



*"Fostering
stewardship
through
outdoor experience,
youth education
and conservation."*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

landlearning.org

October 13

CFM Pull for Conservation in
Branson (www.confedmo.org)

October 14

Mid-MO Uplander Quail
Forever Chapter: Family Night
at the Range
(facebook.com/mmuqf)

October 20

LLF Youth Waterfowl Hunt
(www.landlearning.org)

November 26-28

Missouri Association of Soil
and Water Conservation
Districts Annual Meeting in
Tan-Tar-A (www.maswcd.net)

December 1

Conservation Federation of
Missouri Board of Directors
Meeting (www.confedmo.org)

December

Mid-MO Uplanders Quail
Forever Youth Pheasant Hunt
(facebook.com/mmuqf)

BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS...by Scott Martin

Many of us share similar childhood memories of walking to school uphill both ways for five miles, playing in the creek and neighborhood games of hide and go seek. I recently read an article that stated the average area covered by kids 9-15 years of age in the 1980's was 5 to 7 miles compared to 2 city blocks in today's age. The article went on further to discuss that kids spend one half as much time outdoors as their parents did.



This further inspired me toward fulfilling the mission of The Land Learning Foundation through our youth activities. It also became clear that, as we grow as a society and plan future development, we must take into consideration the importance of natural areas within our cities for our children to have opportunities to experience the great outdoors.

Land Learning Foundation events allow families the opportunity to experience both outdoor activities and outdoor education on a broad scale. The experiences, knowledge, skillsets and attitudes gained from these events focus attendees on the importance of restoring and conserving our environment and natural resources for the generations to come.

Scott Martin is the Executive Director of The Land Learning Foundation

ZACH MORRIS- A NEW LLF BOARD MEMBER

We are excited to welcome our newest board member, Zach Morris. Zach is a Missouri native who is passionate about hunting and fishing and sharing outdoor experiences with others. He has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology from Missouri State University and will receive a Master's degree in Natural Resource Science and Management from the University of Missouri in December of 2018. Zach has worked on a variety of conservation related issues and is excited to join in on LLF's efforts to educate youth about Missouri's outdoor heritage. He is also an active volunteer with many other conservation organizations and will help LLF expand its partnerships to reach more youth and families.



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**MITICO is an In-Lieu Fee
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carrying out its mission.**



PAKISTAN PLANTS A BILLION TREES

The Billion Tree Tsunami project was started by Imran Khan, a Pakistani cricket-star and politician. This project sought to plant over one billion trees in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and it has surpassed this lofty goal! Over 350,000 hectares (approximately 865,000 acres) of land has been newly forested since 2014. The tree planting is projected to help the country mitigate ever-increasing climate changes by restoring forests of Pakistan that have been impacted by deforestation and natural disasters. Revitalizing forests can help minimize the damage done by mudslides, floods and other climate-related disasters. In addition to environmental benefits, the Billion Tree Tsunami project has supported local tree nurseries and created many green jobs in the province. The project has also helped inspire the Pakistani government to establish the Green Pakistan program which seeks to plant another 100 million trees within just 5 years in other areas of the country. For more information, view the original article from the World Economic Forum, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/07/pakistan-s-billion-tree-tsunami-is-astonishing>.

ANITA GORMAN AT CFM'S EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS: KANSAS CITY

Missouri's First Lady of Conservation, Anita Gorman, addressed a packed house at the Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) "Explore the Outdoors: Kansas City" event on May 31st at Boulevard Brewing Company. Mrs. Gorman, the first woman to be appointed to the Missouri Conservation Commission, has spent her life furthering civic and conservation causes in Kansas City and throughout the state.

The Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center in Kansas City's Plaza-Museum District has a myriad of indoor and outdoor exhibits and provides many educational offerings for young and old.

The CFM Explore the Outdoors series of events, held annually during the summer in Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, and Columbia, offers people of all walks of life an opportunity to support Missouri's preeminent conservation organization. Every attendee becomes a member of CFM for the following year, is able to participate in live and silent auctions and drawings, and is given the opportunity to listen to top-notch speakers who have accomplished significant conservation goals.

Anita's remarks, centered around the challenges facing conservationists in today's challenging environment, prompted a standing ovation. For more information go to www.confedmo.org/events.





LLF YOUTH SQUIRREL HUNT

On August 18th, 2018, The Land Learning Foundation hosted its second annual Youth Squirrel Hunt. The weather was excellent on this Saturday morning at the site of a Richard Mauzey's farm near Yellow Creek and Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Chariton County, Missouri.

To start the day the participants gathered on site at the Mauzey cabin for an early breakfast and briefing on hunting safety and tips for a successful hunt. Missouri Department of Conservation Agents Clay Creech and Chris Chesher were principle instructors for the day's program. The youth were then paired with a parent or instructor and assigned an area to hunt.

After about three hours of hunting everyone gathered back at the cabin. Clay Creech then schooled the youth on how to age, skin, clean and cook squirrel. Cindy Creech was kind enough to prepare fried squirrel for all to sample.



Once again, we would like to thank Richard Mauzey, MDC, the parents of the participants and all who volunteered for their support and making this event a success. This event yielded a great turnout of 15 kids who shot 63 squirrels!

FAMILY CONSERVATION DAY

The Land Learning Foundation (LLF) recently held Family Conservation Days- 2018, a new event for LLF and participants offering many different conservation topics for the whole family. The event, held on September 22, was extremely successful in attracting 28 youth participants as well as a similar number of parents and sponsors in addition to LLF staff and volunteers. The event was held at the Iman Family Farm near Keytesville, Missouri. There were abundant activities for the kids and adults sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Ducks Unlimited (DU), Missouri Trappers Association and Air Evac.

Activities included gun safety, trap shooting, archery and archery safety, BB gun shooting and safety, camping and trapping skills exhibits. Several young people took the opportunity to shoot trap and archery for the first time. Adam Brandgaard from MDC

discussed and demonstrated the snakes of Missouri. Retired MDC employee and LLF board member Bob Miller oversaw the archery range.

LLF Executive Director, Scott Martin, prepared hot dogs and hamburgers for a hearty lunch. During the lunch hour, Air Evac landed a helicopter and gave a demonstration on their duties and explained the benefits of obtaining a family membership. USDA provided a rainfall simulator exhibiting the effects of erosion on no-till fields with a cover crop, worked ground and compacted soils.

Coon hunters Cliff Thornburg and Earl Howe held a coon dog swimming race with their dogs across the pond on the Iman Farm which is named for the late Cleve and Jody Iman. Cleve was an avid outdoorsman with a passion for coon dogs and treeing hounds. One couldn't help but feel the presence of Cleve's spirit in the events of day.

Overall, the event was deemed to be very successful, as the LLF staff and directors worked toward fulfilling their mission of educating youth on outdoor activities and conservation. The Land Learning Foundation would like to specially thank Kyna Iman, Rick Clark and the Iman family for allowing the use their farm and its facilities.

For information about future events, please visit <http://www.landlearning.org/events/>.





THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

It's no secret that hunter numbers are declining across North America. This is not only a direct threat to our shared outdoor heritage, but also to many fish and wildlife species. Most state fish and wildlife agencies rely almost entirely on hunting and fishing permit sales for funding, so declining hunter numbers spell a decrease in revenue available for conservation. Missouri is fortunate to have a dedicated conservation sales tax, but we are not immune to this trend of declining outdoor participation. It has never been more important to share our outdoor experiences with someone new and ensure that strong conservation efforts continue for future generations.

The Land Learning Foundation is uniquely positioned to make a lasting effect on the future of conservation. Through events like our youth squirrel hunt and our upcoming youth waterfowl hunt, we provide kids the opportunity to learn about our outdoor heritage. We also partner with other organizations like Quail Forever to reach as many youth as possible. Through our stream restoration,

wetland development, and conservation easement programs, we are able to provide conservation-minded landowners the opportunity to restore and preserve their aquatic resources for future generations. In a time of tightening agency budgets and shifting priorities, we can leverage private funds from In-Lieu Fee mitigation sales to ensure the restoration and lasting preservation of fish and wildlife habitat across the state. Our efforts are statewide, which allows us to provide landscape level change, and our easements are held in perpetuity, which means these habitats will provide hunting and fishing opportunities for future generations. If you are interested in restoring or preserving your property, please reach out to us. We may be able to help at no cost to you, and your donated easement could provide critical wildlife habitat needed to ensure that hunting and fishing opportunities remain available to future generations.

Zach Morris, LLF and CFM board member



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