



MISSOURI
CONSERVATION
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT



Special Updates from Our Executive Director

We've had another big year at the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF), full of successful and invigorating archery tournaments, new and fun projects funded and supported, new conservation easements on the horizon, and most notably, big milestones achieved within the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems.

This year, Chip McGeehan, a past Missouri Conservation Commissioner, and his wife, Teresa, of southwest Missouri made a significant contribution to the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems. To honor the McGeehan's support and passion in helping the next generation protect crucial natural resources, the partners, MCHF, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and University of Missouri (MU) are pleased to name the career pathways program the **Chip and Teresa McGeehan Career Pathways Program**.

This program will develop conservation professionals, providing them with real-world field experiences and training to prepare the next generation of conservationists for the workforce. This program will be accomplished in many ways including internships, cooperative learning opportunities, workshops, scholarships and fellowships.

Through the efforts of the Chip and Teresa McGeehan Career Pathways Program, the Johnny Morris Institute will become a national leader in undergraduate education. Being known for turning out the best-trained and most competent students is the long-term goal. Career pathways program students will be prepared to find solutions to our biggest conservation challenges, engage the public we serve and adapt emerging technologies to conservation problems.

Building people within the Johnny Morris Institute

The Chip and Teresa McGeehan Career Pathways Program will play a major role in developing our future conservation professionals through offering six to eight field internships yearly. This year, the scholarship and internship program is already off to a strong start!

Congratulations to the first Johnny Morris Institute scholarship winner and interns! We are excited to have watched them learn and grow throughout their internships and experiences this summer and look forward to the cumulative impact of this scholarship program on continued future generations of conservation professionals to come. I invite you to learn more about the Johnny Morris Institute on page 4.

Thank you for taking the time to skim through the following pages and learn more about MCHF's achievements and celebrations throughout fiscal year 2024. We're grateful for your support!

Sincerely,



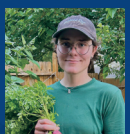
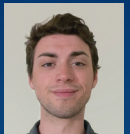
Tricia Burkhardt
MCHF Executive Director



Chip and Teresa
McGeehan

Meet the first scholarship recipients and interns from 2024:

- **SHAUN BALLARD**
The Chip and Teresa McGeehan Career Pathways Program Undergraduate Scholarship Winner
- **RACHEL SUTTMUELLER**
Roaring Riving Fish Hatchery and Resource Science Center Undergraduate Summer Internship
- **ISAIAH MCKAY**
Missouri River Fish Research Undergraduate Summer Internship
- **MIK KUEHNEL**
Natural Resources Intern at Columbia's Agriculture Park



 Johnny Morris Institute of
Fisheries, Wetlands & Aquatic Systems
University of Missouri

Mission

To advance the 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 \$6.9 million for priority stream protection efforts while working with MDC and other stream partners statewide.

Since our founding in 1997, we have allocated over \$27 million for conservation funding statewide, plus \$13.3 million to the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems. MCHF is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised of conservation, community and business leaders.

FY 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



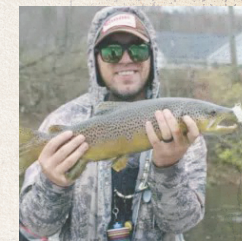
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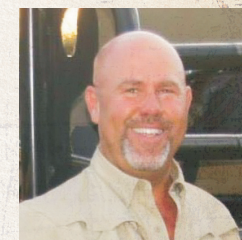
Nick Littrell



Nathan "Shags" McLeod



Gina Meyer



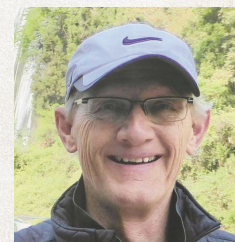
Dana Peterson



Ken Babcock
Ex-Officio Advisor



Carroll Wilkerson
Ex-Officio Advisor



Mark McHenry
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The Johnny Morris Institute Expands Partnerships with Nationwide Conservation Leaders

Clean water and healthy ecosystems have never been more important to our health, safety and future. Healthy wetlands and aquatic systems and 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. We need inspired, educated and trained conservation stewards to bring innovative expertise and research that will be used to work toward a sustainable planet.

To advance the wellness of our watersheds improving all quality of life, MCHF, MDC and MU established the Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems at MU in March 2023.

A few months later in September, the MU Board of Curators approved naming the institute after Bass Pro Shops' founder and one of America's leading conservationists, Johnny Morris. The Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems is creating a national model for private and public partnerships that advance sustainable conservation of fisheries, wetlands and other aquatic systems.

The vision is to create a national model for public/private partnerships to bring together fisheries, wetlands and aquatic systems into an integrated area of study to not only further science, but also cultivate future talent in the conservation field.

This national institute will train and cultivate the next generation of conservation professionals by providing students with coursework and career pathways with real-world field training through the Chip and Teresa McGeehan Career Pathways Program. Additionally, the Johnny Morris Institute will serve as a national center for research, knowledge and best management practices impacting fisheries, wildlife, wetlands and aquatic systems.

MCHF, MDC and MU have been working hard to bring together new partners to support and build awareness of the Johnny Morris Institute.

Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund: A nonprofit supporting thousands of local projects and leading conservation partners across North America. The Outdoor Fund was instrumental in the naming of the Johnny Morris Institute honoring Bass Pro Shops Founder, Johnny Morris.



Major League Fishing (MLF): MLF is the largest tournament fishing organization in the world. Serving as the official research partner of the Johnny Morris Institute, MLF provides data from their fishing tournaments for research-based courses where undergraduates work to analyze this data and look for areas of concern within fish biology, habitat and water.



Bolder River Outdoors: Based out of Sedalia, Mo., these high-end duck hunting blinds are designed by engineers to last a lifetime. As a partner, Bolder River is the official duck blind of MCHF supporting the Johnny Morris Institute by donating a portion of each duck hunting blind sale to the institute.

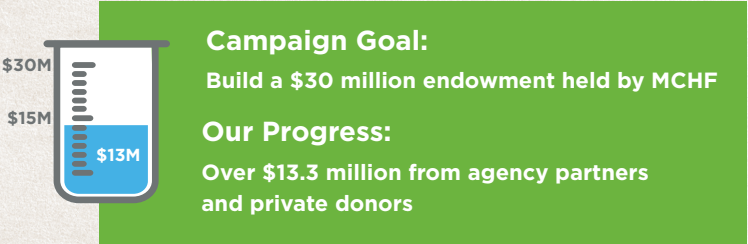


Join These Conservation Leaders

The partners are working hard to continue the Johnny Morris Institute’s momentum and growth. One hundred percent of the MCHF Board of Directors have committed their financial support to the Johnny Morris Institute. Additionally, the Coates Family Charitable Fund initiated a dollar-for-dollar matching gift of up to \$250,000. MCHF is thankful for all the support received.

More than \$13.3 million has been pledged from partners and private donors. The goal is to build a \$30 million endowment held by MCHF to support the Institute.

Help us continue the momentum and develop a legacy that will impact water and conservation for years to come. Our future generations and the future of fisheries, wetlands and aquatic systems in Missouri, regionally, nationally and internationally are counting on it.



Scan the QR Code to learn more and help us leave a lasting impact on our most precious natural resource.

Thank You to our VIP donors and partners of the Morris Institute

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



2018

2019

2021

2022

2023

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 by 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

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

Significant pledges from Bass Pro Shops & Cabela’s Outdoor Fund, Chip and Teresa McGeehan and other private donors

In March, the Institute was officially established

MU Board of Curators approved the naming of the Johnny Morris Institute in Sept. after Johnny Morris for his contributions to conservation

The Chip and Teresa McGeehan Career Pathways Program was created in November 2023, allowing for internships and scholarships to be offered in 2024

Bass Pro Shops Supports Missouri Youth Archers at the MoNASP State Tournament in Branson

The Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP), a school-based archery sports program, is making waves in the community, state and region. Bass Pro Shops was the exclusive presenting sponsor for the 2024 MoNASP State Archery Tournament held March 20-23 at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, Mo. More than 4,300 student archers in grades 4-12 from 218 schools across the state competed in both Bullseye and 3D. The tournament is hosted and coordinated by MDC and MCHF.

Bass Pro Shops has been a long-time supporter of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) and MoNASP, impacting millions of young sportsmen and women across North America. As the presenting sponsor of the 2024 MoNASP State Archery Tournament, they are continuing their commitment to invest in youth and introduce new audiences to the outdoors.

"We are excited to continue our support for the State Archery Tournament," said Johnny Morris, noted conservationist and Bass Pro Shops founder. "The National Archery in the Schools Program has a long and proud history of introducing young people of all ages and backgrounds to the outdoors and this growing sport, and it's rewarding to see these archers celebrate their accomplishments on a big stage."

Scan the QR code to see highlights from the 2024 State Tournament



Also at the tournament, Bass Pro Shops had an archery shooting lane for attendees to test the 2024 Bow of the Year, the BlackOut Faze Compound Bow. This was a great opportunity for attendees and youth archers to talk to the experts. Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium returned to the state tournament with live animal encounters.

In addition to the tournament competition and Bass Pro Shops' activities, the event included a variety of family-friendly activities for attendees such as:

- Air rifle ranges
- Archery games
- The 2024 MoNASP Raffle supporting youth outdoor programs
- The MDC Canine Unit
- A scavenger hunt
- A tradeshow with vendors from many different industries, including bow strings, bows and bow accessories
- Hunting seminars
- And more!



www.basspro.com



"We are inspired to have Bass Pro Shops as the exclusive presenting sponsor of the 2024 MoNASP State Archery Tournament," said MCHF Executive Director Tricia Burkhardt. "Archery is for everyone and together, we are able to expose more youth to outdoor sports, conservation programs and activities."



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 or 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.

Special Thanks to Our VIP Partners and Sponsors:

Bass Pro Shops
Branson Convention Center
Explore Branson
Bomgaars Supply, Inc.
Allen Company
Chip & Teresa McGeehan
Fry Family Foundation
WR Wealth Planners
Universal Supply & Rental
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
Pinegar Chevrolet, Buick, GMC of Branson
Hilton Hotels
Specialty Art & Design
Titanic
American Outdoor Brands

Nearly 1,000 student archers from six states compete at Border Wars

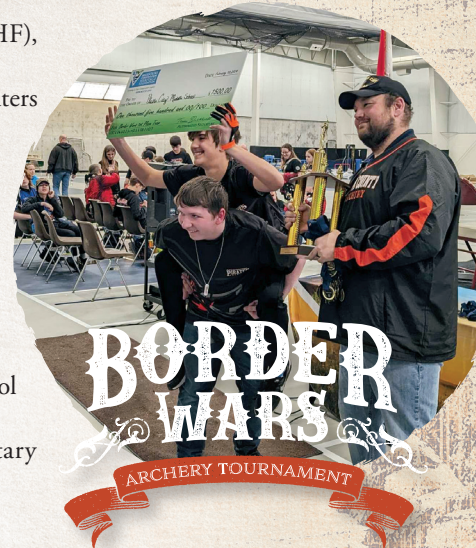
In partnership with Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Wildscape Foundation and Kansas Bowhunters Association, the third annual Border Wars Archery Tournament was held Feb. 17 and 18, 2024 at Johnson County Community College in Kansas. Archers from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky and Nebraska all came to compete for \$1,500 to the top team in each division, \$100 gift cards, sponsored by Visit Overland Park, individual medals, trophies, and of course, bragging rights.

Congratulations to all top and participating archers! Everyone did an incredible job! Hillsboro High school from Missouri won the high school division with a score of 3,414. Platte City Middle School from Missouri won the middle school division with a score of 3,241. Compass Elementary School from Missouri won the elementary school division with a score of 2,918.

Special thanks to our partners, sponsors and vendors!

- Spirit Archery
- Nautical Bowls
- Specialty Art & Design
- Lyon College
- Kansas Bowhunters Association
- Jason's Deli
- Rosati's
- Visit Overland Park

The Border Wars Archery Tournament encourages youth to build confidence and character across the Midwest and South. It's always a fun tournament to see teams competing against different states, meeting new people and breaking personal records. Thank you to all the coaches, volunteers and families who supported the event and to the youth archers who participated. Our awesome partners and sponsors are already excited for 2025.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Border Wars.



DONOR *spotlight*

New Daniel Duncan Archery in the Schools Scholarship Fund Supports Missouri Youth Archers at the MoNASP State Tournament

MCHF is thrilled to announce the establishment of the Daniel Duncan Archery in the Schools Scholarship Fund, increasing the number of scholarships awarded to student archers at the MoNASP State Tournament beginning March 2024.

Missouri native and avid conservation supporter, Daniel “Dan” Duncan from Columbia, Mo., has donated to MCHF, creating a scholarship fund for the MoNASP State Tournament which will support and encourage Missouri youth archers to build confidence and character through the sport of archery.

“The archery in the schools program seemed a perfect fit,” said Dan. “While it’s primarily indoor, it’s likely to lead to a generation of bowhunters taking to the field. It’s also encouraging that everyone can succeed in archery, regardless of age, gender, social or physical status.”

A couple of years ago, while discussing their last will and testament, Dan’s father and mother, Joe and Carole Duncan, decided to give their sons an advance portion of their estate to donate to a charity of their choosing. Instantly, Dan knew he wanted to donate to a cause in conservation that would help young people in their outdoor pursuits.

Dan and Joe were referred to MCHF and after talking with MCHF Executive Director, Tricia Burkhardt, they both knew without hesitation that archery was an excellent fit. “When we heard the word archery, I’m sure we rattled her eardrums, as we said excitedly, ‘Archery! That’s what we want!’” said Joe.

Previously, MCHF was able to award \$20,000 in scholarships to the top three overall male and females in both bullseye and 3D at the MoNASP State tournament through \$10,000 from MCHF, which includes the Chip and Teresa McGeehan Archery in the Schools Conservation Fund, and a matching grant of \$10,000 from the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).

Now, with the help of the Daniel Duncan Archery in the Schools Scholarship Fund and an additional \$5,000 from NASP, MCHF can now award \$30,000 in scholarships to the top five male and female archers in both bullseye and 3D at the MoNASP State Tournament.

Specifically, this fund will support scholarships for the fifth-place male and female archers in both bullseye and 3D. These scholarships are awarded to students to be used for their education endeavors after graduation.

“This scholarship fund is an incredible opportunity to offer more student archers support they may need after they graduate high school,” said MCHF Executive Director Tricia Burkhardt. “Scholarships given out at the MoNASP State Tournament have made a profound impact on the experiences of youth archers creating new and more personal relationships with conservation and the outdoors. We are so thankful to Dan and his family for their passion for conservation as we award the top male and females for their focus, accuracy and integrity at the state tournament.”

MoNASP is an affiliate of NASP, promoting education, self-esteem and physical activity for students in grades 4-12. MoNASP has grown exponentially to over 800 Missouri schools and 200,000 students exposing more youth to outdoor sports and activities. The MoNASP State Tournament is the second largest state archery tournament in the nation, and in 2024 brought together more than 4,300 student archers competing in 3D and Bullseye and 19,000 spectators.

To learn more about the Daniel Duncan Archery in the Schools Scholarship Fund, the MoNASP State Tournament or MCHF, call the office at 800-227-1488.



NEW! Open Outdoor 3D Archery Tournament debuted August 12, 2023

In partnership with MCHF, MDC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mark Twain Lake FOREST Council, archers of all ages and shooting levels came together for fun competition at Mark Twain Lake Archery Park for the first annual Open Outdoor 3D Archery Tournament.

On Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, nearly 200 archers of all ages and shooting levels competed to test their skills against the forest. Participants could choose to shoot NASP, Open Compound, Bow Hunter, Traditional/Barebow and Championship. Archers from different backgrounds including National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) participants, coaches, parents, archery influencers and semi-professionals, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed this fun summer event.

This event is unique as it has two trail-style 3D archery ranges with 20 targets each, totaling 40 targets. Archers shoot one arrow per target for the chance to win medals and cash prizes. This tournament is a one-day, family-friendly event supporting Missouri youth archery and outdoor programs. In addition to the 3D range, the Iron Buck Challenge added another level of competition against other participants in a classic one-arrow challenge through an iron deer target.

Thank you to our event volunteers and sponsors, including Hannibal CVB, Tyson Foods Inc. and FCS Financial, for supporting the inaugural event and conservation programs. Vendors, including Creed Archery, The Hunting Corner, Lights Out Archery Supply, Tactacam, Cuzo's Food Truck and A Touch of Thai Food Truck, also came to showcase their products and services to the participants and their families attending.

The partners are excited to grow this event in the future!



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 Easements for Endangered Species/Species of Concern



Project successes & stories



You asked and we listened! The long-anticipated bass license plate

You can now purchase a bass Conservation Heritage license plate and show how wild you are about fish, forest and wildlife conservation. Proceeds from the bass license plates will go to support the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems. For a donation to MCHF, we will issue an Emblem Use Authorization (EUA) Statement, which allows you to order the Conservation Heritage plate.

Missouri ranks as one of the top states when it comes to producing giant bass all across the state's lakes and ponds, including Lake of the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake, Truman Lake and Stockton Lake. Known for their powerful fights, bass are a favorite among anglers and appeals to anglers everywhere. Not only is the bass a top gamefish in Missouri, but it's one of the tastiest freshwater gamefish in North America.

Not an angler, but want to support conservation efforts with a Conservation Heritage license plate? We have other designs to consider. Check out our other two Conservation Heritage license plate designs on our website using the QR code to the right.

All Conservation Heritage license plate designs created and donated by nationally known wildlife artist Al Agnew.



Scan the QR code to learn more.

Bats for the Future Fund

December 14, 2023, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced \$769,000 in grants were awarded to implement fungal treatment methods and enhance habitat management to reduce the impacts of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in the states of Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington and the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario.

The grants were awarded through the Bats for the Future Fund (BFF), a partnership between NFWF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Avangrid Foundation, Southern Company and NextEra Energy Resources.

MCHF is proud to be among the awardees for this grant. MCHF will utilize existing partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to protect and enhance habitats for the Indiana Bat in the Soldaris Nature Preserve through tree planting and various forest management strategies which promote tree species of importance to the Indiana bat lifecycle.



Scan the QR code to read more.



Friends of Emerald Valley in Honduras

Our international work in other countries supports a variety of wildlife that we hold dear, including the Monarch butterfly and migratory birds.

Robert Gallardo and Olivia Diaz, creators of the Guide to the Birds of Honduras and newly published Guide to the Butterflies of Honduras, which MCHF supported, has officially been released! However, the work is not done! This country is home to high biodiversity levels, but many different pressures make it hard to protect preserves and wildlife populations. Their work helps educate people in Honduras and around the world about the importance of protecting our natural resources.



MCHF is proud to have partnered with Emerald Valley International Butterfly Center in Honduras and the Friends of Emerald Valley over the last couple of years to help this wonderful butterfly center and preserve extend the reach of their work. Most recently, they have been able to move forward on purchasing an additional 15+ acres with a grant facilitated by MCHF. Since then, they have been presented with another opportunity to buy more land to expand the preserve.

What does Honduras have to do with Missouri conservation, you might ask? Many Missouri native species migrate to this area in Honduras in the cooler months! Your support allows them to expand and continue doing this great work to support healthy ecosystems for native wildlife.



Scan the QR code to learn more about how you can help this important work!

Nov. 25, 2023, MDC hosted Robert Gallardo at the Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City, Mo. to hear about the millions of birds migrating to and from their breeding and wintering grounds. MCHF was proud to sponsor this program making it free to the public. Participants of all ages attended.

Scan the QR code to watch the full presentation.



Land Acquisition in Dade County Named to Honor the Berrier Family

The Missouri Conservation Commission approved the naming of a new 160-acre conservation area in Dade County to honor the Berrier family for their generous donation to MCHF for public grassland acquisition. The new area will be named the Dr. Harry and Lina Berrier Memorial Tract to Sons Creek Conservation Area.

“Dr. Harry and Lina Berrier would be delighted to see their donation used to acquire prairie property that will be incredibly impactful in benefiting native grasslands and all the species that need it, like wildflowers, birds, pollinators, quail, amphibians and reptiles,” said MCHF Executive Director Tricia Burkhardt. “We are pleased to partner with the Missouri Conservation Commission and MDC to help connect more grasslands in this property.” The conservation area is located five miles northwest of Lockwood off Dade County Road 41. The new Sons Creek Conservation Area will be reconstructed by MDC staff into a diverse grassland of native grasses and wildflowers. Trees and other woody vegetation will be removed to create an open grassland vista. Once completed, the new conservation area will provide additional hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities in southwest Missouri.

The Dr. Harry and Lina Berrier Memorial Tract will help enhance conservation efforts on the Penn-Sylvania Prairie, which has been recognized as setting the world record for the number of plant species found in a 20X20-inch square.

Prairies are diverse native grasslands that have had little to no soil disturbance such as plowing or cultivation and have an abundance of native forbs and grasses and few woody plants. When the first settlers arrived, more than one-third of the state – approximately 15 million acres – was prairie. Today, fewer than 45,000 acres of native prairie remain. MCHF is proud to support Missouri prairies which include pollinators, monarch and other wildlife habitats.

Rounding Up for Conservation Partner, Revive Outdoors

Embark on a journey with Revive Outdoors as they join hands with MCHF to bring you a series of enlightening articles on native plants. In addition to the native plant series, Revive Outdoors is a Round Up partner, offering the opportunity for customers to round up purchases to the nearest whole dollar in support of important conservation projects and programs.

Who is Revive Outdoors? Revive Outdoors sells native wildflower and grass seed mixes for ecological restoration and wildlife habitat projects. But they're not just about selling or planting native wildflowers – they're dedicated champions for the conservation and preservation of our natural world. They have worked on over 22,000 acres of seed planting projects with farmers, ranchers, NGOs, USDA, MDC, and NRCS. In states all over the country, they are cultivating a greener, more vibrant tomorrow, one acre at a time.

As part of the partnership, Revive Outdoors kicked off the “Green Guardians” series. Together, let's celebrate the beauty and importance of our green guardians, and inspire others to #PlantYourLegacy for a greener, more sustainable future.

Scan the QR code to read the series.



#MusicParkMallards

May 2024, Saint Louis Music Park reached out to MCHF asking for collaboration on quite the predicament – as they were setting up for their opening weekend concert, they discovered that a mallard hen had laid a fresh clutch of eggs in a small landscaping feature just off their main stage!

Opening weekend at the Music Park, the mallard hen dropped another fresh egg and began to sit on her full nest of eggs all during the shows.

Because mallard eggs are federally protected, and to do their part for conservation, coordinators at the music park decided to embrace this new adventure and launch a fundraising campaign. We are honored that they chose MCHF as the beneficiary!

Saint Louis Music Park launched this fundraising campaign to raise awareness for mallards and benefit future wildlife conservation by hosting a “Baby Shower” where they asked followers and event attendees to donate to MCHF for a chance to win tickets to their Sarah McLachlan concert on June 10, 2024. The eggs hatched and adorable ducklings explored the music venue. Saint Louis Music Park protected the nest from concert goers while also allowing nature to take its course.

**Thank you,
Saint Louis Music
Park, for helping
protect, advance
and conserve
our wildlife!**



Swan Lake Dedication and Ken Babcock Tribute

Oct. 14, 2023, Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services held a special dedication and tribute to Ken Babcock to celebrate the completed wetland project on Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), three miles north of Sumner, Mo.

This project improved water management capability and restored natural water flow patterns and drainage regimes on Swan Lake NWR. Specifically, this project reconfigured wetland management units and installed new water control structures to improve management efficiency and increase sustainability. Overall project results improved habitat conditions and food resources for several priority wildlife species, which better emulates the natural hydrology that once occurred on the refuge and will reduce annual maintenance and personnel costs associated with managing the refuge.

The 10,795-acre Swan Lake NWR is in the floodplain of the Grand River, adjacent to Yellow Creek. The refuge's diversity of habitats supports waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and songbirds.

About Ken Babcock Tribute

Ken, of Jamestown, Mo. has a lifelong commitment to and passion for waterfowl and wetland conservation. He joined MDC from 1970 through 1997 where he worked as a waterfowl research biologist, Assistant Chief and Division Chief of Wildlife Division and Assistant Director from 1989-1997. After retiring from MDC, Ken went to work for Ducks Unlimited retiring in 2013 as Senior Director of Conservation. After retiring (again), he and his wife, Betty Rose, moved back to Missouri. He is a life member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation and a member of The Wildlife Society for more than 50 years. During his career he was actively involved with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Midwest and Southeast Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Mississippi Flyway Council and Technical Section, The Wildlife Society and served on the Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board.

Even in retirement, he remains passionate for wetlands and the people who enjoy and benefit from them. Ken serves as an Ex-Officio Advisor on the MCHF Board of Directors and was a past Chairman. Ken has also contributed his knowledge and support on the establishment of the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems, a partnership between MCHF, University of Missouri and MDC to advance the wellness of our watersheds improving all quality of life.

Ken was also recognized and honored with the Missouri Legacy Conservation Award on Nov. 2, 2023 at the National Lewis & Clark Conservation Awards.

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to conservation, Ken!



Students Connecting with Nature in Boone County

A new idea has taken hold in one Missouri community that will have long-lasting effects in the lives of students and teachers alike. The Boone County Nature School, a partnership between MDC and the Columbia Public School District, opened its doors to more than 3,000 student visitors during the 2022-2023 school year.

The property boasts a new 8,230-square-foot building, that houses four nature-themed classrooms, lab space, nature and student-related lobby exhibits, and offices on 111 acres of learning. The building and associated grounds serve students from all six Boone County school districts through unique "place-based" education as well as the public through special conservation-related programming. MCHF was proud to support this project to develop environmental education unlike any in the nation.



Scan the QR code to learn more.





Agriculture and Conservation – It's All Connected

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 more about how regenerative agriculture and conservation work together through this six-video series.



Wildlife Society Student Chapter Supports Conservation Efforts

Shout out to Missouri State University's (MSU) Wildlife Society student chapter for supporting MCHF as they celebrated wildlife, habitats and the natural world while bringing attention to conservation and the well-being of animals and our precious natural resources. The Wildlife Society held fundraisers and events on the MSU campus to raise funds and awareness for MCHF.

Protecting the American Sportsman

MCHF and the Sportsmen's Alliance have maintained a strong partnership since 2020, hosting exclusive hunting, fishing, firearms and outdoor equipment raffles to support the future of hunting, fishing and wildlife resources. A portion of each raffle ticket sold goes to support conservation and sportsmen's rights in Missouri and throughout the US.



Scan the QR code to learn more.

Missouri Watershed Champions

Join us in watching this great mini documentary featuring Bob and Barbara Kipfer and their effort to reduce stream bank erosion on their property in the Bull Creek Watershed. Scan the QR code to watch the video.

Bob and Barbara Kipfer collaborated with MCHF through the Stream Stewardship Trust Fund and have worked with many organizations and individuals to improve the health of their land and benefit wildlife and water quality. The National Wildlife Federation also honored Bob and Barb Kipfer in 2022 with its National Conservation Special Achievement Award, recognizing the multitude of ways the Kipfers have offered their time and resources for education, community engagement, land restoration and wildlife conservation.

Scan the QR code to watch the video and learn more about the Stream Stewardship Trust Fund.



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 2024 include:

Discover Nature Field Day

MCHF sponsored the 17th Annual Discover Nature Field Day last month at James A. Reed Wildlife Area by providing a grant to purchase water bottles to keep everyone hydrated in the summer heat! In the past, MDC staff (the hosts) have struggled to help kids stay adequately hydrated during the day of outdoor activities due to many of the participants not having a water bottle of their own. They have experienced zero heat related issues since starting the water bottle program - an easy solution to help ensure more kids are able to get out and interact with the outdoors.



Nearly 700 kids and staff from the Greater KC Boys & Girls Clubs attended to discover nature and learn new outdoor skills. Students spent the day fishing, birding, paddling, trying out air rifles, insect collecting, and more!

Exploratory Backpacks

This funding was used to purchase 25 exploratory backpacks for students to use while at the Boone County Nature School. These backpacks hold resources for participants to use while experiencing nature. The backpacks are designed to initiate an interest in science, encourage outdoor exploration and to help facilitate the development of observation and identification skills.



Woody Vegetation Response in the Chilton Creek Fire Study

The purpose of this grant is to collect woody vegetation data in permanently established plots in the Chilton south unit beginning Dec 2023, prior to restarting fire treatments in 2024, and report the structural and compositional effects associated with the eight-year fire-free interval.



Wentzville Public Middle School Outdoor Pursuits Classes

This program connects students to nature and allows students to have a way to relax, decompress and know there is a healthy outlet with nature they may not have been aware of or exposed to. MCHF was able to support by purchasing fire pits and Dutch ovens to give the program the opportunity to learn about outdoor cooking with the correct tools.

Urban Rangers Canoe Trip

The naturalist staff at the Gorman Discovery Center are partnering with Urban Ranger Corps of Kansas City to prepare and lead approximately 28 teen boys on a three-day trip to the Ozarks in July 2024. Funding for this trip will purchase storage buckets and water bottles.



Springfield Public Schools Backpacking and Camping

MDC educators will train nine middle school teachers on backpacking and camping. Funds were used to purchase two classroom sets of backpacks, tents and other supplies. These items will continue to add an in-depth learning layer to the Outdoor Awareness program Springfield Public Schools has administered for several years.

Lamine River Hunt Club Archery

This grant awarded is helping the Lamine River Hunt Club to start an archery range so three local NASP schools can practice during the off season and be exposed to archery in the outdoors. MCHF was able to help the Hunt Club purchase 10 3D targets.



Youth Hunter Education Clinics & Mentored Hunts

MCHF is helping purchase items for hunter education clinics and mentored hunt events.



Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO) – Arrow Rock Nature School

MRBO has developed a "Nature School" with the goal of introducing students to nature and the conservation of natural resources. This grant was used for purchasing materials such as aquatic nets, water test kits, visual aids and animal related models/replicas to help facilitate and grow nature education opportunities.



Recognizing Our Conservation Leaders



"We are proud to recognize conservation champions who impact conservation across the state, as well as this country," said Bob Fry, president of the MCHF Board of Directors. "This year's awardees represented leaders in business, philanthropy and conservation and their incredible commitment to the outdoors."

The eighth annual National Lewis & Clark Conservation Awards ceremony was held Thursday, November 2, 2023, at the Millbottom in Jefferson City, Mo. MCHF recognized individuals and organizations that lead the charge for the appreciation and conservation of our natural resources in Missouri and beyond.

Cody Stokes, CEO and founder of Dive Bomb Industries was honored with the **Corps of Discovery National Conservation Award**. This award is the highest award given by MCHF for leadership in conservation at the national level. The award is given to an individual based upon exemplary service, inspiration and commitment to benefit the conservation cause.

Stokes and his company's products have inspired people to get outdoors and hunt, thereby supporting conservation efforts. With Squadfest, Stokes shares waterfowl knowledge by bringing together experts, outdoor enthusiasts and families. As a board member of Great Rivers Habitat Alliance, his work to preserve the confluence floodplain and his work with Ducks Unlimited impacts generations to come. Dive Bomb Industries was established in 2011 by Stokes. Since then, the company has grown into one of the best-marketed and most versatile waterfowl hunting decoys in the game.

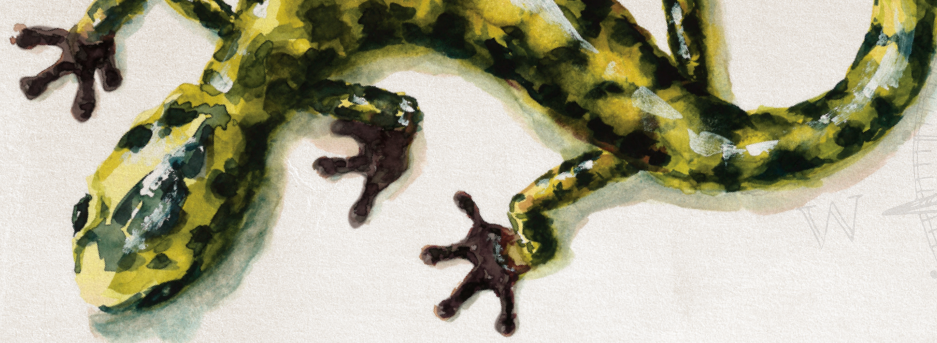
Grant Woods, creator and host of GrowingDeer.tv and President of Woods & Associates was awarded with the **Pat Jones/York Spirit of the Wilderness National Conservation Award**. This award goes to an individual who has dedicated their life to promotion, protection and service of wilderness and natural 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.

Woods shares his love for managing and growing white-tailed deer, by providing current and useful information about deer hunting and deer management through GrowingDeer.tv for free online. He shares his expertise with the current and next generation of conservation professionals and whoever is interested. Woods has made a difference to so many people by educating the public about how to manage and conserve our most popular game species on their own land.

Chip McGeehan, owner and operator of McDonald's franchises in southwest Missouri, 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.

McGeehan's lifelong leadership and commitment to conservation has impacted many lives. From supporting youth archery and conservation scholarships to helping disabled youth and veterans hunt to supporting turkey habitat research, his dedication to conserving the future of Missouri's outdoor legacy is inspiring. Chip served as the Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for six years helping champion the re-introduction of elk into the state's wildlife population and later overseeing the development of habitats of Missouri's black bear population. Chip and his wife, Teresa, own and operate 19 McDonalds restaurants from Eldon and Lebanon to Stafford, and Ozark and Nixa in the Ozarks.

Burns & McDonnell, a company based in Kansas City providing engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting solutions, 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.



Burns & McDonnell takes the responsibility of being resourceful stewards of our environment seriously, understanding the importance of the future of our natural resources. They work to address the world's biggest challenges with innovative and sustainable solutions. Their commitment to their clients' success and natural environment, including our partnership on the Chariton Hills Conservation Bank, makes a true impact on our natural environments.

Ken Babcock, a lifetime conservation supporter and leader, received the *Missouri Legacy Conservation Award*. This award recognizes their exemplary commitment and service to the conservation cause in Missouri.

From serving Missouri's forest, fish and wildlife at MDC to conserving, restoring and managing waterfowl habitats with Ducks Unlimited, Babcock has been a strong and steady leader, helping to form the Missouri Model of conservation. Babcock worked for MDC from 1970 through 1997. He worked as a waterfowl research biologist, Assistant Chief and Division Chief of Wildlife Division, and Assistant Director from 1989-1997. After retiring from MDC, Ken went to Ducks Unlimited, retiring in 2013 as Senior Director of Conservation. He has served with many organizations in many capacities, including as a life member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation, member of The Wildlife Society for more than 50 years, and served on the Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board.

Kevin Roper, former executive director of MCHF was bestowed with the *Exemplary Service Conservation Award*. Kevin has served as a trailblazer, mentor and leader for the foundation, helping transform it into what it is today. His outstanding and direct service to Missouri conservation has made a significant impact to many individuals and organizations.

Missouri Department of Conservation Partner Award Winners

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

Conservation Impact Award Winners: Ozark Land Trust

Conservation Intersection Award Winner: Little Creek Nature Area

Conservation Innovation Award Winner: ASI & NV5



Cody Stokes

*CEO and founder of Dive Bomb Industries
Corps of Discovery National
Conservation Award*



Grant Woods

*Creator and host of GrowingDeer.tv
and President of Woods & Associates
Pat Jones/York Spirit
of the Wilderness National
Conservation Award*



Kevin Roper

*Past executive director of MCHF
Exemplary Service
Conservation Award*



Ken Babcock

*Conservation supporter and leader
Missouri Legacy
Conservation Award*



Chip McGeehan

*Owner/Operator of McDonald franchises
Governor's State of Missouri
Conservation Award*



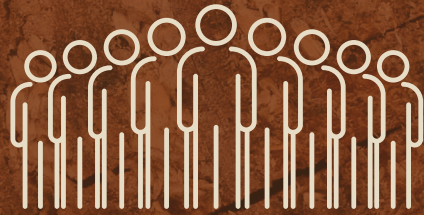
Burns & McDonnell
*Kansas City engineering company
Sacagawea Community
and Partnership
Conservation Award*



Scan QR code to learn more
about the event and awardees

By the Numbers

 **2,272**
TOTAL GIFTS
in 2024 fiscal year



5,758
NEW
SUPPORTERS

6,156 
Raffle Tickets
SOLD for Mega Raffle and
Christmas in July Raffle

1,618

Conservation
Heritage License
Plates Sold
403 new license plate holders!

MONASP 

2,300 Raffle Tickets SOLD
raising **\$13,000**
for Missouri youth conservation programs



- 4,300 archers competing
- 110,000 arrows shot
- 19,500 attendees over 4 days
- 62 volunteers
- 41 Vendors



- \$9.2 million economic impact on Branson
- \$30,000 in scholarships awarded



\$.86

of every dollar
donated
goes toward
programs

For every \$1 spent

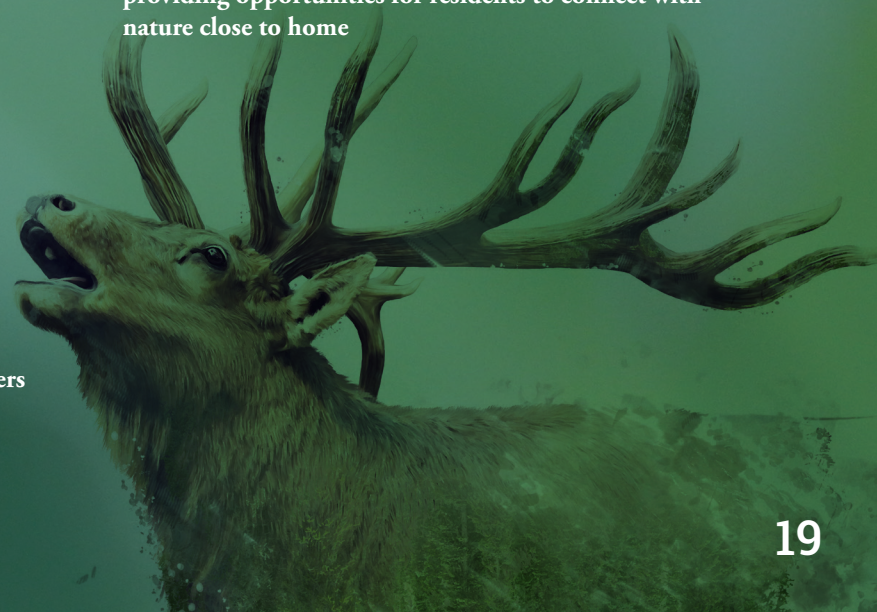
MCHF \$5
raises

\$1,912,215

supported multiple projects in FY 2024

*projects, grants
& scholarships*

- Nature Centers
- Conservation Areas
- Shooting Ranges
- Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems
- One Health
- 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)
- Outdoor Skills Equipment and Programs
- 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
- Ag Precision RCPP
- Wild turkey research
- Berrier Land Acquisition
- Green Schoolyards
- Pheasants and Quail Forever
- 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



Creating your own Legacy for the Outdoors

Planned giving

Planned giving is a wonderful way to leave behind a legacy for the future of our natural environments, habitats, resources and wildlife. The benefits of planned giving are immediate and far-reaching. You have control over what and how much you decide to leave and will have peace of mind knowing what financial matters are taken care of.

Anyone can give a gift for the future. Planned gifts are generally funded from accumulated resources or assets, rather than income. In fact, planned giving does not require significant financial resources. It's a commitment to give over time, not by the gift amount. Gifts in your will or trust, also called bequests, don't affect your everyday cash flow. This makes planned gifts simple and impactful for years to come.

Maximize your giving

Legacy: Planned giving allows you to leave a lasting impact on causes your care about. It enables you to create a legacy that reflects your values and beliefs.

Finances: Planned giving can offer you significant financial benefits. By strategically incorporating charitable giving into their financial plans, donors often maximize tax deductions, minimize estate taxes and optimize their overall financial situation.

Family: Defining your legacy and solidifying your financial intentions through planned giving will provide your family peace of mind and confidence in knowing your desired charitable contributions will be fulfilled.

A planned gift in support of the natural world affirms your conservation vision for the future.

Become a part of the MCHF Conservation Legacy Society and leave your mark on the future with an everlasting gift. Contact us to learn how to establish a legacy that can support clean water, healthy habitats and plentiful wildlife for now and in the future.

Did you know?

MCHF's administrative and fundraising rate (AFR) number is 10%, well below the average! This means MCHF only used 10% of funds raised to pay for overhead, administrative costs, etc. The typical standards are recommended to go no higher than 25-50%. Fiscal responsibility is extremely important and MCHF truly puts as many donor and partner dollars raised toward conservation and outdoors-related programs and projects as possible!

Need to Know Info:

Legal Name:

Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

Address:

PO Box 366

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0366

Employee Identification Number:

43-1797156

Thank you to Our Donors

Conservation Heritage Society

Those who have cumulatively given \$10,000 - \$99,999

Academy Sports + Outdoors
Danette Alexander
Ameren Missouri
Kathleen Anderson
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
Ken and Betty Babcock
Baker Implement Company
Dave Bright
Daniel Duncan
Joe and Carole Duncan
Bob and Kim Brinkmann
Brinkmann Constructors
Bomgaars Supply, Inc.
Stephen and Marilyn Bradford
Branson Convention Center
Build Missouri Health
Burroughs Audubon Society
of Greater Kansas City
Cedar Bay Entertainment, LLC
City of Branson
Columbia Audubon Society
Commerce Trust
Community Foundation of the Ozarks
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Darrell Gwynn Foundation, Inc.
Ducks Unlimited
Brian and Joleen Durham
Enel Green Power NA, Inc.
Environmental Improvement & Energy
Resources Authority
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Explore Branson Tourism
Robert "Bob" and Mary Fry

Fry Family Foundation
Federal Ammunition
Carla E. Galloway
Tisha Garland
Gateway Chapter Trout Unlimited
Paul N. Gray
Great Rivers Habitat Alliance
Greater Kansas City Community
Foundation
G'Sell Homes, LLC
H&R Block Foundation
Randy and Mary Herzog
Aaron and Angie Jungbluth
Kathryn G. Favre Foundation for Animals
James E. Kjolrien
John V. Mesh Memorial Scholarship
Marshfield's McDonalds
Steve and Jeanne Maritz
Maurice Marciano Family Foundation
Walter Metcalfe
MFS Investment Management
Mid-Missouri Trout Unlimited
Missouri Birding Society
Missouri Forest Heritage Center, Inc.
Missouri Humanities Council
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Mold Medic, Inc.
Morrell Manufacturing, Inc.
Stephen and Ann Mowry
Dr. Larry Murphy
Muskie, Inc., Pomme de Terre Chapter
Mysun Charitable Foundation
National Rifle Association of America
National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc.
Orscheln's Farm and Home
Jane H. Owen

Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Powell Family Foundation
Presley's, Inc.
Quality Deer Management Association
RCR Race Operations, LLC
Recreational Equipment, Inc.
RHI Magnesita
Michael and Sandra Reesor
Edward B. Risch
Safari Club International/Sables
Division
Sam Shine Foundation, Inc.
Bruce and Jan Sassmann
Brian Satterthwaite
Shirley & Barnett Helzberg Foundation
Sosland Foundation
Specialty Art & Design
Chris Spooner
State Environmental Improvement
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David Studyvin
Ann Sullins
Sunderland Foundation
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Teague-Molina Family Charitable Fund
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Joseph Thompson
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Water Garden Society of Greater
Kansas City
Douglas K. Weible
Whitetails Unlimited, Inc.
Carroll and Judy Wilkerson
WR Wealth Planners, LLC
Anonymous Donor

Founder's Conservation Society

Those who have cumulatively given \$100,000+

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund
Harry and Lina Berrier
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc.
Coates Family Charitable Fund
Edward Jones, Inc.
GM & GK Brown Crat
Carolyn Henges
Rick and Lotsie Holton
Lilly Christy Busch Hermann Charitable
Foundation
Chip and Teresa McGeehan
Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Department of Conservation
The Nature Conservancy
Norman Schaum Revocable Trust
Prairie Fork Conservation Area Charitable
Endowment Trust
Robert J. Trulaske Family Foundation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation
Orscheln Industries Foundation
Timothy Barksdale
Walton Family Foundation
Carroll and Judy Wilkerson
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
Don Gerling
Glen Hurt
Jim and Linda Lathrop
Bud Peck
Bruce and Jan Sassmann
Bill Shumake
Ron and Linda Siler
Anonymous Donors

MCHF gratefully acknowledges both the significant financial contributions of our donors and their trust in us to continue to support the advancement of Missouri Conservation and outdoors activities for now and generations to come.

Champion of Conservation



Ken Babcock

Conservation Background:

- Graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology in 1965.
- Graduated from Louisiana State University with a Master of Science degree in wildlife management in 1967.
- Started his career as a Waterfowl Biologist by the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission from 1967-1970.
- Came to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in 1970 and held many positions including Research Scientist, Assistant Wildlife Division Chief and Assistant Director.
- After retiring from MDC, he worked at Ducks Unlimited as Director of Operations overseeing conservation work in 22 states.

Rick and Lotsie Holton are members of the Founder's Conservation Society, with cumulative giving of \$100,000 or more. They have pledged \$5,000 each year for the next five years, and each year are making their donation in honor of a Champion of Conservation of their choosing. Meet the fourth Champion—**Ken Babcock**.

Why is conservation important to you?

Early in life, Ken learned from personal observation and stories that natural ecosystems were being negatively impacted by a growing human population to meet their needs. Wildlife populations and plant communities supporting them were declining at alarming rates. Although he spent a lot of time outdoors during his youth, he did not see white-tailed deer in the wild until his junior year of high school, and was in graduate school before seeing his first turkey. Ken was fortunate enough to learn that a growing number of people, including landowners, scientists, journalists and others were working to address these trends and he wanted to be a part of those efforts by establishing relationships with others to find ways that human needs and those of wildlife, fish and natural systems can be better understood so that more informed decisions can be achieved.

What is your biggest conservation achievement?

After more than a half-century of involvement in the conservation arena, Ken has been fortunate to participate in many conservation achievements, but none of these were accomplished alone.

Ken believes one's legacy should be determined by others. However, he hopes he is seen as one who respects the opinions of others regarding conservation while serving as the voice for wildlife and natural systems.

While controversial at times, he was glad to work on the conversion from lead shot to non-toxic shot for waterfowl hunting to address lead poisoning of ducks, geese, and other wetland-associated birds. This decision was a major factor leading to the recovery of the bald eagle, our national symbol. After witnessing the loss of bottomland forests for many years, while working for DU, Ken was privileged to be a part of developing a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture to restore more than 300,000 acres of bottomland wetlands in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

What is your favorite Missouri outdoor memory?

Ken's first memory of the Missouri outdoors occurred a few years before actually living in Missouri. As he was completing his graduate degree, Ken told his major professor that he thought working for a state conservation agency was a good fit for his professional goals and asked him which state had the best program. Without hesitation, he said, "Missouri." It took a few years, but eventually, Ken was fortunate to be selected for a wetlands/waterfowl research position in Columbia and the rest is history.

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.



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-\$99,999
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
- Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems

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or call 800-227-1488.





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