24	Thursday	July 22	Thursday	

Location: George Owens Nature Park



## Outdoor Skills Series

Ages 8-12 / Free Event



A series focused on promoting popular outdoor recreation activities to local youth. Children that spend time outdoors build confidence, focus, and instill a love for the outdoors. Organized groups are asked to contact staff for program.

Date:	Day:	Time:
Dickinson Park (Fishing)	May 5	6:30 p.m -8 p.m.
Van Hook Park (Archery)	May 12	6:30 p.m -8 p.m.
-Crackerneck Entrance		
Rotary Park (Adventure)	May 19	6:30 p.m - 8 p.m.
George Owens (Archery)	May 26	6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

For more information or program registration call (816)-325-7115.  
www.georgeowensnaturepark.org



# Nature Notes

Spring /Summer 2010 Programs (Continued) --www.georgeowensnaturpark.org

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## Night Fishing



All Ages/ Free Event

Ever wonder if the fishing is better after dark? George Owens will remain open until 11 p.m. for three late night fishing events this summer. All park rules apply during these extended hours.

Date:	Day:	Time:
June 26	Saturday	8:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
July 31	Saturday	8:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
Aug 28	Saturday	8:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

## Starry Night Hike



All Ages/ Free Event

Explore the nocturnal world of George Owens Nature Park. Participants will gain appreciation for our nocturnal friends. Space will be limited so please call and pre-register. Pre-registration required three days before event.

Date:	Day:	Time:
June 25	Friday	9:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
July 23	Friday	9:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

## Missouri Tree Hike

All Ages/ Free Event

Join park staff on a tour of Missouri native trees. We'll investigate saplings to 100 year old giants. Learn about the trees that frame the history of Missouri. Bring your hiking boots and dress appropriately for the weather. Pre-registration required.

Date:	Day:	Time:
May 29	Saturday	9 a.m.-10 a.m.



## Geo-Quest Challenge

Special geocaches will be hidden within 10 Independence parks. Pick up your manifest at George Owens Nature Park, begin your quest and return it to the nature park for your prize.



Date:
Aug 3 - Aug 31

Personal GPS Unit required for activity.

## Weed Warriors



All Ages/ Free Event

The nature park needs your help in the battle against exotic plants. We'll be removing Bush honeysuckle and Japanese honeysuckle: both plants choke out native park flowers. Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Organized groups are welcome. Please call (816)-325-7115 in advance if you are bringing a group.

Date:	Day:	Time:
April 24	Saturday	9 a.m. to Noon

Please bring gloves, a hand saw or loppers, and water. The work day will take place on uneven terrain.

## Family Adventure Packs

The nature park has three childrens backpacks loaded with themed nature activities available for use while visiting the park.



Backpacks available at nature center

## Hiking Hounds



All Ages/ Dog Handlers Must Be 16

Bring your dog out to explore the beauty of three local natural areas. These specific parks are full of natural history and plenty of surprises for the pooches. Well behaved, vaccinated, and socialized dogs welcome. Leash required.

Date:	Day:	Location:
April 17	Saturday	Fairmount Park ( Meet at Dog Park)
May 29	Saturday	George Owens Nature Park (Lodge)
June 19	Saturday	Santa Fe Park ( Meet at Dog Park)

Time:	Equipment:
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Please bring a leash, waste bags, and water for your dog.

## Fishing Derby

Ages 5-12 / Fee \$2 per child

Bring your parents and show them how to catch the big one. Prizes will be given out in a number of categories. Please bring your own fishing pole and bait. A hat, sunscreen, and water are also recommended. This event is catch and release.



Date:	Day:	Time:
June 12	Saturday	9:30 a.m.- Noon

## National Public Lands Day

All Ages/ Free Event

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands. Locally in 2009, volunteers donated over 90 hours of their time. Join us to make a difference this year enhancing George Owens Nature Park.

Date:	Day:	Time:
September 25	Saturday	8 a.m. - Noon

Pre-registration is requested for large groups.



## Dragonfly Daze

Ages 2-5/ Free Event

Join park staff for outdoor adventure. We'll explore the wilder areas of the park. Activities include catching dragonflies, face painting, and nature craft activities. Please call ahead and pre-register by July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Date:	Day:	Time:
July 29	Thursday	10 a.m. - Noon



## Tales to Trails

Ages 2-5/ Free Event

Families with young children will enjoy being in the woods, while pausing to read a storyboard along a paved trail. Stop by the nature center after your hike and enjoy a story related activity on the days listed below.

Date:	Time:
March 10 and 27	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
April 7 and 24	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
May 5 and 29	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.



## Getting to George Owens Nature Park

From I-70 East, head north on M-291 to MO 78 Hwy (23rd St).

Turn right (east) and continue through three stoplights to South Speck Rd.

Turn left (north) on South Speck Road and continue 1/2 mile. The nature park will be on the right.

For more information or program registration call (816)-325-7115.