

# OUTDOOR HUNTING GUIDE



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

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COUNTY

# Republican

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2, 2022



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

## Instant replay

**ON THE COVER:** Carson Fisher received a gift certificate for deer processing from Red Barn Processing in a random drawing for prizes Saturday during the Owensville Youth Hunt event staged at the Owensville Gun Club. The buck Fisher harvested on opening morning of the youth hunting season included this unique set of brow tines (above). His mother, Jessica (left), shows Cory Barch a video she recorded of the hunt.

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## Young hunters harvest 13,759 deer during early youth portion of firearms deer season

BY JILL PRITCHARD  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Preliminary data from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) shows that young hunters ages 6 through 15 harvested 13,759 deer during Missouri’s early youth portion of the 2022 deer hunting season, Oct. 29-30. Top counties were Franklin with 330 deer harvested, Osage with 310, and Howell with 260. Youth hunters harvested 15,608 during last year’s early youth portion.

View additional harvest numbers for the 2022 early youth portion at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Z3g>.

“Saturday’s conditions were fairly comfortable for our young deer hunters,” said MDC’s Cervid Program Supervisor Jason Isabelle. “Although the rain we received in portions of the state on Sunday was much needed given the ongoing drought, it did put a bit of a damper on the latter half of the early youth portion.”

Missouri’s archery deer and turkey season continues through Nov. 11 and resumes Nov. 23 through Jan. 15, 2023. The November portion of firearms deer season runs Nov. 12-22 followed by the late youth portion Nov. 25-27. The antlerless portion of firearms deer season runs Dec. 3-11 (in open counties) followed by the alternative methods portion Dec. 24 through Jan. 3, 2023.

Read more information on deer hunting from MDC’s 2022 Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet, available where hunting permits are sold and online at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/4Tz>.

## MDC reminds hunters to dispose of deer carcasses properly

BY FRANCIS SKALICKY  
MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Proper disposal of a deer carcass is one of the final steps of the deer hunting process and is as important as any other part of deer hunting.

One reason this part of deer hunting is important is because there are regulations that pertain to the disposal of deer parts. In Missouri the improper disposal of deer parts falls under the state statute that covers the unlawful disposition of a dead animal. Deer hunters violate this statute (and commit a Class C misdemeanor) if they knowingly place or cause to be placed the carcass or offal of any dead animal:

- Into any well, spring, brook, branch, creek, pond, or lake
- On any public road or highway, river, stream, or watercourse or upon the premises not his or her own for the purpose of annoying another or others.

Besides the illegalities involved with the improper disposal of a deer carcass or its parts, dumping deer parts on the landscape is a way to spread chronic wasting disease (CWD), a disease that is fatal to deer. The infectious agent for CWD is a protein called a prion. Prions can remain viable on the landscape long after remains of an infected carcass decompose, which could potentially expose other deer to CWD. Hunters who harvest deer within the 38 counties that comprise Missouri’s CWD management zone should remember there are special restrictions for those counties regarding deer carcass movement. A description of these regulations is in the “2022 Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations” booklet available at most MDC Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) offices and places that sell hunting and fishing permits.

Leaving deer parts on someone’s property can also show a lack of courtesy on the part of a hunter. If a landowner who is unfamiliar with deer hunting and field-dressing comes across a gut pile on his/her land, your hunting on that property will probably be a one-and-done experience.

**Here are proper disposal options hunters can use to get rid of their deer carcass parts:**

- Place deer parts in trash or landfill. The best way to prevent the spread of CWD is to place carcass remains in trash bags and dispose of them through trash collection or at a permitted landfill.
- Bury deer parts on site. If you can’t bag and place in trash or a permitted land-



**AFTER A** deer is legally harvested one of the final acts of the deer hunting process is to properly dispose of the unused parts of the deer.

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See **Deer carcass**, Page 11B



## Checking out the hunter's harvest

Josh Geisler looks over a deer harvested by Trinity Mayes of Belle (center) on Saturday morning during check-in for the Owensville Youth Hunt event he helped organize at the Owensville Gun Club. Participants in the event had the chance to qualify for a drawing for one of six rifles being awarded through donations and sponsorships, said Geisler. Each participant who paid a \$10 entry fee received a t-shirt and was entered into a random drawing for one of the 150 hunting-related prizes being awarded in the inaugural event. The contest included a rifle to be awarded to a young person who harvested their first deer. Rifles were also being awarded to the hunter bagging the buck with the highest scoring antlers and the one with antlers measuring closest to 130 inches. Rifles were also being awarded to those who harvested the largest and smallest doe.

PHOTO BY DAVE MARNER



PHOTO BY DAVE MARNER

## A second successful harvest

Charlotte Bearden, 7, of Robertsville, Mo., harvested the second deer of her young hunting career on Saturday while hunting in neighboring Franklin County. She was participating in the Owensville Youth Hunt held at Owensville Gun Club on Saturday and said the 8-pointer was harvested with a shot from 70 yards. She previously harvested a button buck during her 2021 hunting experience.



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PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

## Scoring the bucks

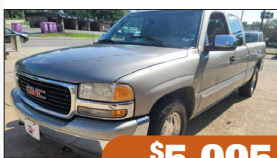
Hunter Gibson, 9, steadies the buck she harvested Saturday morning as Seth Parker measures the antlers for the Owensville Youth Hunt event at Owensville Gun Club. This was her third deer she's harvested and the first buck. It measured 74-5/8ths inches. Parker measures a buck measuring 105 inches harvested by Kwinton Green, of Belle (left).

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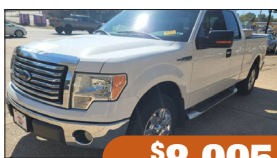
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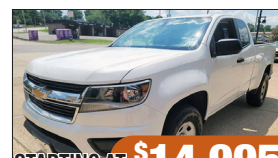
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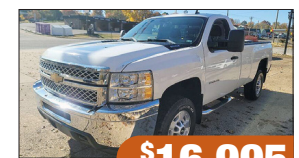
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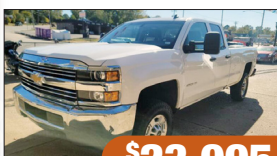
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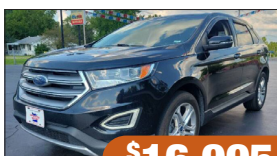
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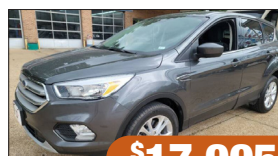
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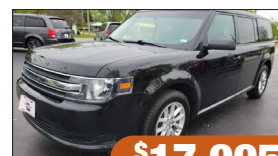
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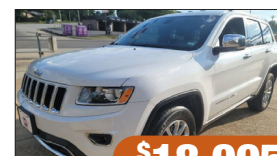
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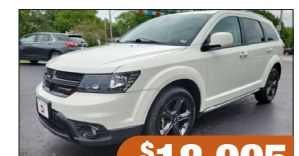
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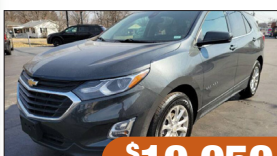
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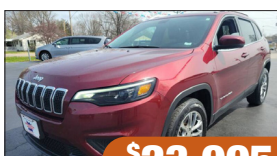
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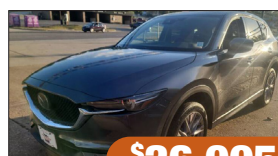
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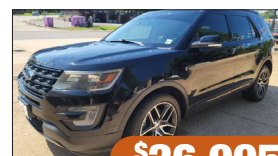
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## DRIFTWOOD OUTDOORS

# Youth hunter connects with buck dad was hunting

Buckle your safety belts and keep your bow in hand, the time of year deer hunters dream about is upon us. The Hunter's Moon has come and gone, welcoming another fall. With the colorful display of red, orange and yellow foliage, and temperatures steadily dropping across the Midwest, it's time for the action to happen. The rut is about to roar.

The peak breeding time of the whitetail rut lasts about three weeks. We're not there yet. The period we are in is the pre-rut. Right now, bucks are busy establishing dominance and preparing scrapes. They're starting to seek does. A lot of this activity is taking place after dark, but more bucks are showing up during daylight hours.

The rut progresses from north to south throughout the Midwest. Hunters in North Dakota will be into action before those in Southeast Kentucky. We'll be following along as this progression unfolds. We are going to be checking in throughout the region for the next seven weeks.



by **BRANDON BUTLER**

In Missouri, NWTf biologist John Burk said scrapes are popping up everywhere. John killed a dandy buck back in September, so he's been on doe patrol for the last few weeks, but his job keeps him in the woods and he said the bucks are active and making their preparations for peak breeding.

Southern Indiana deer hunter, David Ray, is reporting a lot more activity on his trail cameras. He said it is fun to watch the bucks physically change as their necks swell this time of year. Ray said now that most of the surrounding corn and soybean crops are out, his food plots are getting hammered, but most of the mature

bucks are still showing up after dark.

Now is a good time to try rattling. As mature bucks continue to establish dominance in their core area, they will not tolerate intruders, especially subordinate males. If you use rattling antlers to simulate a fight and the resident mature buck hears it, there is a good chance he will come to investigate and chase off any future competition.

Out in South Dakota, Brian Bashore serves as the Ex-

ecutive Director of Second Century Habitat Fund, which exists to raise funds for habitat conservation in the state. He spends a ton of time outdoors and reports a smaller bucks are starting to work scrapes during daylight. Bashore's big tip for deer hunters right now is to hunt where bumped bucks may escape to after being unwillingly forced to move. Lots of lazy bucks are kicked up out of their beds by pheasant hunters in the morning and afternoon. Even more are being pushed out of agriculture fields by combines.

"If you can hunt next to a cornfield while it's being harvested, you should take off work or do whatever you need to do to be in a stand over a route into adjacent cover. It's been so dry farmers are not having any problem getting the crops out, so very soon all those fields will be harvested," Bashore said.

Up in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, the home of the national headquarters of Whitetails Unlimited, Director of Communication Jeff Davis said, "As it gets cooler we should see more movement. I think we are still 2 to 3 weeks away from the peak rut up here. A lot of my co-workers are leaving work around 3 to get a couple hours in, but I don't know of anyone who has connected yet."

Over on the eastern side of the region in Ohio, the story is

See **Butler** page 7B

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## Hunting and Fishing Club on parade

Owensville High School's Hunting and Fishing Club once again had one of the most visually interesting floats during the fall homecoming parade across campus. Club members had several impressive fish and deer mounts displayed on their float as they crossed the middle school campus riding in a fishing boat.

PHOTO BY DAVE MARNER

### Butler • from page 6B

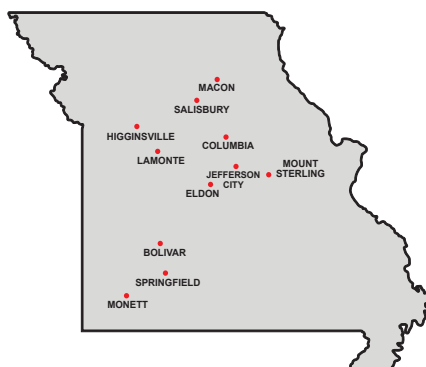
about the same. Few big buck encounters are being reported. Norman Miller, the owner at Premier Outdoors in Mt. Hope, said, "Bucks have been moving ok around here. We've had three real nice ones come through the shop in the last week. The biggest was in the 180s and another was in the 170s. Last Tuesday and Wednesday were real good before it warmed up. It's supposed to cool down by the end of this week, so I expect the hunting will pick back up."

See you down the trail...

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# Here's to the hunt.



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## OUTDOORS IN THE OZARKS

# A three course supper

A man who lives in the country ought to have a good squirrel dog and I don't have one. The old-timers I knew back home in the hills would not understand that! Problems, problems, problems! Maybe squirrel dog prices will come down after next week's election.

The nearest grocery store is many miles away and I can't afford the gas to get there. Can't afford baloney and biscuits neither if you factor in the cost of gas to get to the store. So I decided I would go get tonight's supper through outdoor adventure.

One of my neighbors has a rather large, secluded lake where he has stocked crappie. My own pond has no crappie, just bass, catfish and crappie. No body wants to eat fish from their own pond anyhow. You need to save them for hard times.

So I drove my old pickup down through the neighbor's



by **LARRY DABLEMONT**

gate with my .22 rifle and fishing rod one afternoon and in a little while I caught several, ten- to eleven-inch crappie and then went squirrel hunting down in the woods behind the lake.

It was beautiful, still and perfect. This time of year you can forget looking for squirrels in the trees. Just walk slowly along and they will go running toward you, past you or away from you and jump up in a tree and look at you if you, imitate one with a bark or scold. Four gray squirrels did that. Two just went, and gave me no shot, but two did give me an opportunity to have squirrel for supper. I missed one twice and he went in a hole. Even a good squirrel dog doesn't help when there is a hole in the tree. But when I missed that one squirrel twice, another

went to barking at me and I got him in only 3 shots.

Well, five .22 shells are cheaper than baloney and biscuits. My rifle is a dandy, light and accurate and a perfect squirrel gun. On the barrel is printed..."made in the 200th year of American liberty" I've been trying to figure out how old it is. The sights must be off on my rifle. I should only have to shoot 2 shells for 2 squirrels. I am a little ashamed of that shooting. I fancy myself as a good shot. I once shot flying wasps with that little .22!!! Well I never got some of them, but I never did as poorly as I did that evening! But

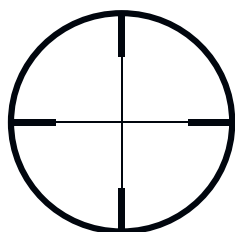
just because someone fancies themselves as a good shot don't mean they are. I shouldn't use that word 'fancies' any more. It don't fit a grizzled old veteran outdoorsman like me. But you can bet that this evening I will improve my squirrel to bullet ratio. I've got to get a couple of squirrels for some elderly neighbors down the road.

Anyway, I scaled the crappie for supper that evening, removed head, fins and entrails and fried them whole in a skilletful full of lard, after I fried the squirrel of course. Had turnip greens with it, making it what you call a three-course meal.

The woods are full of young squirrels. The one I got was a mature male that was harder to skin than an old banker. He wasn't too smart, sitting there in plain sight barking at me. He may be so old he was trying to commit "suicide by hunter". The tree I shot him out of is a big tri-trunk red oak I built a tree stand in back in '93. Up high in the fork of it, I carved my initials and a date of 11-20-93. Sometime I am going to climb up there and see if it still shows. The only thing left of the stand is one old bent board with nails sticking out of one end. It is a place where I spent many hours in the nineties dreaming and wishing and writing. I can still see myself sitting there waiting for a deer, but it is only a fading picture. I had no idea then that someday

See **Dablemont** page 11B

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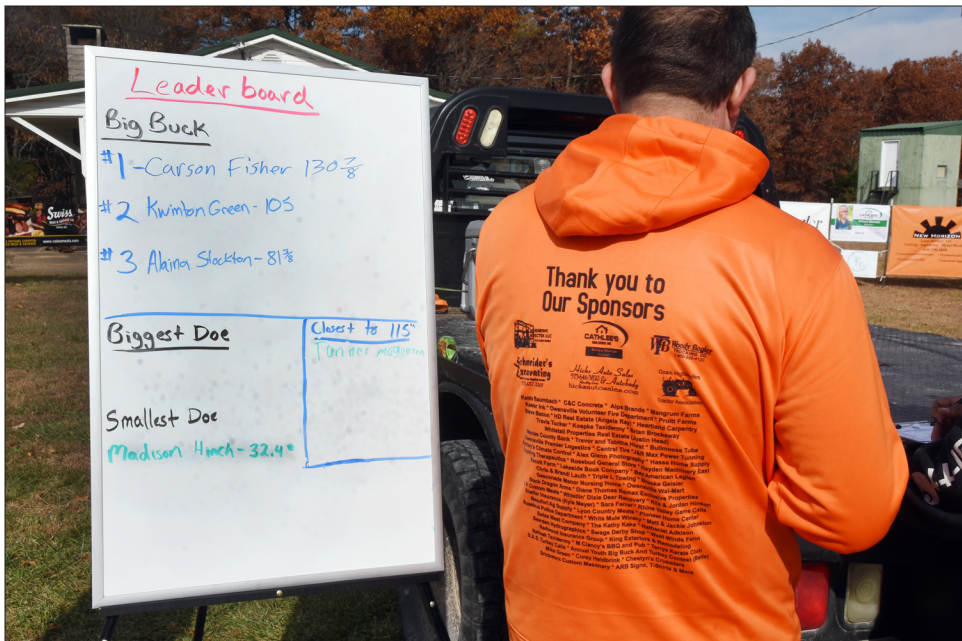
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PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

**KWINTON GREEN** had plenty to smile about Saturday after harvesting this buck which scored 105 inches of antler length at the Owensville Youth Hunt event held at Owensville Gun Club. Green's entry was second on the leader board (below) in early results.



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## REPORT FROM THE 62ND DISTRICT

# Katy Trail tours

BY STATE REP. BRUCE SASSMANN  
Missouri's 62nd District

October 12, the Missouri State Parks filled six open air trams with folks anxious to see the fall colors on the Katy Trail State Park.

Riders enjoyed scenic views adjacent to towering bluffs and striking vistas along the Missouri river. Morning and afternoon tours attracted hundreds of people each day.

Four of the six trams were provided by Boone Electric Cooperative and are the same ones used at local fairs and festivals. The other two trams were purchased by the Missouri Parks Association for use in Missouri's state parks.

The open air tram rides began at Rocheport with two-hour, nine-mile, round trip tours to McBaine. Interpretive guides on each of the trams explained the natural history of the landscape, cultural features along the trail, the highlights of the communities, and the people that made their mark upon the region.

See **Katy Trail** page 11B

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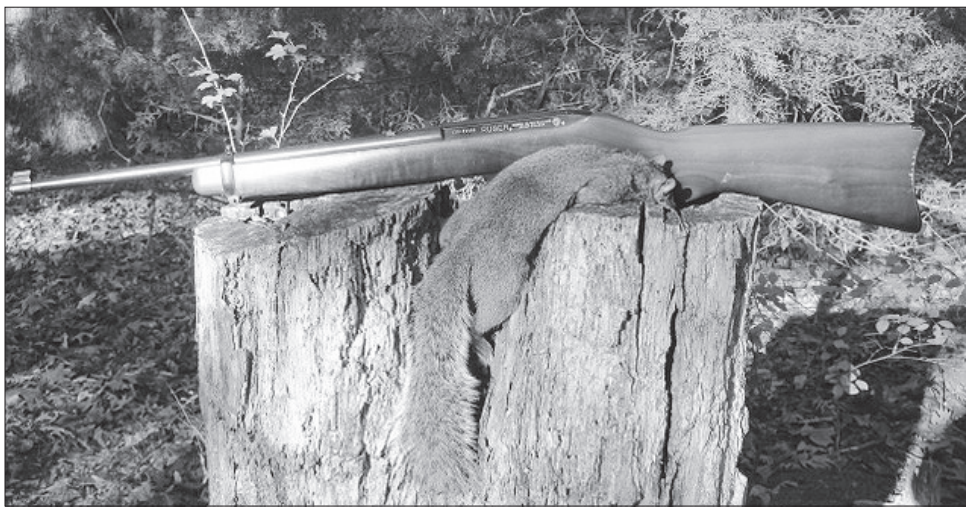
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**LARRY DABLEMONT'S** gun, named 'Ol' Roger the Ruger is pictured with the old gray squirrel he shot.

## *Dablemont • from page 8B*

1993 would be so many years behind me.

All old time squirrel hunters of another time named their muzzle-loader rifles. Mine is named 'Ol' Roger the Ruger. You can see a photo of it on my blogspot... larrydablemont-outdoors. It is pictured there with that 11- or 12-year old gray squirrel I gnawed on until I just gave up and ate the crappie, which were delicious.

I am going back into the woods every day 'til the snow flies if things work out like I want. May float a river or two and cuss the low water in some of them. As for now, I am going back to the woods. These days should not be wasted away indoors.

Email me at [lightninridge47@gmail.com](mailto:lightninridge47@gmail.com). I have a few of my fall magazines left, and you can get one by calling me at 417-777-5227.

## *Katy Trail • from page 10B*

This annual event is scheduled for the third week in October and 2022 marked the 11th annual Fall Colors Tram Tours cosponsored by the Missouri State Parks and the Boone Electric Cooperative.

Tuesday on the Trail Tram tours are popular all along the Katy Trail throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Individuals and organizations can learn more about Tram Tours on the Katy Trail and other activities by visiting the park's Website [katytrailstatepark.com](http://katytrailstatepark.com).

Jan and I were among the crowd of folks with advance registration for the morning tram tour on Thursday.

The economic development of the communities was of special interest to us.

Rocheport has embraced the trail and the businesses reflected the positive attitude

toward tourism the trail has provided. The perfect fall day attracted tram riders, bike riders, walkers, sightseers, explorers, and curiosity seekers. We were excited to see friends from home out on the trail and in the local restaurants.

We tried to image how the communities and businesses along the Rock Island would respond to the trail development.

An increase in visitors has the potential to increase sales and sales-tax revenues, community picnics might attract future friends, property sales might stimulate growth, and a renewed purpose might contribute to a sense of community pride.

We were just wishfully thinking, always hoping for the best in the communities along the trail.

## *Deer carcass • from page 3B*

fill, bury carcass remains at or near where the deer was harvested. Bury deep enough to prevent access by scavengers. Burial will reduce (but not totally eliminate) the risks of spreading CWD.

- Leave on site: As a last resort, leave carcass remains on site (if this is agreeable with the landowner). While this will not prevent scavengers from scattering potentially infectious parts, the remains will stay in the general area where the deer was taken. If CWD is already present on the area, it will likely remain there and not be moved to another area. If you choose this option and it's agreeable with the landowner, ask if there's an out-of-the-way area where the landowner prefers that the deer remnants are deposited.

To report illegal dumping of a deer carcass (and other wildlife-related violations), contact a local conservation agent or call the Operation Game Thief Hotline at 1-800-392-1111.

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PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

## Perfect day to fish

Gasconade County fourth-graders from Owensville, Hermann, Gerald, and Rosebud had two perfect days for fishing during the Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District's 20th annual farm and field event held at White Mule Winery for the first time. Scott Williams, a fisheries biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, assists Hermann students with a fish caught from the pond he had stocked for the event. Jim Holland, Northern District commissioner for the county (on left) and Jim Meyer (back to camera) were among area volunteers assisting students with baiting hooks and untangling the occasional snagged lines. Pictured are students from Owensville Elementary School.

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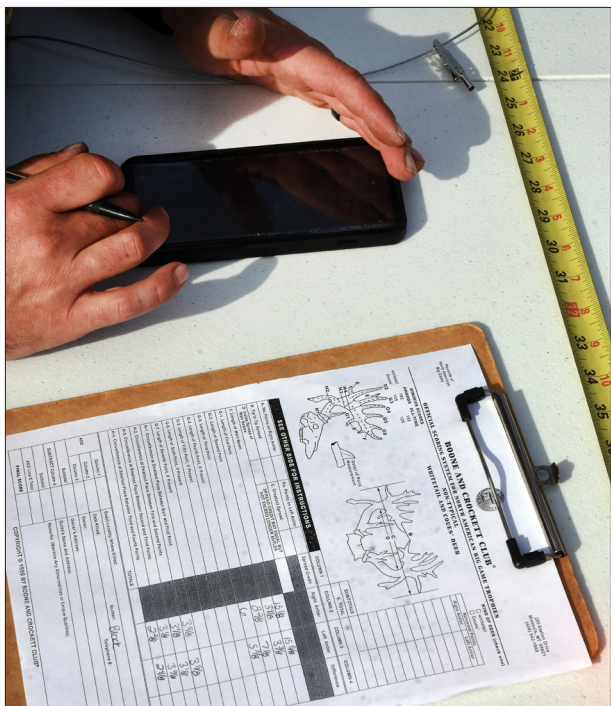
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PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

**TRINITY MAYES** of Belle (on right) watches Saturday morning as Seth Parker scores the 8-point buck she harvested in Maries County on opening morning of the Youth Hunting Season. Mayes and friend Maddie Cannon of Owensville were among 179 participants in the Owensville Youth Hunt event held at Owensville Gun Club. Parker uses his cell phone to tabulate measurements during the scoring process (left).



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# Firearm Safety

With fall firearms season approaching, now is an ideal time to spend some time with your hunting weapons at the rifle range getting reacquainted with them.

Now is also the appropriate time to stress firearm safety and range etiquette. When handling firearms always remember the

## 10 Commandments of Gun Safety:

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Firearms should be unloaded when not in use.
3. Don't rely on your guns "safety". Treat every gun as though it can fire at any time, regardless of pressure on the trigger.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
5. Always use correct ammunition.
6. If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.
7. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
8. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
9. Don't alter or modify your gun. Have it serviced regularly by a qualified gunsmith.
10. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using before going afield with it. Not all guns are the same.

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Cost of membership is \$70 (\$50 membership fee and \$20 annual maintenance fee, due each Feb.). To join fill out the form below with check payable to Owensville Gun Club and mail to Owensville Gun Club, P.O. Box 518, Owensville, MO 65066.

I certify by signature that I am at least 18 years of age, and that I can legally own, and or possess firearms as specified in all Federal, State and Local Laws. I Further agree to abide by all club bylaws and range rules.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

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MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Maintenance Card Mailed \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Card Mailed \_\_\_\_\_

# Fall Outdoors

WED., NOV. 2, 2022 ■ PAGE 14B

GASCONADE COUNTY **Republican**



PHOTO COURTESY OWENSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## New hunters certified

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) hosted an Oct. 18 Hunter Education Skills Session in partnership with Owensville Parks and Recreation Department in Memorial Park. Twenty-seven students from five counties successfully completed hands-on practice and the examination. Instructors included Conservation Agent Jason Eikermann (above, on right), MDC Education Section Chief Kyle Lairmore and volunteers Jerry Lairmore (back, center) and Daniel Lenauer (back, on left). MDC's Hunter Education Program provides a foundation in hunting safety and ethics while instilling responsibility, and improving skills and knowledge. For more information on hunter education and future classes, visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/huntereducation](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/huntereducation). Eikermann is pictured reviewing a bolt action gun with the students.

## MDC grant helps purchase track-chairs for Missouri disabled sportsmen

JEFFERSON CITY – Specialized track-chairs help the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) make nature and the outdoors more accessible to all outdoor enthusiasts. MDC recently awarded a grant to Missouri Disabled Sportsmen (MDS) to assist in the purchase of four track-chairs and an enclosed trailer. These all-terrain track-chairs will allow MDS to expand their services and create more opportunities for those they serve.

MDS is a non-profit organization with the mission of providing mobility-impaired, youth, and terminally ill youth outdoor enthusiasts with hunting, fishing, shooting sports, and outdoor educational opportunities in a safe and inclusive manner.

"Partnerships between MDC and organizations like MDS are integral to the Department's outreach efforts," said Education Outreach Coordinator Rob Garver. "We've partnered with MDS for several years and we're confident this grant and the new track-

chairs will strengthen this relationship for years to come."

Track-chairs are off-road, electronic chairs that are designed for all terrain mobility. The chairs make the outdoors accessible for those with mobility issues. MDC currently has 14 track-chairs in its Missouri Accessible Outdoors Track-Chair Program. The all-terrain track-chairs are utilized for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor education events sponsored by MDC or partnering organizations. Four are located in Springfield, four in Kirksville, two in Cape Girardeau, and four in Kansas City.

MDS works with volunteer mentors, agencies, private landowners, and like-minded organizations to create opportunities for participants to pursue deer, upland birds, turkey, waterfowl, and fish, as well as participate in outdoor educational events throughout Missouri. With the addition of their own track chairs, MDS has the ability to expand their program offerings.



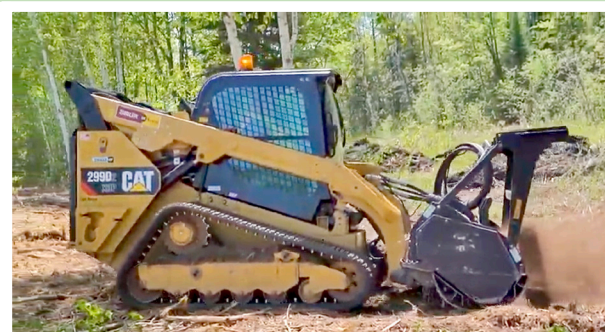
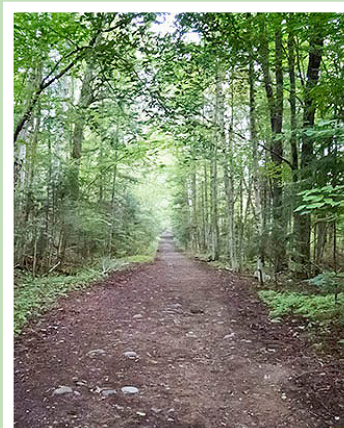
PHOTO BY DAVE MARNER

**OWENSVILLE YOUTH** Hunt participants examine two antlered deer brought to the Owensville Gun Club on Saturday morning to be entered into the contest for prizes. Josh Geisler, an organizer of the event, said 179 area youths had registered for the event. A spring 2022 turkey hunting season competition had 101 participants. Youths received a t-shirt and were qualified to receive a prize in a random-draw selection for their \$10 entry fee. Six rifles were also being awarded including one to a first-time deer harvester.

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## MDC reports hunters took eight black bears this season

BY JOE JEREK  
MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports that Missouri hunters harvested eight black bears during the 2022 bear-hunting season, Oct. 17–26.

More than 5,880 hunters applied during May for 400 permits for the season with the maximum total harvest being 40 bears. Of the 400 hunters selected through a random drawing of all applicants, 350 hunters purchased permits for the season.

Bear hunting in Missouri is limited to Missouri residents and restricted to three designated areas of southern Missouri called Bear Management Zones (BMZ). Each permit issued is for a specific BMZ and hunting is limited to public or private property within the BMZ.

All eight bears were harvested in BMZ 1 out of a maximum of 20 with 177 hunters purchasing permits to hunt the zone. No bears

were harvested in BMZ 2 out of a maximum of 15 with 128 hunters purchasing permits to hunt the zone. No bears were harvested in BMZ 3 out of a maximum of 5 with 45 hunters purchasing permits to hunt the zone.

This year, three of the eight bears harvested were taken with bows. During last year's inaugural season, all 12 black bears

harvested were taken with firearms. MDC notes that an even ratio of male and female bears were harvested this year, similar to last.

"We anticipated a lower harvest this season over last," said MDC Bear Biologist Nate Bowersock. "Bears love gorging on



**CHASE BOGGS** of Bolivar harvested this sow bear with his bow on private land in Douglas County on Oct. 24. MDC data on the bear showed she was 7 years of age. Shown with Boggs is Douglas County Conservation Agent Mark Henry.

acorns in the fall and the acorn crop around the state was much more plentiful this season over last. This resulted in bears moving less often and being more dispersed, which made it more difficult for hunters to find them."

Learn more about Missouri black bears and bear hunting in Missouri at [mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/bear](http://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/bear)

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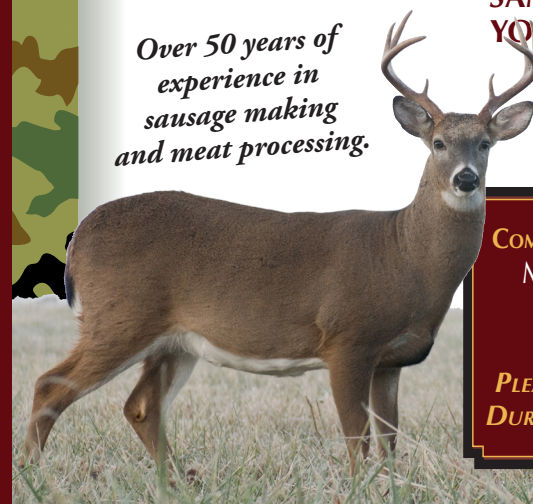
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