



MISSOURI
CONSERVATION
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT



Cultivating the next generation:

A Natural Connection



From lakes and rivers to springs and wetlands, Missouri is fortunate to house an abundant supply of freshwater resources. However, this is not to be taken for granted. Water affects us all and the sustainable use of aquatic resources is a statewide, national and global issue.

The matter of clean and sustainable water is becoming more critical as habitats and wetlands are destroyed, droughts and flooding occur, and the human population expands, resulting in more consumption and pollution of our water. Balancing the needs for preserving water quality and wetland ecosystems require a fundamental understanding of these resources gained through proper education, training, staff, research, partnerships and public policy.

This is why the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems held at the University of Missouri's (MU) College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) was established in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF).

March 6, 2023, was an exciting day for all partners and the world of conservation as the new Institute was officially announced. It was a beautiful day on the Missouri River at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area while MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Vice Chancellor and Dean Christopher Daubert, Missouri Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe, MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley, MCHF Executive Director Tricia Burkhardt, donors, supporters and many others gathered to celebrate this milestone.

September 7, 2023, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators voted to approve the naming of Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems. Johnny Morris is the founder of Bass Pro shops and donated to the Institute through the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund.

The Institute provides an opportunity to build partnerships to expand the capacity to train the next generation of conservation professionals and conduct collaborative, whole system-based research that has the potential to inform policy and management decisions at the state, regional, national and international level. Plus, having well-trained professionals making effective and informed decisions will only benefit wetlands and aquatic resources.

Learn more about the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems on page 6.



Mission

To advance conservation and appreciation of Missouri's natural resources, including fish, forest and wildlife, by working with donors and other conservation partners to financially support the mission and priorities of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at the statewide, national and international level.

History

Founded in 1997, MCHF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. One of MCHF's first projects was to raise \$3.6 million in matching funds to construct the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center. Additionally, since administering the Stream Stewardship Trust Fund (SSTF) in 1999, MCHF has dispersed more than \$7 million for priority stream protection efforts while working with MDC and other stream partners statewide.

Over the last 26 years, MCHF has provided more than \$26 million for conservation projects large and small throughout the state. MCHF is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised of conservation, community, and business leaders.

FY 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Conservation Service Lines

MCHF is devoted to raising funds to support the following focus areas.

- Youth/Disabled Youth Hunting, Fishing, Archery, and Outdoor Skills Programs
- Clean Water
- Migratory Birds
- Nature Camps and Schools
- Pollinator/Monarch and other Wildlife Habitats
- Veterans/Disabled Veterans Hunting & Fishing Programs
- Conservation Banks/Easements for Endangered Species/Species of Concern



Bringing together student archers from our bordering states

In partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Wildscape Foundation, and MDC, the Border Wars Archery Tournament was held Feb. 18 and 19 at Johnson County Community College in Kansas. Archers from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Oklahoma all came to compete for \$1,500 to the top team in each division, \$100 gift cards, individual medals, trophies, and of course, bragging rights.

Congratulations to all top and participating archers. Everyone did an incredible job! Hillsboro High School from Hillsboro won the high school division with a score of 3,430. Spencer Middle School from Iowa won the middle school division with a score of 3,279. Siegrist Elementary School from Missouri won the elementary school division with a score of 2,766. Go to mochf.org/border-wars-archery-tournament/ or scan the QR code to see full list of team and individual winners.

Over the last 16 years, MoNASP has grown exponentially to over 800 schools and 200,000 Missouri students in grades 4-12. The Border Wars Archery Tournament encourages youth to build confidence and character all across the Midwest and South. For the first time, phones were provided for archers to use the NASP App for electronic scoring. It's always a fun tournament to see teams competing against different states, meeting new people, and breaking personal records. Our awesome partners and sponsors are already excited for 2024.





Archers right on target during 2023 MoNASP State Tournament in Branson!

The 2023 Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP) state archery tournament, a school-based archery sports program, was held March 15-18 at the Branson Convention Center and drew more than 5,200 student archers in grades 4-12 from 218 schools across the state. The tournament is sponsored and coordinated by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF).

There was a significant increase of competitors from previous Missouri state championships. The tournament offered both a bullseye competition with 3,632 archers and a 3D tournament with 1,616 archers, with some participants competing in both. Scan the QR code or go to t.ly/8N8zA to see highlights from the 2023 tournament.

"The turnout for MoNASP was fantastic as the program has grown in recent years," said MDC MoNASP Coordinator Rob Garver. "We're happy to see so many students excelling at the sport and seeing their confidence grow in their archery skills and in their schooling."

MoNASP is an affiliate of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), promoting education, self-esteem, and physical activity for students in Missouri. More than 200,000 Missouri students participate in the program, making the MoNASP State Tournament the second largest state archery tournament in the nation. Nearly every student, regardless of age, size of physical ability, can succeed in archery. Students learn the skill of target archery beginning at the local level with the goal of qualifying for the state, national and the world tournament. It's a great team building experience promoting skills and friendships that last a lifetime.



MoNASP congratulates scholarship winners

"MCHF is proud to award \$20,000 in scholarships to the top male and female archers each year!" MCHF Executive Director, Tricia Burkhardt. Congratulations to Wyatt Basinger (middle), who was named top individual high school male archer in bullseye. Pictured with Wyatt is MDC MoNASP Coordinator, Rob Garver and MCHF Executive Director, Tricia Burkhardt.



Advancing the Future of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems

It's no secret all living things depend on clean and sustainable sources of water. We all use it, and we all need it. Water is our most precious natural resource and humans have the largest impact on aquatic systems.

To advance the wellness of our watersheds improving all quality of life, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF), in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and University of Missouri (MU), established the **Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems** within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) at MU.

This Institute is training the next generation of aquatic systems conservationists, environmental scientists and researchers, and serves as a national center of research, knowledge and best management practices impacting fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic systems. The Institute is designed to drill down on **issues affecting freshwater ecosystems**, from agriculture to aquifers to streams, lakes and wetlands, and guide development of incentive- and technology-based policies and solutions with minimal regulatory impact. The institute will be national in scope and will include several partners across the country.

The Institute will train and cultivate the next generation of conservation professionals, including:

- Provide coursework with an emphasis on research, academic, and service
- Ensure conservation career pathway and workforce development with real-world training
- Cultivate national partnerships to collaboratively address water issues
- Conduct key, cutting-edge interdisciplinary research
- Develop and support public policy
- Communicate knowledge gained to reach new conservationists
- Build talent to benefit conservation agencies and organizations nationwide

According to a survey by EcoLab Watermark study,

81% of Americans

are more concerned about access to **clean and safe water** than other climate-related issues. Scan the QR code to learn more about the study.



100% of MCHF Board of Directors have committed financially to the Institute totaling \$450,000+

Why Do We Care?

Clean water and healthy freshwater ecosystems have never been more important to our health, safety, and future. Healthy wetlands and aquatic systems along with sustainable fish and wildlife populations do not happen by accident. Many plants and animals depend on healthy ecosystems and could become threatened if those water habitats were destroyed.

A substantial percentage of Missouri's wetlands have been converted to other uses, including agriculture and urbanization, leading to declines of plants and animals and associated recreation and other human benefits dependent on these systems. Restoration and management to support natural processes are essential to offset these losses.

We need inspired, educated, and trained conservation stewards to bring innovative expertise and research that will be used to work toward a sustainable planet.

Help us leave a lasting impact on our most precious natural resource!

Your support will help us ensure that future generations have access to world-class fishing, hunting, nature-based recreation, functioning wetlands, clean water, productive agriculture systems, and natural resource-based economies that are better than we enjoy today. We ask that you consider donating \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or more. The future of fisheries, wetlands, and aquatics systems in Missouri, regionally, nationally, and internationally is counting on it.

Learn more about the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems online at <https://mochf.org/aquatic-institute/> or contact MCHF Executive Director Tricia Burkhardt at tricia.burkhardt@mochf.org or 319.610.5215.

Donate today!



Institute Timeline

2018: recognized the need to build upon CAFNR's program at MU to cultivate the future of conservation researchers and leaders.

- MU, MDC, and MCHF started working on a solution

Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Sciences concept developed with four major components:

- Faculty and Staff
- Research
- Career Pathways and Workforce Development
- Public Policy

Feasibility study completed Aug. 2021. Confirmed interest and a need to fund an Institute for the future of clean water and conservation

Phase 1 of campaign began Jan. 2022 with the goal of \$10 million

\$5.5 million raised June 2022 toward phase 1 goal

- \$1 million lead gift from MDC
- \$3 million in-kind from MU
- In-kind faculty from Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units/USGS
- 100% of MCHF Board of Directors financially committed

MDC pledged a \$1.5 million match

Ducks Unlimited committed to help fund research

MCHF Board member initiated \$250,000 matching gift challenge

Significant pledges from John L. Morris, and Chip and Teresa McGeehan, and other private donors



 Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands & Aquatic Systems
University of Missouri



Campaign Goal:

Build a **\$30 million endowment** held by MCHF.

Money Raised to Date for Endowment:

\$12 million from agency partners and private donors. This endowment will help hire the Institute director, professors and operational support, in addition to establishing scholarships, internships, cooperative programs and fellowships.

DONOR *spotlights*

Strengthening fisheries, wetlands and aquatic systems conservation.

A conversation with Will and JJ Coates about their matching gift of \$250,000 for the Institute

About the Coates Family Charitable Fund: In 2012, Will Coates and his wife, JJ, decided to become more purposeful in their giving. On the advice of their financial planner, they created the family charitable fund. In this way, they could make contributions annually then decide how and when to distribute to causes that are important to them. This proved to be far more efficient than making individual giving decisions as they arose during the year.

Why are you passionate about the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems? Our passion for the new Institute began with a love for Missouri's great outdoors. The state has magnificent natural resources and to the extent that we can help to preserve them for future generations, we felt that the Institute's purposes aligned with our own. This was also a great opportunity to step up and fund an exciting program in its infancy. Our hope is that the Institute becomes a nationwide model for the health of our streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries.

What made you decide to offer a matching gift? Ours was a modest contribution but the power of leveraging those dollars through matching is manifold. We would much rather have many donors to the Institute and expand the awareness of the role Missouri is undertaking to become a leader in fishers, wetlands, and aquatic systems.

What are you most excited for regarding the Institute? Many of our state's citizens enjoy the numerous recreational and other benefits that clean, healthy waters provide. Most may take that for granted so putting a spotlight on those resources and drawing in the next generation to become advocates for the conservation of our rivers and lakes is exciting.

Why do you think this Institute will be so important for the future? Our hope is that the partnership between the University of Missouri, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation will spawn—no pun intended—tomorrow's leaders. The Institute will fund new departments, new educational programs, scholarships, and future employment opportunities for youth interested in conservation and the outdoors.

What is your favorite outdoor memory as it relates to Missouri Conservation? My favorite memory is really the long-term love of improving habitat for our wildlife. The MDC has been a great partner to my brother and me on our own farm. The Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands, and Aquatic Systems is one small way we can give back.



Thank you to the Coates Family Charitable Fund (Will and JJ Coates pictured above) and to Chip and Teresa McGeehan (see page 9) for their continued advocacy, investment and passion for Missouri conservation and helping to leave a lasting impact on our most precious natural resource.

If you're interested in making a contribution for the future of our fisheries, wetlands and aquatic systems, scan the QR code to the left or reach out to Tricia Burkhardt, tricia.burkhardt@mochf.org.

Thank you...

Gifts for the Future of the Institute

A conversation with donors Chip and Teresa McGeehan about their significant pledge to the Institute.

About Chip and Teresa McGeehan: Conservation has always been a very big part of our lives. It began with Ducks Unlimited in central California. For Chip, his love of nature and the outdoors blossomed when he became a Boy Scout.

Entering college and into graduate studies, he followed his passion at MU in Fisheries Management and Wildlife Conservation. Then in 2005 a lifetime dream came true; Chip became a Commissioner for MDC. Since then, his efforts have intensified, sharing the outdoors with his wife Teresa. "She says it best, I love 'playing in the dirt at the farm,'" said Chip.

Why are you passionate about the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems? Our passion for the Institute comes for what we see in the future. This Institute will provide the best professors and teachers in the world, making the University of Missouri, the leading university in educating conservationists, scientists and biologists for the future.

What made you decide to pledge your support to the Institute? Teresa and I truly understand the value of the best leadership and the best education for being successful in life. We have always given from our hearts to better those institutions and individuals who will lead us in the future and many years beyond. The mission of the Institute now and far into the future is a great investment by us to assure we lead to provide the best for generations to come.

What are you most excited for regarding the Institute? We are excited to be part of an impactful Institute that will train the biologists and scientists now and in the future in noteworthy conservation practices. The professors and students at this great Institute will steer conservation successfully for many generations.

Why do you think this Institute will be so important for the future? The love for conservation in Missouri comes from being engaged throughout our lives. We are very proud of what MDC has done to improve and enhance the fish, forest and wildlife of Missouri and for its citizens.

Chip and Teresa are proud to be conservationist and citizens of Missouri.



... to our VIP donors and partners of the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems

- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Chip and Teresa McGeehan
- John L. Morris
- Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund
- Ducks Unlimited
- Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation
- Coates Family Charitable Fund
- Carroll and Judy Wilkerson
- Jay Henges Charitable Trust
- Anonymous
- Fry Family Foundation
- Brian and Joleen Durham
- Stephen and Ann Mowry
- Steve and Jeanne Maritz
- Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation Board of Directors
- University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units Program (USGS)
- Bob & Kim Brinkmann
- Brinkmann Constructors
- Doug Weible



Donate today!



Hosted by Bob and Kim Brinkmann



An Old-Fashioned Fish Fry

MCHF donors, partners, and more had a great time Friday, June 30, 2023 at the Old-Fashioned Fish Fry supporting the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems, hosted by Bob & Kim Brinkmann! Mother Nature even supported our contributions for the future of our most precious natural resource by providing much needed rain.

Thank you to our hosts, Bob and Kim Brinkmann, for providing their beautiful venue, and the Missouri Conservation Pioneers, who are retired Missouri Department of Conservation employees, for donating their time and expertise by catching and preparing the fresh catfish for the dinner. The Missouri Conservation Pioneers caught 90 pounds of fish fillets. Funds raised go to support not only the operations of the Institute, but also scholarships for incoming freshmen with a true passion for conservation and the outdoors.

The event was held on the Brinkmann's 110-acre property, complete with beautifully restored barns from the 1700s and 1800s. The night included music from Rogers & Nienhaus, a cocktail reception with bourbon, wine and beer tastings from Fernweh Distilling Co., Defiance Ridge Vineyards, and Good News Brewing Company. Annie Gunn's Smokehouse Market provided delicious sides and desserts to compliment the fried catfish. Guests bid on an array of live auction items including a Big Cedar Lodge vacation package, Christmas Dinner for 20 at the Brinkmann's house, Golf for Four at Whistling Straits, Fishing Adventure with Roland Martin, and more!

We are grateful to all who have already committed to the Institute for their passion and enthusiastic participation in the future of our water resources.





Projects & programs

25 Years of Conservation Success

With gratitude for all the work, relationships and partnerships we've been honored to nurture, we are excited to celebrate 25 years as a Foundation. During our silver anniversary, we look back at our 25 years of major milestones in conserving, protecting and advancing Missouri's natural environments and outdoor activities.

MCHF was created in Oct. 1997 as a support foundation for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) providing additional assistance for Missouri conservation and outdoor initiatives. The Foundation has accomplished so much throughout the years from raising funds for the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center in Kansas City to supporting MDC's elk restoration project and creating the first Conservation Bank in Missouri and nationwide to protect the federally endangered Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat.

"It's an incredible milestone reaching our 25th anniversary and to continue to provide funding opportunities that support Missouri conservation and outdoor initiatives for generations to come," said Tricia Burkhardt, MCHF Executive Director. "None of this would be possible without the continued dedication from our donors, partners, supporters and conservation leaders."

It's not too late to help us celebrate our 25 years! Consider signing up for monthly giving and donating \$25 to ensure another 25 years. Your support will provide funding that not only conserves vital habitats, wildlife and waterways, but provide opportunities and experiences for all generations to enjoy now and in the future!



Visit the website at, <https://mochf.org/timeline/> or scan the QR code to see a historical timeline of where we've been and where are now.

Gearing up for the Hunt!

MCHF and Academy Sports and Outdoors teamed up to encourage everyone to get outdoors. They have partnered with us to help you prepare for fall hunting season giving you the best BANG for your BUCK!

Scan the QR code to watch the video. We are so thankful to have a great partnership with Academy Sports and Outdoors.



Watch the video

Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS



Wood Thrush Motus Tagging Project



Conservation partners across the Western Hemisphere are embarking on a range-wide Wood Thrush Motus-tagging project with a goal of deploying 600 Motus tags on Wood Thrush across their breeding and wintering ranges during 2024-2026! This international project will provide new insights into Wood Thrush migration, including migratory connectivity, timing, and departure dates and how those vary across this species full range. Local tracking of birds pre-migration on both the breeding and wintering grounds will help to answer questions about Wood Thrush survival across the full annual cycle.

MCHF is supporting this exciting project by housing funds for tag purchases in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Birds Unit. Scan the QR code to support the Wood Thrush Motus Tagging Project. For more information on the Wood Thrush Motus-tagging Project, contact Sarah Kendrick at Sarah_Kendrick@fws.gov.



Scan QR code to learn more.

Farmer Perspectives

A growing awareness of the need for more resilient farming and food systems is leading to greater interest in regenerative agriculture approaches. The Center for Regenerative Agriculture at the University of Missouri is working with a diverse group of collaborators to help farmers implement new practices. They are working to provide information to landowners, farm advisors, consumers, and companies.

Scan the QR code to learn about how regenerative agriculture and conservation work together through this six-video series.



Breaking Ground for Wetland and Lake Renovation

MDC and partners broke ground April 24, 2023 on a new pump station at Schell-Osage Conservation Area. This pump station project is a \$6.4 million renovation on one of MDC's oldest wetland and upland conservation areas.

This is the first of three phases in a long-planned wetland and lake renovation. The project will improve the area's wetlands for a wide variety of waterfowl, shore birds, and wading birds, and it will improve Schell Lake for fishing. These changes will enhance opportunities for waterfowl hunters, birders, wildlife watchers and anglers.

The pump station will draw water from the Osage River arm of Truman Lake and replace water from Schell Lake and Atkinson Lake, as well as portable pumps into Truman Lake.

MCHF is proud to support the Schell-Osage pump station that will enhance outdoor activities for Missourians to enjoy now and in the future!

Beginner Archery for Private, Homeschool and Other Organizations

Thanks to grants submitted by MCHF for the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) David Risberg Memorial Affiliate grant and the Veterans United Foundation grant archery was introduced to new communities and organizations across the state!

Beginning March 2023, project lead, Brian Letendre, has been able to provide well over 40 hours of archery instruction using principles and methods from the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This allowed him to expand and introduce new audiences from Missouri youth to veteran groups throughout the state and teach them the principles of archery, especially to those who may not normally have the opportunity.

We are Hellbender Defenders

April 13, 2023 MDC announced a significant milestone in population recovery efforts of the endangered Ozark hellbender. A zoo-raised hellbender has successfully reproduced within the Current River.

Shout out to everyone who donated to this project and became a Hellbender Defender! Your participation in this restoration story did not go unnoticed.

If you would like to join in on the excitement and become a fellow Hellbender Defender, scan the QR code and donate today!



Donate today!



Some archery instruction examples:

- In May, Brian was able to teach archery to a weekend camp at Strong Tower Ranch in Wright City, held by Trail Life USA. He taught over 80 kids over an entire day, and they were all able to experience the basics of archery.
- Brian created a great working relationship with the Veterans of Foreign War in Hawk Point and established a way to hold ongoing archery instruction in their hall. One event is in the books, and VFW families came out to participate as well as a local Trail Life Troop.
- This summer, Brian provided archery instruction for four days to over 100 kids, ages 7-17.

Looking toward the future:

Brian is in talks with American Heritage Girl troops and Trail Life USA Troops in the state to schedule archery instruction.

This introduction to archery is meant to encourage students and participants to continue their archery through hunting, fishing and competition settings. Those participating learn focus, self-control and discipline.



MCHF Board Awarded Grants

Each year, the MCHF board of directors considers requests for grants from MDC, outside nonprofits, governmental, and other non-governmental organizations that are consistent with the missions and objectives of MCHF and MDC. Project approval is based upon availability of unrestricted and undesignated funds. Grants awarded for 2023 include:

Discover Nature Field Day

The week of June 20-23, 2023 the James A. Reed Wildlife Area hosted a group for the 11th year. The group consisted of 737 students from six regional Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. This grant enhanced the students and all staff experience by providing much needed water bottles and string bags for the students.



Students participated in a wide variety of activities. Every student went fishing, some learned birding and about pollinators while older students went canoeing, participated in shooting sports like archery, atlatl, and air rifles. It was a full day of outdoor skills in nature.

The water bottles reduced the threat of any student overheating because they always had water with them as they moved through various age-appropriate activities. The string bag ensures they have their water bottle handy along with any other personal items needed to complete the day successfully.

Springfield Public Schools Backyard Birds

MDC Conservation educators trained seven middle school and two high school teachers on birds and birding. Students learned different types of habitats, food sources, importance of clean water, how building structure design affects bird flights and more. Funds requested and approved were used to purchase nine classroom sets of binoculars/field guides. Each classroom set consists of 12 binoculars and 12 field guides with the intent of two students per binocular/field guide for each class period.



MoNASP Archery Equipment Kits

This funding was used to assist new and existing school implementing or expanding their participation in MoNASP. Currently, MDC and CFM offer reimbursement grants



for up to \$1500 for all new schools to help with the cost of equipment needed to start MoNASP in their school, the current cost of the equipment package is approx. \$3,400. MDC also offers \$500 for existing schools to replace, or repair worn out equipment. MCHF is proud to support MoNASP and youth archery programs.

Native Plants at Noon Pilot Expansion

In partnership with MDC, Deep Roots has hosted a series of Native Plants at Noon since 2021. This grant was used to help expand this series offering field trips to tour native landscapes of treasured MDC landmarks. Deep Roots worked with each location to arrange tours, safety considerations, provide transportation, attend onsite and assist with additional logistics. Additionally, it promotes awareness, understanding and appreciation for Missouri's natural resources and conservation heritage.



Missouri Disabled Sportsman – Mobility Impaired Shooting Blinds and Trailers

This grant has allowed Missouri Disabled Sportsman to expand their outdoor opportunities for the mobility impaired and youth constituents statewide. The mobile enclosed blind and trailer set up allowed them to provide safe and comfortable accommodations for deer and turkey hunting events.

Their participants were able to successfully take more than a dozen antlerless deer during the three-day hunt in mid-December 2022. They hosted 12 mobility impaired hunters at this annual event in Northeast Missouri.

Each hunter had a more enjoyable outdoor experience because of these mobile blinds and trailers.



Let's Talk Turkey

by Nicholas Oakley, MDC Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse Biologist

Update on the five and half year cooperative Wild Turkey Research with MDC and the University of Missouri. MCHF partnered with the National Wild Turkey Federation to raise funds to help fund a portion of this multi-year research project.

It's no surprise to your average observer that turkey hunting has changed over the last couple of decades, and for many it has not been a positive development. In the past you had your choice of gobblers to pursue, but now there are fewer options. Perhaps more alarming, is the news that a growing number of states are changing or closing seasons, resulting in turkey hunters losing opportunities to go on highly anticipated hunts.

However, most turkey vital rates, including adult survival rates and harvest rates, have been largely stable over the last few decades. The biggest exception to that statement would be poult production. Poult production has been in decline in Missouri since the mid- to late-1980s and hit an all-time low in 2016 and 2017. This set off alarm bells and a new research project was initiated in 2020 to identify the root causes of this decline. The project aims to determine how mesocarnivore abundance and distribution, insect abundance and diversity, weather, and habitat characteristics on the local and regional level impact nest and poult survival. This is the first large-scale project looking at all these factors at the same time and the results will give us insight into what is driving production declines.

So far, with generous funding from MCHF, MDC, and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), researchers have been able to capture and tag 112 hens and 38 poults. The GPS packs worn by the hens allow researchers to monitor the hen's location every 10 minutes during the brooding season and can even record her activity by analyzing movement. This location information, combined with estimated mesocarnivore densities, will allow researchers to determine areas where conflict between hens and predators are most likely to occur and ways to change the landscape to give hens an advantage. Live trapping and tagging of raccoons, opossums and skunks are conducted from late March through early May, while game cameras targeting coyote, bobcat and fox are placed from late March into August. Early results from the live trapping have shown raccoon densities ranging from 0.09 and 0.5 raccoons per acre and opossum densities ranged from 0.03 to 0.27 opossums per acre. These numbers are associated with each trapping area, and overall estimates will be released later.



Scan the QR code to read more about this research.



Recognizing Our Conservation Leaders



"Each year our honorees set the standard for conservation champions who are impacting conservation state and nationwide," says Michelle Herzan, president of the MCHF board. "Now, as we come to the close of our 25th year of investing and conserving Missouri's natural resources, we are proud to honor those committed to advancing and conserving our great natural heritage."

The seventh annual National Lewis & Clark Conservation Awards ceremony was held Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at the White River Conference Center in Springfield, Missouri in collaboration with MDC's Conservation Partner Roundtable. The Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) recognized individuals and organizations that lead the charge for the appreciation and conservation of our natural resources in Missouri and beyond.

U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee and as the Ranking Member of the Senate Rules Committee, was honored with the *Governor's State of Missouri Conservation Award*. This award goes to an individual who reflects the spirit of conservation, shows outstanding leadership and has positively contributed to conservation principles and programs in Missouri and beyond.

Sen. Blunt has been a longtime and consistent supporter of the Show-Me State and as a fifth generation, small-town Missourian, a true advocate for the outdoors, recreation, wildlife, and conservation. His leadership on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act has been pivotal despite the challenge of navigating Washington D.C. There are countless programs and projects that would not have been accomplished without his support that have had and will continue to have a positive, lasting impact on Missouri.

Chip and Teresa McGeehan, owners and operators of 19 McDonald's franchises in southwest Missouri, were honored with the *Missouri Legacy Conservation Award*. This award recognized their exemplary commitment and service to the conservation cause in Missouri. Their lifelong leadership

and commitment to conservation have impacted many lives. From supporting youth archery and conservation scholarships to funding track chairs that help disabled youth and veterans hunt to supporting turkey habitat research, their dedication to conserving the future of Missouri's outdoor legacy is inspiring.

Mark Drury and Terry Drury, brothers, and co-owners of Drury Outdoors, received the *National Corps of Discovery Conservation Award*. This is the highest award given by MCHF for leadership in conservation at the national level. The award is given based upon exemplary service, inspiration, and commitment to benefit the conservation cause. Mark Drury and Terry Drury have dedicated their lives to bringing the outdoorsman the highest quality products and practical useful information available today. Their love for the sport of hunting led to the development of Drury Outdoors in 1989. Their television shows, podcast, DeerCast app and social media presence has educated many. Their passion for hunting and wildlife conservation practices and admiration for the animal and the connections that are forged during the chase has inspired countless people.

Carroll Wilkerson, co-founder, and Senior Wealth Advisor at WR Wealth Planner, a financial planning firm in Columbia, Mo., was awarded with the *Pat Jones/York Spirit of the Wilderness National Conservation Award*. This award goes to an individual who has dedicated their life to the promotion, protection and service of wilderness and natural resources throughout Missouri. The award is in honor of York, a pivotal contributor to the success of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and in honor of Pat Jones, spouse of Edward "Ted" Jones, for the dynamic role she has played in conservation in Missouri. Pat Jones was the first recipient of the award in 2016 and her name



was added to it in 2017. Wilkerson's dedication to conservation is evident through his actions by supporting outdoor and conservation programs throughout the state, donating his time and funds, and provided Missouri's youth with countless opportunities. He has made a difference to so many people by giving them access to Missouri's wonderful natural resources. His entrepreneurial spirit has created a business that has helped people plan for and achieve their dreams.

The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), a nonprofit organization working to better Missouri's natural resources and represent the state's citizen conservationists, was presented with the *Sacagawea Community and Partnership Conservation Award*. This award goes to an organization focused on exceptional community and partnership building resulting in progressive changes in conservation programs. CFM has been an outstanding partner with MCHF to further the collective conservation mission.

In honor of our 25th year, we recognized MCHF founding board members and members of the Conservation Legacy Society. This society is comprised of those who made planned gifts to MCHF through a bequest, gift annuity or trust.

Missouri Department of Conservation Partner Award Winners

In addition to the National Lewis & Clark Conservation Awards, MCHF and MDC presented Conservation Partner Awards to honor partnerships and collaborations in conservation that make a lasting difference.

Conservation Impact Award Winners: Heartland Conservation Alliance
Conservation Intersection Award Winner: Missouri Division of Tourism
Conservation Innovation Award Winner: Innovative Outcomes



Mark Drury and Terry Drury
Co-owners of Drury Outdoors
Corps of Discovery National Conservation Award



Chip and Teresa McGeehan
Owners/Operators of McDonald franchises
Missouri Legacy Conservation Award



Carroll Wilkerson
*Co-founder and Senior Wealth Advisor;
 WR Wealth Planner*
Pat Jones/York Spirit of the Wilderness National Conservation Award



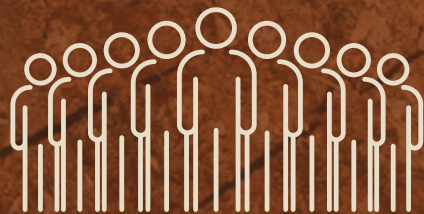
U.S. Senator Roy Blunt
Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee
Governor's State of Missouri Conservation Award

Learn more about the event and awardees



by the *numbers*

 **3,220**
TOTAL GIFTS
in 2023 fiscal year



6,939
NEW Donors

 **\$.85**

of every dollar donated
goes toward programs

2,175

**Conservation
Heritage License
Plates Sold**

Ranked the 4th most popular
specialty license plate in the state

MONASP 

6,874 Raffle Tickets SOLD
raising **\$24,500**
for Missouri youth conservation programs



- 5,248 archers competing
- 24,500 people attending
- 71 volunteers



- \$11 million economic impact on Branson
- \$20,000 in scholarships awarded



5,993

Raffle Tickets SOLD
for Mega Raffle and
Christmas in July Raffle

\$999,765

supported multiple projects in FY 2023

*projects, grants
& scholarships*

- Nature Centers
- Conservation Areas
- Shooting Ranges
- Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems
- Youth Fishing Clinics and Events
- Youth Hunting Clinics
- Hatcheries
- Boone County Nature School
- Amphibian and reptile conservation
- Outdoor communicators (Driftwood Outdoors and Missouri Outdoor Communicators)
- Conservation heritage interpretation (Association of Missouri Interpreters)
- MOTUS Wildlife Tracking Receivers to track migratory birds
- Prairie plantings and restoration
- Discover Nature Camps
- Friends of Emerald Valley in Honduras
- MDC's Employees of the Month
- Missouri Envirothon
- Scenic River Invasive Species Strike Team
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- Regenerative agriculture
- Wild turkey research
- Green Schoolyards
- Ozark Chinquapin trees
- Burn trailer wrap and equipment
- Share the Harvest
- Missouri's Stream Teams – partnership with members of the Missouri Craft Brewers Guild for the Save Water. Drink Beer. Campaign
- Missouri Disabled Sportsmen's Mobility Impaired & Youth Hunt
- Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP) scholarships and grants
- Paddle MO – Missouri River trip to raise awareness of big river issues
- Stream Stewardship Trust Fund projects – using mitigation funds to improve Missouri's precious stream resources
- Missourians for Monarchs projects – expanding and creating habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators throughout rural, urban and suburban landscapes across the state, and disseminating training materials to landowners
- Green City Coalition projects – repurposing vacant lots for community and wildlife, specifically creating intentional open space with trees, planting native grasses and forbs to increase stormwater absorption, improving aesthetics and environmental quality and providing opportunities for residents to connect with nature close to home





Planned Giving: An Option For Everyone

Whatever your stage in life, planned giving can benefit you and your loved ones while helping protect the outdoors and Missouri's natural environments for generations to come. Some planned gifts have an impact now, some after your lifetime and many offer tax savings. Explore your options below, talk with your financial advisor and give the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) a call and we will help make sure to preserve your legacy. It's never too late to plan for the future!

Gifts for the Future

- Life insurance - When you name MCHF as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, you may be able to save on estate taxes.
- Wills or trusts - Help protect the lands, waters and wildlife you love for the future by making a gift to MCHF in your estate plan.
- Retirement plans - Naming MCHF as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401K or other qualified plan could reduce or eliminate both income and estate taxes.
- Donor Advised Funds (DAF) - Manage your charitable giving through a convenient, flexible and cost-effective alternative to a private foundation.

Gifts of Assets

- Cash - Maximize your charitable deduction and provide funds for conservation immediately.
- Real estate - Donate residential, commercial or undeveloped real estate to help Missouri conservation and you could save on taxes and reduce ownership responsibilities.
- IRAs - If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can use your required minimum distributions to make gifts from your IRA.
 - Stocks/bonds - Donating stocks, bonds or mutual funds is quick and simple and may provide you with significant tax benefits.
 - Life estate - Give MCHF your land or house, continue to live there rent-free and receive immediate income tax deductions.

If you're not ready for planned giving, start with a monthly gift and help us celebrate our 25th year of conservation success. Consider donating \$25 a month to ensure another 25 years of providing funding that not only conserves vital habitats, wildlife and waterways, but provides opportunities and experiences for all generations to enjoy now and in the future.

To learn more about your planned giving options, please give us a call and we will help you leave a legacy that will impact the future of conservation. 1-800-227-1488 or mchf@mochf.org.

Scan the QR code and check the 'make a recurring gift' box, enter your information and amount you'd like to donate monthly and that's it! We do the work for you monthly.



Let's Talk!

We look forward to chatting with you and helping you customize and simplify your charitable giving!

Need to Know Info:

Legal Name:

Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

Address:

PO Box 366
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0366

Employee Identification Number:

43-1797156



Conservation Heritage Society

*Those who have cumulatively given
\$10,000 - \$100,000*

Academy Sports + Outdoors
Danette Alexander
Kathleen Anderson
Association of Missouri Electric
Cooperatives
Ken and Betty Rose Babcock
Baker Implement Company
Stephen and Marilyn Bradford
Branson Convention Center
Bob and Kim Brinkmann
Brinkmann Constructors
Build Missouri Health
Burroughs Audubon Society
of Greater Kansas City
Cedar Bay Entertainment LLC
City of Branson
Columbia Audubon Society
Community Foundation of the Ozarks
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Brian and Joleen Durham
Environmental Improvement & Energy
Resources Authority
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Explore Branson Tourism
The Kathryn G. Favre Foundation
for Animals
Federal Ammunition
Robert "Bob" and Mary Fry
Fry Family Foundation
Carla E. Galloway
Gateway Chapter Trout Unlimited
Paul N. Gray
Great Rivers Habitat Alliance
Greater Kansas City Community
Foundation
G'Sell Homes, LLC
Darrell Gwynn Foundation, Inc.
Shirley & Barnett Helzberg Foundation
Lilly Christy Busch Hermann Charitable
Foundation
Randy and Mary Herzog
Wallace H. Jerome Foundation
Aaron and Angie Jungbluth
James E. Kjorlien

Maurice Marciano Family Foundation
Steve and Jeanne Maritz
Marshfield's McDonalds
John V Mesh Memorial Scholarship
Walter and Cynthia Metcalfe
MFS Investment Management
Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited
Missouri Birding Society
Missouri Forest Heritage Center, Inc.
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Mold Medic Inc.
Morrell Manufacturing, Inc.
D. Larry Murphy
Muskies, Inc., Pomme de Terre
Chapter
The Mysun Charitable Foundation
National Rifle Association of America
National Wild Turkey Federation
The NRA Foundation Inc.
Orscheln's Farm and Home
Jane H. Owen
Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Enel Green Power NA, Inc.
Quality Deer Management Association
RCR Race Operations, LLC
Recreational Equipment, Inc.
Michael and Sandra Reesor
Edward B. Risch
Safari Club International/Sables
Division
Bruce and Jan Sassmann
Brian Satterwaite
Sosland Foundation
Chris Spooner
Ann Sullins
David Studyvin
Richard Tappmeyer
Franklin Templeton
Joseph Thompson
Walmart Foundation
Water Garden Society of Greater
Kansas City
Whitetails Unlimited, Inc.
Carroll and Judy Wilkerson
WR Wealth Planners, LLC

Founder's Conservation Society

*Those who have cumulatively given
more than \$100,000*

Joanna C. Anesi Estate Trust
Timothy Barksdale
Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor
Fund
Harry and Lina Berrier
Coates Family Charitable Fund
GM & GK Brown Crat
Lilly Christy Busch Hermann Charitable
Foundation
Rick and Lotsie Holton
Edward Jones, Inc.
Hilda P. Jones
Burns & McDonnell Engineering
Co., Inc.
Chip and Teresa McGeehan
Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Department of Conservation
The Nature Conservancy
Orscheln Industries Foundation
Prairie Fork Conservation Area
Charitable Endowment Trust
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Norman Schaum Revocable Trust
Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation
Robert J. Trulaske Family Foundation
Walton Family Foundation
Howard and Marilyn Wood

Conservation Legacy Society

*Those who have made planned gifts to
MCHF through a bequest, gift annuity
or trust*

John and Moe Bales
Lee Blair
Nolan Brunnworth
Harry and Sakina Drummond
Don Gerling
Glen Hurt
Jim and Linda Lathrop
Bud Peck
Bruce and Jan Sassmann
Bill Shumake
Ron and Linda Siler

Giving Levels



MCHF gratefully acknowledges the significant financial contributions of our donors and thanks them for entrusting us to continue to support the advancement of Missouri Conservation and outdoors activities for now and generations to come.

Champions of Conservation

Jerry Presley's Conservation Journey

Rick and Lotsie Holton are members of the Distinguished Founder's Conservation Society, with a cumulative giving of \$100,000 or more. They have pledged \$5,000 each year for a total of 5 years. Each year they are making the donation in honor of a Champion of Conservation of their choosing. Meet the third Champion – Jerry Presley.



Jerry Presley has guided the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) as it's grown and evolved into one of the top fish and wildlife agencies in the nation. Multiple programs and partnerships were cultivated under his leadership and to this date, MDC is still building on the success he set into motion.

Presley obtained a degree in forestry from the University of Missouri. After graduating, he began his 39-year career with MDC when he was hired as an assistant director forester at Ellington. Presley was then promoted to district forester at three successive locations. He was appointed state forestland supervisor in 1964, assistant state forester in 1969 and state forester in 1977. He was promoted to assistant director in 1986 and then for nearly 10 years, he served as the fifth director in the history of the agency.

A Missouri native, Presley was born in St. Louis and grew up in Low Wassie, east of Winona. As a young boy, he spent a lot of time outdoors fishing and hunting small game. He brought home catfish, perch and green sunfish from the local farm ponds and hunted for quail, squirrels and rabbits. He also trapped, mostly for possum and skunks, but he also ended up with a few minks, rabbits and weasels.

When he was in high school, Presley's best friend's father was a forest ranger with the U.S. Forest Service and used that connection to get a job fighting forest fires, thus starting his conservation and outdoors career.

When appointed as the director, Presley's number one priority was to keep the support of the people and justify their passage of the 1976 conservation sales tax amendment. He maintained good public relations and tried to attend as many groundbreakings, dedications and presentations as possible.

Presley made the decision to retire as director in 1996. He wanted to spend more time in the outdoors and with his family while he still could. Presley and his wife, Bonnie are blessed with a daughter, Nanci Beck, son, Jeffrey and five grandchildren.

Presley has left a legacy and created the new standard for what Missouri conservation is today. Not only has he served as the director, but as president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which has expanded his conservation efforts and introduced him to a worldwide slate of conservation groups. Presley's passion and leadership for Missouri conservation are not overlooked and continue to hold strong years later.

How to give back

- Our website – mochf.org/donate-online.

- **Conservation Heritage License Plates** – Show how wild you are about conservation with a yearly \$25 donation.



- **PayPal** – <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1927929>.

- **Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign** – <https://msecc.mo.gov/>. Make a monthly donation through payroll deduction using MCHF Charity Code 8447.



- **Combined Federal Campaign** <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov>. Make a monthly donation through payroll deduction using MCHF's CFC Code 25782.

Support Missouri conservation with every purchase

- Earn unlimited 1% cash back donations on every purchase.
- Donations are tax deductible and there are no annual fees.
- MCHF receives a bonus \$25 donation after first purchase.
- Sign up at charitycharge.com/mchf.



Donate today!

Scan QR code, visit www.mochf.org or call 800-227-1488.

Planned Giving

Planned giving is the process of making a significant charitable gift over time or at death, as part of the donor's overall financial and estate planning. Planned giving utilizes current tax laws to provide benefits for both the donor and MCHF. Contact our office at 573-634-2080 or mchf@mochf.org to learn more.

Donor Levels

Bronze Bobcat Circle	\$50-\$99
Silver Hawthorne Circle	\$100-\$249
Gold Monarch Circle	\$250-\$499
Sapphire Bluestem Circle	\$500-\$999
Diamond Bluebird Circle	\$1,000-\$4,999
Platinum Dogwood Circle	\$5,000-\$9,999

Distinguished Giving Levels

Conservation Heritage Society	\$10,000-\$100,000
Founder's Conservation Society	more than \$100,000
Conservation Legacy Society	Planned gifts
This society recognizes planned gifts that have been made to MCHF through a bequest, gift annuity or trust.	

Gifts may be designated to the fund of your choice:

- Wherever most needed as determined by MCHF
- Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
- Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
- Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center
- Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
- Runge Conservation Nature Center
- Springfield Conservation Nature Center
- Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery
- Bennett Springs Hatchery
- Montauk Hatchery
- Shooting ranges
- Discover Nature Girls Camps
- Youth fishing activities
- Youth hunting programs
- Veterans hunting and fishing programs
- Stream Teams
- Monarch conservation efforts
- MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System
- Migratory bird habitat conservation programs
- Friends of Emerald Valley

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