

# Nature Notes

2011-2012 Fall-Winter Programs Vol 4 Issue 1 1601 S. Speck Rd., Independence, MO 64057



39° 5'10.43" N

94° 21'37.82" W



## Calendar of Events

- Sep 24 Nat Public Lands Day
- Oct 1 Geo Quest Begins
- Oct 6 Nature Story Time Starts
- Oct 7 Fall Night Hike
- Oct 7 Itty Bitty Camp Out
- Oct 15 Weed Warriors
- Oct 15 Fall Family Hike
- Oct 18 Hunter Education
- Oct 19 Hunter Education
- Oct 20 Hunter Education
- Oct 21 Enchanted Forest
- Oct 22 Enchanted Forest
- Oct 28 Enchanted Forest
- Oct 29 Enchanted Forest
- Nov 17 Nature Story Time Ends
- Nov 30 Geo-Quest Ends
- Dec 13 Winter Solstice Hike
- Feb 2 Groundhog Day
- Mar 7 Art in the Park Starts
- Mar 3 Bluebird House Class
- Mar 10 Art Reception
- Mar 24 Art Reception
- Mar 29 Art in the Park Ends
- Apr 7 Wildflower Hike
- Apr 27 Frog-tastic Night Hike
- May Plein Air Event



## Fall Family Hike

All Ages/ \$2 per child/ Pre-Registration Required

Enjoy s'mores by the campfire after a fall hike through the park. We'll learn how native animals prepare for winter and practice basic tree identification along the trail. Bring the whole family on a nature park adventure.



Date:            Day:            Time:  
 October 15    Saturday            4:30 - 6 p.m.

## National Public Lands Day

All Ages / Free Event

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve public lands. Help make a difference in Independence's only city nature park.



Date:            Day:            Time:  
 September 24   Saturday            9 a.m.- Noon

Pre-registration is requested for groups by calling (816) 325-7115.

## Fall Night Hike

Recommended for Ages 8 and Up / Free Event

Explore the nocturnal world of George Owens Nature Park. Participants will gain appreciation for our nocturnal friends after the nature park closes. Space is limited so please call ahead to pre-register. Please do not bring flashlights, reflective clothing, or any children's shoes with lights.



No strollers allowed due to terrain.

Date:            Day:            Time:  
 October 7            Friday            7:30- 9 p.m.

## Nature Story Time

Ages 2-5 / Free Event

Children are invited to participate in a series of interesting nature focused stories and crafts. Books for this activity are provided in partnership with the Kansas City Library- Sugar Creek Branch.



Date:            Day:            Time: (all dates)  
 October 6, 13, 20, 27    Thursday            10-11 a.m.  
 November 3, 10, 17

## Enchanted Forest

All Ages/ \$3 Per Person

Come celebrate the 20th anniversary of the nature park's longest running special event. Designed for ages 3-9, this non-scary event transports children into the Enchanted Forest, where fairytales come to life. An old-fashioned hayride past a full-size pirate ship finishes the evening.



Date:            Day:            Time:  
 October 21,22,28,29    Friday and Saturday            7-9 p.m.



## 8th Annual Winter Solstice Torch Lit Hike

All Ages / Free Event

Enjoy the beginning of winter with a walk along a beautiful torch lit path. At stops along the trail, learn about the day we receive the shortest amount of daylight. Bring your camera and have your picture taken in an ice sleigh, watch artists create ice sculptures, learn how animals prepare for winter and much more!

Date:            Day:            Time:  
 December 13    Tuesday            5-6:30 p.m.



## Geo Quest Fall Edition

All Ages / Free Event

Geocaches will be hidden in 10 Independence parks this fall. Pick up a manifest at the nature park. When completed, return it to the nature park for your prize. Manifest are available for pickup from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Date :            Time:  
 October 1–November 30            Park Hours



A personal GPS receiver is necessary to complete this activity.

## Groundhog Day Celebration

Ages 2-5 / \$1 fee/ Pre-Registration Required

Celebrate the end of winter at the nature park. After a story, we'll watch a puppet show, make a groundhog craft, and eat a groundhog-themed treat. Groundhogs are interesting native Missouri mammals that get little attention.

Date:            Day:            Time:  
 February 2    Thursday            10-11 a.m.



In case of inclement weather contact the nature park by calling (816) 325-7115 .

**All programs located at George Owens Nature Park. Register by calling (816) 325-7843, unless otherwise noted.**

# Nature Notes

For park hours and general information (816)325-7115 [www.georgeowensnaturepark.org](http://www.georgeowensnaturepark.org)



## Hunter Education

Ages 11 and Up / Free Event

Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must obtain an approved hunter education certificate card before purchasing a hunting license.

(816) 325-7370 for registration.

Date: Day Time:

October 18-20 Tue-Thu 6-10 p.m.

## Build a Bluebird House

All Ages / \$15 / Pre-Registration Required

Give the birds a break! You will build a bluebird house, learn where to place it, nesting, and critical needs for bluebirds. This class will include a short walking tour of the park's bluebird trail.

Date: Day Time:  
March 3 Saturday 10 - 11 a.m.

## Art in the Park: Robert E. Tindall Art Show and Sale

Independence Art Association, Inc., in partnership with Independence Parks and Recreation, cordially invites you to the 4th Annual Robert E. Tindall Scholarship Art Show and Sale. This free event will feature an original painting by Tindall, in whose name the organization has given scholarships for over 25 years.

Exhibit Date: Day: Reception Dates Reception Time  
March 7- March 29 Park Hours March 10 and 24th 1-4 p.m.

Visit [www.independenceartassociation.org](http://www.independenceartassociation.org) for more information

## Winter Park Hours

October

Tuesday- Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

November 2011 - February 2012

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Weed Warriors



Ages 7 and Up / Free Event

Help the nature park battle invasive plants. Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Organized groups are invited to attend. Please call (816) 325-7115 to reserve your group's spot.

Date: Day Time:  
October 15 Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon

## Itty Bitty Camp Out

Ages 1-8 / \$10 per child / Pre-Registration Required

Families with children up to age 8 are invited to pack up the car and go on their first camping trip. A few activities will be scheduled during the event, with time to explore on your own as well. Space is limited, please call ahead. Families must bring their own camping supplies.

Date: Day Time:  
October 7-8 Friday -Saturday 5 p.m. - 9 a.m.



## Plein Air Event

All Ages / Free Event

A Plein Air event means that artists work on-site painting in nature, not the studio. Travel to the nature park to watch artists as they turn views of natural areas into great pieces of artwork. Stop by at any time during the event to watch artists at work. This event is open to all artists and the public.

Date: Day Time:  
May 2012 TBA TBA



## New Eco-Friendly Bathroom at the Nature Park

George Owens Nature Park is proud to announce the installation of a new restroom facility near the lakes during fall 2011.

This restroom will be the first of its kind in the City of Independence. The restroom is a composting toilet that requires no additional water and will be powered by solar panels.

This new green amenity will benefit all park user groups and showcases new technology in our park system.



## Wildflower Hike



All Ages / Free Event

Delicate spring wildflowers are in bloom throughout the park during the month of April. Join the park naturalist on a special hike.

Date: Day Time:  
April 7 Saturday 10 - 11 a.m.

## Frog-Tastic Night Hike



All Ages / Free Event

Join the park naturalist on a spring night adventure surveying habitats for our local amphibian friends. Appropriate outdoor footwear required.

Date: Day Time:  
April 27 Friday 6 - 8 p.m.

## Welcome our new Speckled Kingsnake!!!

In Fall 2011, the nature park acquired a Missouri native speckled kingsnake. These brilliantly colored snakes will feed on rodents, snakes, and lizards. Speckled kingsnakes are immune to the venom from rattlesnakes, giving them the name kingsnake.

Visit the nature center and greet our newest addition.



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