



Winter 2023 | Newsletter Vol. 23

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

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

FAMILY FIELD DAY	1
CALENDAR	2
FISHING EVENT	3
TREE PLANTING	3
MISSOURI WETLANDS SUMMIT	4

**LLF’s Family Field Day Was a Success!**

As part of the Land Learning Foundation’s mission to bring education opportunities to people of all ages, the Foundation hosted the Exploring Nature Family Field Day on September 10th.

Nearly 100 adults and kids participated in this event on a beautiful day in Eolia, MO. The event was held on a farm that is in a conservation land easement trust. The land manager has been restoring the site to improve wildlife habitat for deer, turkey, and quail. Attendees were able to take a tour of the farm and hear about the successes and challenges of the restoration during a wagon ride. They learned about invasive species, their effects on the ecosystem, and control mechanisms. We presented the steps and benefits of planting food plots and native grass/wildflower habitats, as well as plans for improvements on the farm.

The day included hands-on opportunities to learn gun safety and shooting skills by members of the [Missouri River Valley Quail Forever](#) chapter. Archery with safety training was also available with the help of [Missouri Conservation Hunter Education](#) members.

The event included a talk on the benefits of prescribed fire as well as a talk on Composting from the [MU Extension Office](#).

Our Critter Corner allowed attendees to learn about and get up close and personal with a Prairie Kingsnake, frogs, toads, butterflies, bees and some very friendly baby goats.

The [Quad County Beekeepers](#) were onsite with a live observation hive, [USDA](#) spoke about soil health and had demonstrations using their Rainfall Simulator, while the [Soil](#)

*Continued on page 2.*



Photo credit: Anthony Pozzi, Sprig Media



704 W. Jackson  
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Keytesville, MO  
65261



Photo credit: Anthony Pozzi, Sprig Media

Continued from page 1.

[and Water Conservation District](#) shared information and their Watershed Table.

Also sharing the day with LLF were members from [Missouri Trappers Association](#), [Missouri Prairie Foundation](#), [Missouri Bumble Bee Atlas](#), [Mississippi Hills Master Naturalists](#), [Groovy Gardener Master Gardeners](#), [Heartland Seed of Missouri LLC](#), [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#), and [Missouri Department of Conservation](#). [Bowling Green Equipment](#) was onsite to show and discuss the equipment used on the farm.



Photo credit: Anthony Pozzi, Sprig Media

The [Eolia Fire Department](#), [Lincoln County Ambulance District](#), and [Air Evac](#) Helicopter had equipment available for touring and staff to answer questions.

LLF provided a great lunch and Clopton [Future Farmers of America](#) volunteers served the food.

Through these participating organizations, LLF was able to share our passion for the outdoors by providing information on the opportunities and resources available for kids of all ages. For future LLF events, please visit our website ([www.landlearning.org](http://www.landlearning.org)) or contact any of these great organizations to find out more about the opportunities and the programs available in your area.

We want to thank every organization who showed up to make this a remarkable event, including the landowner who hosted, and every participant who joined us. We will see you next year for the 2023 Family Field Day!



**Join us for all of the upcoming events near you!**

Click each event to learn more!

Don't forget to check out the [MDC events page](#) for events online and in-person near you.

### January 27-29:

[Women's Learn to Hunt Quail](#), Sedalia

### February 1-3:

[Missouri Wetlands Summit](#), Lake Ozark

### February 2:

World Wetlands Day

### February 7-9:

[Missouri Natural Resources Conference](#), Margaritaville

### February 10:

[Carbon Farming Expo](#), Columbia

### February 21-26:

[Conservation Federation of Missouri Convention](#), Margaritaville

### February 24-25:

[Women's Learn to Hunt Pheasant Camp](#), Stark City

### April 22:

Earth Day

*Happy Holidays  
from the Land Learning  
Foundation Team!*



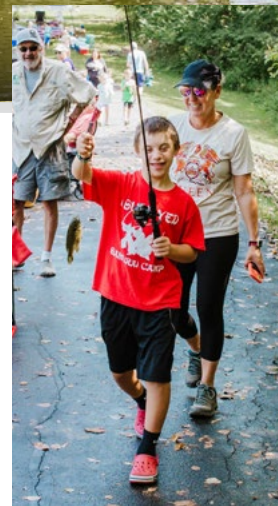


Photos: Cassidy Elwood

## Ellisville Elks Lodge Fishing Derby

On September 18, 2022, the [Ellisville Elks Lodge 2664](#) held their Annual Youth Fishing Derby. This year, the derby was sponsored by Land Learning Foundation, who funded fishing kits and lunch. This year, 110 kids participated, more than any previous year! The kids were taught fishing basics and how to bait a hook with a worm.

Each participant received a fishing pole and tacklebox to take home and use, and trophies were distributed for most fish caught and largest fish caught. The Elks Lodge Trustee, Greg Frasca, stayed afterwards and ensured every youth participant caught a fish.



## We planted 1,662 trees in Newton County!

The Shoal Creek Watershed Consortium has been working on watershed conservation in and around Newton County, Missouri the past two years. Land Learning Foundation is a primary partner in the Shoal Creek Watershed Consortium, along with [The Nature Conservancy](#), [Stream Teams United](#), [Midwest Waters Initiative](#), [River Law](#), and [SLU WATER Institute](#). We partner with local organizations like the [Harry S Truman Coordinating Council](#), [Missouri Stream Teams](#), [Newton County Soil & Water Conservation District](#), [Crowder College](#), [Missouri State University](#), [Neosho High School](#) teachers, and the Air Force Junior ROTC group at Neosho High School.

Land Learning Foundation owns 35 acres just north of Neosho, a property we are restoring to its natural conditions and using as a demonstration education site. With the help of over 90 volunteers, we planted 1,662 native trees and shrubs on November 4th and 5th. The trees were [Forrest Keeling](#) Root Production Method plants. Wet tolerant species were planted in low lying areas and along the banks of Hickory and Shoal Creeks, along with fruit and nut trees in upland areas.

These trees will reforest the bottomland of Shoal Creek and provide valuable habitat for the birds, mammals, and insects that live in Missouri. They will also provide shade and nutrients to the river to help fish and macroinvertebrates thrive. Most importantly, the AFJROTC students who helped plant the trees will

be able to drive by the site and tell their kids they helped establish that forest!

In addition to the tree planting, we hosted a [Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring](#) training for the AP Environmental Biology class at Neosho High School. The students are now certified to test water quality in any stream in Missouri and submit their data to enhance citizen science. The students gained valuable experience in water quality training.

LLF wants to thank every single volunteer and leader who showed up to plant and water the trees. We also thank our partners and funders which include Missouri Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, US Environmental Protection Agency, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Conservation Federation of Missouri, and the Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund of the Network for Landscape Conservation.

Learn more at our website: [shoalcreekwatershed.org](https://shoalcreekwatershed.org).

Photo Credit: Lane Ebbinghaus





## Missouri Wetlands Summit

Sponsored by LLF

**February 1st-3rd, 2023**

Lodge of the Four Seasons | Lake Ozark, Missouri

The **2023 Missouri Wetlands Summit**, hosted by the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation, is an invitation to critically review and report on wetland management status and trajectory. Contemporary and forward-looking perspectives are needed to ensure that the gains made in recent decades are perpetuated. New challenges are apparent as public expectations change, ecological and climate influences emerge, and agency budgets continue to face necessary tradeoffs. The summit will offer historical context,

highlight the breadth of private and public wetland restoration and management, provide large scale and longer-term wetland benefits and challenges, and invite attendees to engage in exploring solutions. The presentations will be informative, provocative, and interactive and the speakers are well recognized in their respective disciplines.

**Who should attend:** This summit is for state and federal agency staff, public and private wetland researchers, engineers, managers, not-for-profit and nongovernmental organizations, hunters, birders, and any conservationist interested in helping shape the future of wetland conservation in Missouri.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

*Photo by Katie Wiesehan.*



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