

# Nature Notes



Volume 2, Issue 1

February-April, 2024

## George Owens Programming February-April 2024

### Let's Love Bugs!

Insects have one of the most important jobs in nature, pollination! Come out to the DeWitt Center and learn about how these teeny tiny insects help our native plants flower and what they get in exchange. Free program. All ages welcome.



Feb 17          Saturday          1:00-2:00pm          George Owens Nature Park – Dewitt



### Let's talk about Scavengers!

Detritivores, or scavengers are the clean-up crews of the outdoors. We will learn how some of our native scavengers are adapted to eating what no one else wants to and helps keep our native landscapes healthy and clean. Free program. All ages welcome.

March 9          Saturday          1:00-2:00pm          George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt

### Let's Learn About the Forest!

Forest ecosystems are full of different animals, plants, and trees. We will discuss this habitat in detail starting with how different kinds of soils hold plants in the ground, what kind of animals prefer the forests, and ending with how trees compete with each other. Free program. All ages welcome.



March 23          Saturday          1:00-2:00pm          George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt



### An Introduction to Hiking

Let's take a hike, but first we will talk about proper hiking gear, etiquette, dangers and all the fun things to do while hiking! After the presentation we will go out to hike the paved Butterfly Trail so bring some closed toed shoes! Free program. All ages welcome.

April 6          Saturday          1:00-2:00pm          George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt

### Nature Walk with a Naturalist

Come take a walk with our naturalist on one of the wonderful trails George Owen's Nature Park has to offer! We will talk about what we see, identify trees, birds, and anything else we might find. The first hike of the month will be a paved trail and is perfect for anyone with mobility challenges or small children. All other trails will be primitive hikes up and downhill and through rough terrain. Bug- spray, sunscreen, closed toe shoes and a water bottle is recommended. Free program. All ages welcome.



April 13, 20          Saturday          9:30-10:30am          George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt

Have a large group that wants to attend? Have questions about a program? Please call (816) 325-7115.

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## Earth Week! Native Animals of Missouri

Learn about the animals that make Missouri their home. This talk will highlight some of the more interesting species we have in Missouri. We will cover amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles! You might even get to pet a snake! Free program. All ages welcome.

April 23      Tuesday      1:00-2:00pm      George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt

## Earth Week! Looking at Water as a Resource

The human body is made up of 60% water. The Earth is made up of 70% water. We will discuss how we utilize water as a resource, how water can get polluted and where rainwater ends up after a storm. Free program. All ages welcome.

April 24      Wednesday      1:00-2:00pm      George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt



## Earth Week! Summer Bird Identification

Missouri is home to many different species of birds that live here during the summer and leave for the winter! We will talk about how to identify these birds and go on a short, paved hike to practice our new skills. Free program. All ages welcome.

April 25      Thursday      1:00-2:00pm      George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt

## Earth Week! Nature Walk with a Naturalist

Celebrate Earth Week with a nice hike with our naturalist. Ask him questions and listen as he guides you through the glade, woods and by the lakes while giving information about the natural history of the area. Closed toe shoes, water bottle, sunscreen, and bug spray are all strongly recommended for this program. Free program. All ages welcome.

April 26      Friday      1:00-2:00pm      George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt



## Earth Week! Invasive Plant Cleanup Day (Volunteers welcome!)

Come volunteer at George Owen's! After a bit of instruction and a safety talk, we will begin clearing Bush Honeysuckle close to the trails. Honeysuckle is a pervasive weed that leaf out early and drops its leaves late, causing it to out compete with native species. Come out and help give our native species a fighting chance against these invaders! Bring your gloves, tools are provided. Recommended for ages 6 years and up. Please call to sign up at (816) 325-7115

April 27      Saturday      9:30am-12:00pm      George Owens Nature Park - Dewitt



## George Owens Nature Park

[www.georgeowensnaturepark.org](http://www.georgeowensnaturepark.org)

816 325 7115

1601 S. Speck Rd.

Independence, MO 64057

To have Nature Notes emailed to you

Contact Jeremiah Coomes, Park Naturalist

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Park Hours:

Oct 1st - April 30th

Tues-Fri      8:30am-5:00pm

Sat      8:30am-5pm

Sun-Mon      Closed