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MoMuskie News February 2010

Reetz's Pieces



*By President
Roger Reetz*

Reetz's Pieces generally begins by being knowledgeable and uplifting. Normally I try to pass along a small amount of info. and good humor along the way. However I've remodeled the bathroom, & painted the bedrooms. I have no money to go anywhere. See previous sentence. Plus, I've had to bury my Mother-in-law. Please try to see my position in the cartoon.

I was wondering..



WHERE THE HELL IS SPRING

Roger - we all understand this cartoon or photo of yourself and agree with you in total.

“Think Spring”

We would like to express our condolences to Roger & Rosie on their loss.

Also, be sure to read about the loss of one of our members in this issue.

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St. Louis Sport Show

Feb 10 - 14, 2010

Volunteers Needed Call

Jeff Thompson 314-352-4013

Page 2 **Your Conservation Sales Tax \$ at Work**

By Bill Clark from an article in **The Columbia Daily**

This is a story about what happens to the eighth-cent conservation sales tax you've been paying for more than three decades. It is the story of your tax money well spent.

For the past 186 weeks, Ol' Clark has not missed a week visiting a Missouri Department of Conservation site somewhere in our state.

In those 3½ years, I've visited 266 conservation department sites and 26 state parks located in 45 counties. My travel companion on most of those trips has been Edge Wade. She has been to 406 sites.

We're both in awe of where we've been and what we've encountered in our travels to sites from 1-acre river accesses to the 55,000-acre Truman Lake Wildlife Management Area spread over four counties.

There are almost 1,000 properties owned or managed by the conservation department. Until you've visited these management areas, you cannot imagine the magnitude of the conservation department, what it does and what it means to our state — to the fishermen, the hunters, the birders, the botanists and foresters and our educational process from kindergarten to graduate school.

Let's take a look at this magnitude.

In 2007, the conservation department managed 964,898 acres of public land — land owned by the conservation department as well as by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Nature Conservancy, municipal governments and private citizens and groups.

Each conservation area or lake is well-maintained. Each parking lot and roads leading to them are well-graveled and protected by large limestone or dolomite boulders to keep out unwanted traffic.

More than \$1.3 million a year is spent for road and parking lot upkeep, and more than 500 toilets are maintained for public use. There are 322 river accesses served by concrete boat ramps that have a minimum of 70 cubic yards of concrete in each.

There are 2,383 highway signs and 1,500 large cantilever signs announcing conservation department areas to motorists — and 1,480 welcome signs in the various areas. The sign shop at Salem produces 45,000 yellow and white signs a year — the signs that mark every conservation area's fringes.

Every area has maps available either online or at the site. How many? The print shop in Jefferson City says "many, many." In areas such as conservation accesses and lakes that have heavy usage, the grass gets mowed each week from greenup until frost.

In 2007, the Conservation Department budget was \$171,676,521. Of that, \$103,332,500, 60 percent, came from the conservation sales tax; \$30,953,000 came from permit sales, and \$23,210,000 came from federal reimbursements.

The total state budget was \$21,239,817,527; the conservation department budget was 0.7 percent of the state budget. Of that amount, \$1.4 million was returned to the various counties for levee and drainage district taxes, forest cropland payments, cash in lieu of real estate taxes and county aid road trust payments — the same as any landowner.

Who uses our state's conservation areas? In 2006, there were 1.1 million fishermen, 608,000 licensed hunters and 2.2 million wildlife watchers.

Your Conservation Sales Tax \$ at Work

The last figure includes commission. Voters Edge Wade and Bill Clark approved the commission, More than a fourth of the state's incoming tourism dollars are spent on fish, forest and wildlife recreation.

In 2007, the conservation department managed 45,000 acres of forest, 42,000 acres of lowlands and marshes, 22,000 acres of prairie and grasslands, 33,000 acres of natural areas, 67,000 acres of cropland for wildlife, 846 lakes, 10 fish hatcheries, five urban nature centers, a seedling nursery, five staffed and 70 unstaffed shooting ranges in 64 counties and eight regional offices.

One of those regional offices — the Central District — is in Columbia. Thanks to Jennifer Battson, the regional wildlife supervisor, for her help in collecting the data here. She is one of almost 1,600 full-time employees of the department.

A bit of history:

The conservation department had its beginning in 1935 when Columbia's E. Sydney Stephens was elected president of the Restoration and Conservation Federation of Missouri. He led a drive in 1936 to create a nonpolitical conservation

commission. Voters approved the commission, 879,263 to 351,962.

The conservation tax — one-eighth-cent on a dollar — was approved on Nov. 2, 1976. It was a constitutional amendment with no sunset clause. Only another amendment can change the tax. It became law on July 1, 1977.

For 186 weeks, Ol' Clark has taken advantage of the conservation tax he gladly pays. You say a brief "thank you" to voters, liberal and conservative, who had the will to work together and guarantee the future of our state's natural resources and our natural history three decades ago.

Cooperation works. Missouri's conservation department is obvious proof.

Bill Clark's columns appear Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Reach him at 474-4510.

This article was published on page A2 of the Friday, September 25, 2009 edition of The Columbia Daily

Chapter Challenge

Lake Vermilion, Minnesota

August 21-27, 2010

Team # 1

Fred Wehrli
Denis Ledgerwood
Doug Hutchison
Nathan Hutchison
Frank Viscek
Denis Viscek

Team # 2

Kevin Richards
Joe Crossley
James Smith
Jim Cullen
George Donner

We need one more person to fill out team # 2.

Kevin and Joe have cabin reserved for two at VDR

I have a cabin with six beds reserved for team # 1 and I also have a cabin reserved with five beds for the other individuals on team # 2 at Muskego Point Resort along with 5 boat slips. I will need a \$50.00 each deposit for the 4 later spots of team # 2.

Why don't we try for team # 3, like the big boys up north?

Chapter Challenge 2010 - Lake Kinkaid

By Jeff Thompson

The fourth annual Pomme de Terre/Shawnee Chapter Challenge will be on Saturday, March 20 at beautiful Lake Kinkaid in Murphysboro, Illinois.

This is a team event for the Illinois/Missouri bragging rights. We'd like to have 10 to 15 boats from Pomme de Terre so start making plans and get your entries in early.

Cost is \$40 per team of two anglers if received before March 20. The cost on Saturday is \$50 per boat. The entry fee includes a post-outing dinner.

The outing is open to members of the Pomme de Terre and Shawnee Chapters of Muskies, Inc. Prospective members are welcome but must fish with a member of a Chapter member.

Any money raised over the actual cost of the event will be split between the two chapters.

This year's dinner will be hosted by the Shawnee Chapter at a large farmhouse close to the lake. Shawnee Chapter members will be doing the cooking, with the menu yet to be determined.

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Pomme de Terre members are planning to get together for dinner on Friday night in the banquet room at the Mississippi Flyway Restaurant in Carbondale to talk strategy for Saturday. We'll arrive around 6 p.m. and eat at about 6:30 p.m. Mark Boone will be talking about fishing Lake Kincaid in March. Everyone's welcome, but responsible for their own check.

Challenge hours on Saturday are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Releases prior to 8:30 a.m. won't be accepted. Sign-in will be from 6 to 8:30 a.m. at the boat launch arena.

The Challenge Traveling Trophy will be awarded to the most successful Chapter. Jackets will be given to the highest scoring team of the winning Chapter.

The angler who catches and releases the longest muskie will win a rod and reel.

Hotel rooms are available at America's Best Value Inn, 128 E. Walnut St., in Murphysboro; telephone (618) 687-2244 or fax (618) 687-1891.

Official entry forms and rules will be available soon.

For more information contact Manuel Santa Cruz, Shawnee Chapter, (618) 610-5003; cruz61@charter.net or Jeff Thompson, Pomme de Terre Chapter, (314) 352-4013; fdjthom@charter.net.

Sport Shows

By John Dupuis

I am pleased to say that the 2010 KC Sport Show was a great success for our Chapter. The following people worked the show and worked their tails off.

Andy Hoffman, Robert Viseck, George Donner, Steve Miller, Steve Miller's Wife, Paul S. Rich Groebl, Steve Worstell, Max Stewart, Jim Wilson, Earle Hammond

and John Dupuis. There were 35 people signing up to receive more information.

The Columbia Sport Show was worked by Fred Wehrli and Denis Ledgerwood. They said that since the show had moved to a new location the number of people attending the show was way down but they did get some names of people wanting information about our chapter.

We should all consider working the sport shows, they really let

You get out and talk to people about the sport that you really like.

Hope to see a bunch of you at the St. Louis Sport Show which starts Feb 10 and runs through the 14th.



Sorry to have to announce the passing Jan 8th of Lloyd "We Have Created A Monster" Colbert

Lloyd joined our Chapter, learned how to muskie fish and then made a science out of it. Catching a lot of muskies from Fellows Lake. He kept very detailed notes. He even took his nickname and started making "Monster Leaders". Lloyd often said how he enjoyed the Chapter and he will be missed.

TIPS

Fertilizing Your Lawn

It is not ideal to fertilize your lawn during the dog days. If fertilizer is applied when the temperature is excessively hot, it can burn your lawn. Moreover, if the soil is dry, fertilizer granules can be easily washed into the street and down the sewer.

You want to apply about 1/4 to 1/2 inch of water after fertilization to move the nitrogen into the surface soil where it can be protected from runoff and used by the grass. During the dog days, watering bans may be in place that will prevent you from irrigating after fertilization.

Now is a good time to wait. Fertilize later! This will help to reduce the chances of fertilizer running off your lawn and entering your watershed.

Why it's important to the fish: During the dog days, warmer water in our lakes, rivers, and streams contains less dissolved oxygen. Non-point pollution, such as nitrogen and phosphorus from lawn fertilizers, can promote and hasten algae blooms. Algae blooms can consume dissolved oxygen. This can lead to fish kills. The dog days are not the ideal time to fertilize your lawn. The hot and dry conditions during the dog days can promote runoff

and adversely affect our rivers, lakes, and streams.

When the dog days set in, it's time to lay around like a lazy dog.



REEL RECOVERY

Reel Recovery is simply the amount of line that your muskie reel can retrieve per complete turn of the handle.

Most of us I think concentrate only on the gear ratio, but that's only one part of the picture.

Reel Recovery is also affected by the thickness of the line, the amount of line on the spool, and the size of the spool itself (the amount of line the spool will hold).

A reel with high gear ratio but a small spool such as the smaller Ambassadors can actually retrieve your lure slower than a reel with a big spool and low ratio, such as most Pete Maina's.

The trend right now seems to be a reel with a high ratio, but if your reel has a big spool, it might be more retrieve than you want.

Also keep in mind that a low gear ratio might not bring your lure in as fast, but it will give you much more leverage when reeling in that 50" muskie - Randy Murawski

CALL TO ACTION

Help is desperately needed at the St. Louis show this year. So if you can simply spare a couple of hours - give Jeff Thomson a call and volunteer.

I can assure you that you will enjoy yourself during the small amount of time you will be donating and the club will be ever grateful.

We have to make some decisions for next year and if we can't find volunteers to man the booths, we will be forced to not participate further in these areas. Why would St. Louis become the only show where we can't man the booth adequately?

2009 Chapter Activities

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January 7-10 Kansas City Sport Show

January 8-10 Columbia Sport Show Meeting

February 10-14 St. Louis Sport Show

March 20 Chapter Challenge, Meeting, Dinner at Pomme

April 17 Members without boats

May 15 Muskie Mayhem, meeting & meal

June 5 - Kids day with Chamber of Commerce & Corps of Engineers.

June 12 Prime Time Outing, lunch & meeting

July 10 Pomme de Tour on Lindley Arm

July 17 Kids Day – State Park Marina meal & meeting

August 14 Pomme de Tour Pomme Arm

August 21-28 Chapter Challenge – Leech Lake

September 10-12 Fall Tournament

September 25 Guide For A Day, meal & meeting

October 2 Pick 3 outing

November 6 White Bass or other fishing Outing, meal & meeting

December 4 Planning Meeting 10 AM meal

For further information on these activities please check the website. For those who do not have access to the web please call either Gary 417-852-7126 or Earle 417-993-0035 and we will send you a copy of the activities fully explained.

POMME DE TERRE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES, INC MEMBERSHIP FORM - Chapter #5

Renewal ___ MI # ___ New Member ___ JR. Member ___
Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

DOB (Required) _____ Junior DOB _____

*Regular Membership \$35 1-Year, \$65 2-Years \$95 3-Years
Family Membership \$47.50 1-Year \$90 2-Years \$132 3-Years
Junior Membership (up to 18 years of age) \$20 per year*

To Qualify For Muskie Mayhem A 3 Year Membership Is Required

Make checks payable to **Muskies, Inc.** and then send to:
Muskies, Inc C/O Gary Neely P.O. Box 99 Pittsburg, Mo. 65724
Any questions call 417-852-7126

FROM Pomme de Terre Chapter of MI
P.O. Box #5
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TO: