



White River *Currents*

Sierra Club White River Group...March 2009

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Kid's Guide to the Ozarks Outdoors

WRG is pleased to announce the Kid's Guide to the Ozarks Outdoors will be available for distribution during Springfield's Earth Day celebrations. The production of the Kid's Guide was made possible by our gracious donors, including a generous grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, and the hard work of our volunteers.

We've invited the press to a brief recognition ceremony for our donors and partners at 4:30 pm on April 22 at the ISS Facility Services Warehouse, 440 S. Cavalier St. Suite D in Springfield, where the Guides will be stored and distributed. Please join us and help us celebrate!

There's been tremendous interest in the Guide and we are working hard to fill the requests for copies. Over one-half of the 8500 Kid's Guides will be delivered to the Springfield Public Schools for use in the fifth grade classrooms. Additional guides will be distributed by our partnering organizations.

Volunteers are needed to help load guides on the 22nd. If you would be willing to help or would like more information about the event, contact Carla Klein at carlatklein@sbcglobal.net. Please see the information on the next page if you'd like to donate to the Kids' Guide.

From the Chair

Growing up in Springfield was such a blessing. The flourishing downtown area was abuzz with pedestrians (no malls in those days) as well as the Doling Park amusement area with its wooden roller skating rink. Everyday we rode our bikes until it was too dark to see or until our Moms would make us come in. In the summertime, we would jump off a rope swing into the clear cold water of James River. I never knew how special the Ozarks was until I left to see the rest of the world. Whenever I came home to visit, my roots would tug on my heart to stay, and stay I finally did. Helping to preserve this special place has now become a lifetime goal for me.

Finding time to volunteer is not easy, but when I do, the satisfaction of making a difference is a feeling hard to describe. We can be stewards of our environment, and we can make a difference. No matter what the venue may be, no matter what you are passionate about or in whatever way you are able to make a contribution, step up, step out and think about the legacy we leave behind. Our home, our earth--enjoy and preserve. —*Deb Dalton*

Upcoming Programs

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Come early to enjoy refreshments and conversation.

Apr. 14: Landscaping for Energy Efficiency

Jerany Jackson, ASLA, MBA, will share practice tips on designing and planting a landscape that reduces your carbon footprint while saving you money. She's an award-winning licensed landscape architect and group leader for landscape architecture at Great River Engineering in Springfield. Her works have been recognized for their design excellence and environmental sensitivity, and for their viability and success as developments enjoyed by those who experience them.

May 12: Wild Edibles

5:30 p.m. Walk on trails

6:30 p.m. Refreshments and recap

Ever wonder which plants on your stroll through the woods are tasty and safe to eat and which ones are not? Our May 12 speaker, Don Brink, is a primitive skills specialist and volunteer at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center with nearly 30 years of experience in skills and knowledge used by Native American tribes and our pioneer ancestors. Join us for a walk with Don along the Nature Center trails beginning at 5:30, during which he'll identify some of the edible and medicinal plants and discuss their uses. We'll return to the Nature Center for refreshments and a brief recap of what we saw on the trails. Wear shoes for walking.

June 9: Missouri's Largest Carnivores

Jeff Beringer, a resource scientist with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), will present a program on the large carnivores of Missouri, including their habitat and ranges, signs of their presence, public safety and conservation. His presentation will be based on the Department's years of monitoring of these species in southwest Missouri and is part of the Department's ongoing effort to provide the public with information about these threatened species. Jeff has been with MDC for over 20 years and has worked as a damage biologist, deer biologist and turkey biologist. He has degrees from the University of Wisconsin and University of Tennessee.

Outings

For details and dates, contact outings chair Jennifer Ailor at 581-4018 or jailor65721@yahoo.com. The Sierra Club requires you to register for outings and to sign a waiver of liability.

April 28: Raingarden cleanup and hike. We'll meet at Springfield's Water Valley Mill Park north of town, weed and mulch WRG's rain garden on the east side of the lake and then hike around the lake before eating our lunch together in the lake pavilion. Bring a hoe or spade if you have one, sun block, work gloves, a hat, water and a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided.

May 9-10: Bike on the Frisco Trail, either part way or all the way (30 miles) from Springfield to Bolivar. Camp overnight or enjoy a B&B before the bike back on Sunday. Families are welcome to join in on this outing. Make it a full weekend, full day or half day: the choice is yours.

June 6: Swan Creek Adventure. We'll do a day hike in this proposed wilderness area southeast of Springfield. Bring wading shoes and swim gear for playing in the creek.

One of our goals is over the next few years to visit every one of Missouri's eight wilderness areas, as well as the seven new proposed wilderness areas. Our Hercules Glades hike in January was one to mark off your list.

Interested in other outings for children? Call TJ Wyatt at 818-3809.

Join the Lemonade Brigade

WRG members and friends will be launching a new project this year to raise money for its educational programs, outings and other projects. Under the leadership of WRG's new treasurer, Dan Crane, we'll be selling fresh-squeezed lemonade at some of the summertime events in local towns in the Springfield area. Dan will need lots of volunteers for shifts of 3-4 hours and to help set up and take down the booth. It should be a lot of fun and a great chance to get to know and work with other members of WRG. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Dan at 838-9761 or dcrane6538@aol.com.

**Sierra Club White River Group
PO Box 2355
Nixa, MO 65714**



Last Chance to help WRG fund the Kids' Guide to the Ozarks Outdoors!

The Guide is completed and at the printers, but we are still about \$500 short of our fundraising goal of \$15500. Any shortfall will have to be made up from the group's operating funds, so all donations, however small, will be greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out to the Sierra Club White River Group and mailed it to Dan Crane, PO Box 2355, Nixa, MO, 65714.

Contribution or gifts to Sierra Club's White River Group are **not tax deductible**; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

To make a **tax-deductible gift**, please contact Dan at 417-838-9761 or dcrane6538@aol.com.

Take your journey
to the
next level.



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